

Two Cold War Tests

Compare why two major Cold War events mattered.

SS5H5.d "Discuss the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show danger or cost, and circle the sentences that explain what each event taught the United States.

Crisis and War

- ① In October 1962, U.S. leaders learned that the Soviet Union was placing nuclear missiles in Cuba, an island close to Florida. President John F. Kennedy announced a naval quarantine, often called a blockade, to stop more weapons from arriving. For thirteen tense days, Americans feared that a nuclear war might begin. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles, and the crisis ended without war.
- ② The Vietnam War grew from a struggle over Vietnam after French rule ended. Communist North Vietnam fought against South Vietnam. Fearing that communism would spread in Southeast Asia, the United States sent military advisers and later many troops to support South Vietnam. The war lasted for years, caused heavy losses, and was shown often on television in American homes.
- ③ By 1973, the United States had withdrawn its combat troops, and in 1975 North Vietnam took control of South Vietnam. The war led many Americans to question government decisions and protest U.S. involvement. The Cuban Missile Crisis showed the danger of nuclear weapons and the value of careful diplomacy. The Vietnam War showed how difficult and costly a long war can be, especially when public support weakens.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Why did Americans fear a nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis?

2 What did President Kennedy do to stop more weapons from reaching Cuba?

3 Why did the United States send advisers and later troops to South Vietnam?

4 What important lesson did each event show? Give one lesson from the Cuban Missile Crisis and one from the Vietnam War.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label called "Two Cold War Tests." Include one detail from each event and explain why each event was important.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show danger or cost, and circle the sentences that explain what each event taught the United States. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Americans fear a nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis?	The Soviet Union was placing nuclear missiles in Cuba, close to Florida, and Americans feared the missiles could lead to nuclear war.
2	What did President Kennedy do to stop more weapons from reaching Cuba?	He announced a naval quarantine, often called a blockade.
3	Why did the United States send advisers and later troops to South Vietnam?	The United States feared communism would spread in Southeast Asia and wanted to support South Vietnam.
4	What important lesson did each event show? Give one lesson from the Cuban Missile Crisis and one from the Vietnam War.	The Cuban Missile Crisis showed the danger of nuclear weapons and the value of careful diplomacy. The Vietnam War showed that a long war can be difficult and costly, especially when public support weakens.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Cuban Missile Crisis mattered because leaders avoided a nuclear war after Soviet missiles were found in Cuba. Kennedy's naval quarantine helped push both sides toward a peaceful agreement. The Vietnam War mattered because its long costs and protests made Americans question decisions about sending troops abroad.

Accept accurate paraphrases that connect the Cuban Missile Crisis to nuclear danger and diplomacy, and the Vietnam War to the costs and challenges of a long war. For the open response, require one accurate detail and a clear statement of importance for both events.