THE COLD WAR BEGINS

The first step: At the end of the Second World War, in August 1945, the Americans dropped a new kind of bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki – two Japanese cities. This was the very first nuclear bomb. It was more destructive than any other bomb previously[1] known. Both cities were destroyed and about 200,000 people killed! Now the world had a new and terrible weapon and so the "arms race" between the two superpowers began.

Second step: By 1949 Europe was divided in two and the Americans and Russians began the "Cold War". They opposed each other with spies[2], alliances[3], trading boycotts[4] and local wars. The frontier between the West and the East became known as the "Iron Curtain[5]".

The United States and the Soviet Union were looked upon as the superpowers who dominated Europe. However, they were both very different cultures with different ideals. The Soviet Union felt threatened[6] by the American presence in Europe and the United States feared that the Soviet Union wanted to control more of Eastern Europe than they did.

Hiroshima after the attack

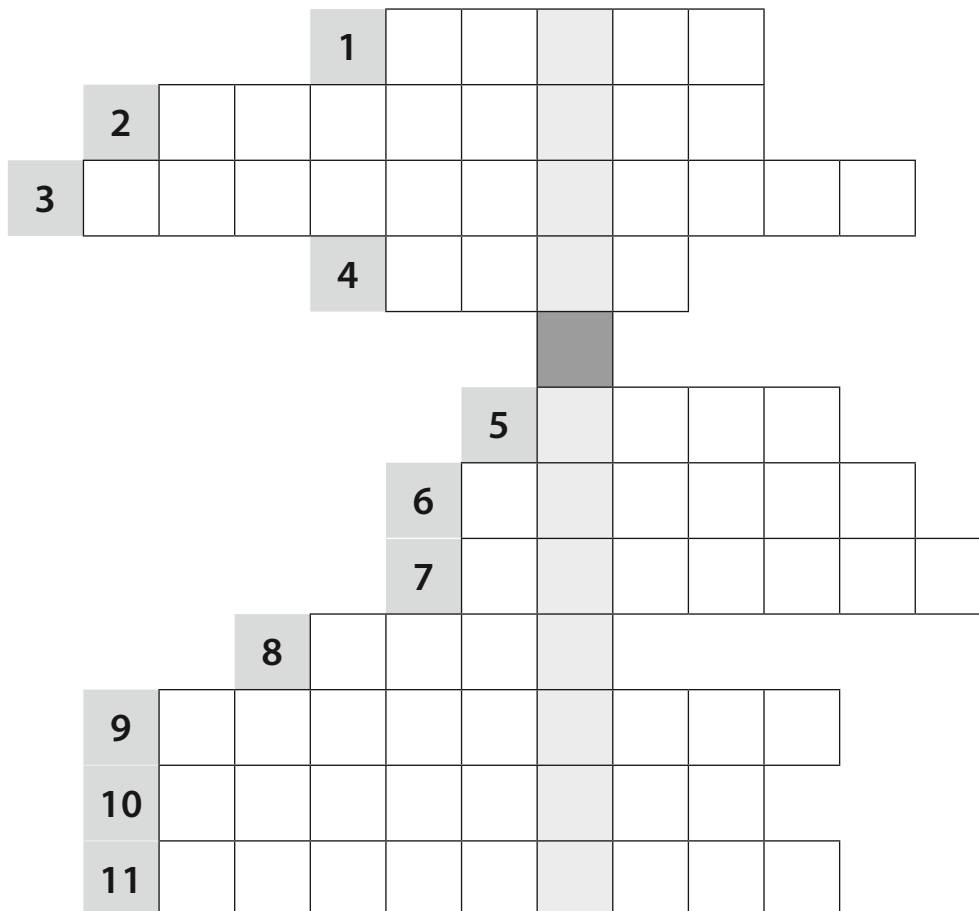[1] vorher, [2] Spione, [3] Bündnis, [4] Handelsboykott, [5] Eiserner Vorhang, [6] (be)drohen

COLD WAR CONFLICT

Word bank
cultures – cold – trading – spies – superpowers – West – frontier – *bans – Europe – dominated – alliances*

1. The East and West opposed each other with many "weapons". This is one of them.
2. East and West had different ideals and _____ .
3. Another name for the Soviet Union and the United States.
4. They opposed each other with trading _____ .
5. A term commonly used for the "war" after 1945.
6. The continent where the Second World War started.
7. Another "boycott" used.
8. Europe was divided into East and _____ .
9. The superpowers _____ Europe.
10. Another name for "border".
11. Another thing they opposed each other with.

Solution: ⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚

THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS SATELLITE STATES

Since 1924 Joseph Stalin ruled as a dictator. He took the land from the people to form government-run farms. He also built up industry, railways and the electric power system. After the war the USSR gained control[1] over much of Eastern Europe – either by forcing[2] countries to become Soviet republics or by controlling the governments. These were known as "satellite states". The people in these countries were not allowed to travel to the west without special permission[3] (often having to leave a family member as security in their own country). There were virtually[4] no luxury goods and the Trabant (a cheap car) was driven.

Even after Stalin's death in 1953, Soviet life was dominated by the "Cold War" and remained[5] so for a long time.

Trabant

1946: Hungary, Albania and Bulgaria become "people's republics".
1947: Rumania becomes a "people's republic".
1948: USSR seize power in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Poland.

What can you find out about these former satellite states of the Soviet Union? Do they still exist today? An encyclopedia or the Internet can help you.

[1] Kontrolle erlangen, [2] zwingen, [3] Erlaubnis, [4] im Grunde genommen, [5] bleiben

COMMUNISM SPREADS[1]

As communism spread to most eastern European countries, it also spread to other parts of the world. Mao-Tse-tung and his communist party took over China, changing the country dramatically – similarly to the way things changed in the USSR. War broke out in Asia – in Korea in 1950 and in Vietnam, where a bloody war lasted from 1954 to 1973. Here again, the USA supported[2] South Korea and South Vietnam whereas China and the USSR supported North Korea and North Vietnam. Conflicts arose[3] between the two "superpowers", in the Middle East, Africa and South America.

👉 **Using the above text to help you, now answer the following questions.**

1. Name two Asian countries where war broke out.
2. Name the communist Chinese leader.
3. To which political party did he belong?
4. Name two other places where conflicts between the two superpowers arose.
5. Did communism spread to Eastern or Western Europe?

war in Vietnam

[1] sich ausbreiten, [2] unterstützen, helfen, [3] sich erheben, aufkommen