Fear and Fallout

Trace the causes and consequences of the Second Red Scare

USH.C.6.2.B "Explain the origins and consequences of McCarthyism and the Second Red Scare, including the Hollywood Blacklist and President Eisenhower's reaction."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two sources of national fear, circle two effects on Hollywood workers, and put a star beside a sentence that describes President Eisenhower's response.

When Suspicion Spread

1 In 1950, Senator Joseph McCarthy claimed that communists worked in the U.S. State Department. His charges landed in a nation already alarmed by Soviet spying, the Soviet Union's first atomic bomb in 1949, and the communist victory in China that year. The Korean War, which began in 1950, deepened fears of communist expansion. Some espionage cases were real, but McCarthy often made sweeping accusations without reliable evidence. Newspapers repeated his claims, and officials worried that challenging him could make them targets. This wider period of suspicion and investigation became known as the Second Red Scare.

2 The fear reached movie studios long before McCarthy became famous. In 1947, the House Un-American Activities Committee questioned Hollywood workers about communist ties. Ten writers and directors refused to answer questions about their political associations and were cited for contempt of Congress. Studios then announced that they would not employ these workers. The Hollywood blacklist grew beyond those ten, shutting many people out of film jobs because of alleged beliefs or associations, sometimes without proof. Some worked under borrowed names, while others left the industry. The blacklist shows how fear of disloyalty could cost people work even without a criminal conviction.

3 President Dwight D. Eisenhower disliked McCarthy's methods but usually avoided confronting him by name in public. Eisenhower feared that a public fight would give the senator more attention and split his own Republican Party. In 1954, McCarthy's investigation of the U.S. Army led to televised hearings that exposed his aggressive questioning to millions of viewers. Eisenhower's administration also refused to reveal private executive branch conversations to McCarthy's investigators. Later that year, the Senate censured McCarthy for his conduct, weakening his influence. Eisenhower's cautious response and the Senate's action show different ways officials reacted as public support for McCarthy declined.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did events at home and abroad help McCarthy's accusations gain attention, and what made many of his accusations questionable?

2. How did the 1947 congressional investigation lead to lost work in Hollywood, including for people beyond the first ten workers?

3. Why did Eisenhower avoid attacking McCarthy by name in public, and how did his administration respond during the 1954 investigation?

4. How did the televised Army hearings and the Senate's later action affect McCarthy's influence?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 100 word museum label titled "Fear and Fallout." Explain how a source of fear fed accusations, how suspicion affected Hollywood workers, and why Eisenhower's response differed from the Senate's. End with a sentence about the cost of unsupported claims.

ANSWER KEY

Fear and Fallout

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.6.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two sources of national fear, circle two effects on Hollywood workers, and put a star beside a sentence that describes President Eisenhower's response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did events at home and abroad help McCarthy's accusations gain attention, and what made many of his accusations questionable?	**Soviet spying, the Soviet atomic bomb, the communist victory in China, and the Korean War increased fears of communist expansion. McCarthy often made sweeping accusations without reliable evidence.**
2	How did the 1947 congressional investigation lead to lost work in Hollywood, including for people beyond the first ten workers?	**After ten workers were cited for contempt of Congress, studios refused to employ them. The blacklist expanded to others with alleged communist beliefs or associations, sometimes without proof.**
3	Why did Eisenhower avoid attacking McCarthy by name in public, and how did his administration respond during the 1954 investigation?	**Eisenhower feared a public fight would give McCarthy more attention and divide Republicans. His administration refused to reveal private executive branch conversations to McCarthy's investigators.**
4	How did the televised Army hearings and the Senate's later action affect McCarthy's influence?	**The hearings exposed McCarthy's aggressive questioning to millions. The Senate then censured him, weakening his influence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Fear and Fallout: Soviet spying and the Soviet atomic test made Americans worry about communist influence. McCarthy used that fear to make accusations against government workers, often without reliable evidence. In Hollywood, congressional questioning helped drive a blacklist that kept people with alleged communist ties from film jobs, even without criminal convictions. Eisenhower disliked McCarthy's tactics but avoided attacking him publicly, fearing a political fight would strengthen him. His administration withheld private conversations from investigators, while the Senate openly censured McCarthy. When suspicion replaces proof, people can lose their livelihoods.

Accept other passage-supported sources of fear and effects of the blacklist. The museum label should distinguish Eisenhower's cautious response from the Senate's public censure and connect accusations to their consequences.