

Stopping the Spread

Read how U.S. actions responded to communist expansion after World War II.

SS5H5.b "Explain how the United States sought to stop the spread of communism through the Berlin airlift, the Korean War, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action the United States took to limit communism. Circle the words that explain why that action could stop or slow its spread.

Three Ways to Respond

- ① In 1948, the Soviet Union blocked roads, rail lines, and canals into West Berlin. West Berlin was inside Soviet-controlled East Germany, but it was governed by the United States, Britain, and France. Instead of leaving the city, the United States and Britain flew food, coal, and medicine into it. This Berlin airlift kept West Berlin supplied until the blockade ended in 1949.
- ② In 1950, communist North Korea invaded South Korea. The United States joined forces from other United Nations countries to defend South Korea. U.S. leaders feared that if South Korea fell, communism might spread farther in Asia. After hard fighting, a ceasefire in 1953 left Korea divided near the same boundary. The war showed that the United States would use military force to resist communist expansion.
- ③ The United States also helped form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, in 1949. NATO brought the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations into a defense alliance. Members agreed that an attack on one member would be treated as an attack on all. This promise was meant to discourage the Soviet Union from expanding communism, because it faced a united group of countries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Berlin airlift help keep communism from spreading in West Berlin?

2 Why did the United States fight in the Korean War?

3 What promise did NATO members make, and how could that promise discourage Soviet expansion?

4 What is one difference between the Berlin airlift and the Korean War as ways to resist communist expansion?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences explaining which response you think was the strongest way to limit communist expansion. State your choice and use two accurate details from the passage to support your opinion.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action the United States took to limit communism. Circle the words that explain why that action could stop or slow its spread. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Berlin airlift help keep communism from spreading in West Berlin?	The United States and Britain flew supplies into West Berlin, so the city could remain supplied instead of being forced to give in during the Soviet blockade.
2	Why did the United States fight in the Korean War?	U.S. leaders wanted to defend South Korea after North Korea invaded and to prevent communism from spreading farther in Asia.
3	What promise did NATO members make, and how could that promise discourage Soviet expansion?	NATO members promised to treat an attack on one member as an attack on all. This could discourage expansion because the Soviet Union would face a united group of countries.
4	What is one difference between the Berlin airlift and the Korean War as ways to resist communist expansion?	The Berlin airlift delivered supplies to keep West Berlin supplied, while the Korean War involved U.S. and United Nations forces fighting to defend South Korea.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I think NATO gave the strongest long-term way to limit communist expansion. Its members promised to treat an attack on one country as an attack on all, so the Soviet Union faced a united group. The Berlin airlift and the Korean War showed U.S. action, but NATO's promise could discourage an attack before fighting began.

Accept any of the three responses as the student's choice if the explanation includes two accurate details from the passage. Responses may describe the airlift as supplying West Berlin, the Korean War as defending South Korea, or NATO as a united defense alliance.