Crisis on Two Clocks

Trace how one crisis unfolded across several places.

AWH.P.2.2.C "Evaluate how multiple, complex events are shaped by unique circumstances of time and place; construct and interpret parallel timelines."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each date, circle details about place or earlier events that shaped decisions, and draw a line between two actions by different sides on the same date.

The Cuban Missile Crisis, Seen from Three Places

1 In October 1962, three governments faced the same crisis from very different places. Cuba, only about 90 miles from Florida, had survived a failed invasion by Cuban exiles backed by the United States in 1961. Its leader, Fidel Castro, feared another attack. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev sent nuclear missiles to Cuba, partly to protect an ally and partly to challenge the United States, which had nuclear missiles in Turkey near Soviet territory. Soviet crews began installing launch sites in Cuba. On October 14, an American spy plane photographed the sites. Two days later, President John F. Kennedy learned what the photographs showed.

2 Kennedy worried that missiles so close to the United States could strike with little warning. He also feared that an air strike on Cuba might start a wider war with the Soviet Union. On October 22, he announced a naval quarantine to stop more offensive weapons from reaching Cuba. Ships carrying such weapons would be turned away, but the missiles already on the island remained. The quarantine took effect on October 24. Some Soviet ships approaching the quarantine line slowed or turned back. In Cuba, the threat of an American attack remained real to Castro and to Soviet crews working at the launch sites.

3 On October 27, a Soviet missile crew in Cuba shot down an American spy plane, killing its pilot. At the same time, Khrushchev demanded that American missiles be removed from Turkey. Kennedy's advisers debated an attack, but he chose further negotiation. On October 28, Khrushchev publicly agreed to remove Soviet missiles from Cuba. Kennedy's government promised not to invade Cuba; the United States also privately agreed to remove its missiles from Turkey later. Castro had not been included in those negotiations. The dates form parallel stories: Washington sought to remove a nearby threat, Moscow sought security for an ally, and Havana feared invasion.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Before October 14, how did the failed invasion of Cuba and the location of U.S. missiles in Turkey shape different sides' concerns?

2. Compare what happened on October 22 and October 24. How did the U.S. decision affect Soviet ships?

3. Why did the two developments on October 27 point toward different possible outcomes for the crisis?

4. Compare the agreements described for October 28. Which leader's concerns were not represented in the negotiations?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create a four-row parallel timeline for October 22, 24, 27, and 28 using the table. In each row, record what happened on both sides, and across the timeline briefly explain how place or an earlier event shaped at least two choices.

DATE	WASHINGTON: EVENTS AND CONCERNS	CUBA AND MOSCOW: EVENTS AND CONCERNS

ANSWER KEY

Crisis on Two Clocks

HIGH SCHOOL · AWH.P.2.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each date, circle details about place or earlier events that shaped decisions, and draw a line between two actions by different sides on the same date. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Before October 14, how did the failed invasion of Cuba and the location of U.S. missiles in Turkey shape different sides' concerns?	**The failed invasion made Castro fear another U.S. attack. U.S. missiles near Soviet territory gave Khrushchev a reason to challenge the United States while protecting Cuba.**
2	Compare what happened on October 22 and October 24. How did the U.S. decision affect Soviet ships?	**Kennedy announced the quarantine on October 22. It took effect on October 24, when some approaching Soviet ships slowed or turned back.**
3	Why did the two developments on October 27 point toward different possible outcomes for the crisis?	**The downing of the spy plane raised the risk of an American attack. Khrushchev's demand about missiles in Turkey offered an issue the governments could negotiate.**
4	Compare the agreements described for October 28. Which leader's concerns were not represented in the negotiations?	**Khrushchev agreed to remove Soviet missiles from Cuba, while Kennedy's government promised not to invade Cuba and privately agreed to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey later. Castro was not included.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

DATE	WASHINGTON: EVENTS AND CONCERNS	CUBA AND MOSCOW: EVENTS AND CONCERNS
October 22	Kennedy announced a quarantine; missiles in nearby Cuba could strike with little warning.	Soviet crews worked at launch sites in Cuba.
October 24	The U.S. quarantine took effect.	Some Soviet ships slowed or turned back; Castro still feared an attack after the 1961 invasion.
October 27	Kennedy chose further negotiation despite the downed plane.	A Soviet crew shot down a spy plane in Cuba; Khrushchev demanded removal of U.S. missiles from nearby Turkey.
October 28	Kennedy's government promised not to invade Cuba and privately agreed to remove missiles from Turkey later.	Khrushchev agreed to withdraw missiles from Cuba; Castro was not included in the negotiations.

Accept concise entries that correctly place events on both sides for all four dates. Explanations of two choices should connect them to proximity, the failed invasion, or U.S. missiles in Turkey.