

# Freedom Under Pressure

Trace U.S. actions and their effects during the Cold War.

**USII.7.d** "examining the role of the United States in fighting communism and defending freedom during the Cold War including, but not limited to the Berlin Airlift, conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, the roles of John F..."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline actions taken by the United States or its allies to resist communism or defend freedom, and circle the results of those actions.

### Cold War Choices

- ① After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became rivals. The Soviet Union supported communist governments in Eastern Europe, while the United States tried to defend democratic freedoms. In 1948, Soviet leaders blocked land routes into West Berlin, a section of the city controlled by the Western Allies. Rather than abandon its people or fight through the blockade, the United States and its allies flew food, coal, and medicine into the city. This Berlin Airlift continued for nearly a year until the blockade ended.
- ② The United States also used military force in Asia to resist the spread of communism. In 1950, North Korean forces invaded South Korea. U.S. troops, working with United Nations forces, helped South Korea resist the invasion. The Korean War ended in 1953 with Korea still divided near the same boundary. Later, the United States sent troops and supplies to support South Vietnam against communist North Vietnam. U.S. forces left Vietnam in 1973, and North Vietnamese forces took control of South Vietnam in 1975.
- ③ In 1962, President John F. Kennedy learned that Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev had placed nuclear missiles in Cuba. Kennedy ordered a naval quarantine to stop more missiles from arriving and demanded their removal. After tense negotiations, Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles, and the nuclear crisis ended without war. Decades later, people in Eastern Europe pushed for freedom from communist rule. In 1989, the Berlin Wall fell. Communist governments across Eastern Europe collapsed, and Germany reunified in 1990.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** How did the Berlin Airlift help the United States and its allies defend the people of West Berlin?

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**2** Compare the outcomes of the Korean War and the Vietnam War. What happened in each country?

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**3** What did Kennedy do during the Cuban missile crisis, and what did Khrushchev agree to do?

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**4** Which two events in the passage show that communism was collapsing in Eastern Europe?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Choose one Cold War event from the passage. Write exactly four sentences explaining how it shows the United States fighting communism or defending freedom, using an action and a result from the passage.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline actions taken by the United States or its allies to resist communism or defend freedom, and circle the results of those actions. 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 the United States and its allies defend the people of West Berlin? | <b>They flew food, coal, and medicine into West Berlin instead of abandoning its people during the Soviet blockade.</b>                                   |
| 2 | Compare the outcomes of the Korean War and the Vietnam War. What happened in each country?         | <b>Korea remained divided after the war ended in 1953. After U.S. forces left Vietnam, North Vietnamese forces took control of South Vietnam in 1975.</b> |
| 3 | What did Kennedy do during the Cuban missile crisis, and what did Khrushchev agree to do?          | <b>Kennedy ordered a naval quarantine and demanded removal of the missiles. Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles from Cuba.</b>                       |
| 4 | Which two events in the passage show that communism was collapsing in Eastern Europe?              | <b>The Berlin Wall fell in 1989, and communist governments across Eastern Europe collapsed.</b>                                                           |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

The Korean War showed the United States fighting communism by helping South Korea resist an invasion. U.S. troops worked with United Nations forces after North Korean forces invaded in 1950. The fighting ended in 1953, but Korea remained divided. This result shows that the United States helped prevent North Korea from taking over South Korea, even though it did not unite the country.

Accept answers that accurately connect a U.S. action to a result stated in the passage. For the open response, accept any passage event if the student writes exactly four sentences and includes a supported explanation.