

Cold War: Introduction

What was the "Cold War"?

- The "Cold War" is the name used to describe the frosty relationship between the Communist USSR and the Capitalist USA.
- After World War Two, both countries quickly emerged as world "Superpowers".
- Although the Cold War was mainly characterised by tension and rivalry, there were "hot spots" where military conflict broke out (e.g. Korea and Vietnam).
- Both sides had nuclear weapons capable of destroying humanity with the push of a button. During the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) the world was pushed to the brink of a nuclear holocaust which would have destroyed civilisation.
- The Cold War ended when the USSR collapsed in 1991.

Task 1

- Your job is to produce a timeline of the main events of the Cold War on one side of large paper.

How much time do I have available?

One lesson plus a homework.

What should I include?

You *must* include:

- At least 10 events – include
 - the date
 - the name of the event
 - a brief description of its significance
- At least 1 map
- At least 1 photograph
- At least 1 cartoon
- At least 1 diagram

You *may* colour code your events with a key, e.g.:

To illustrate the continent where the event took place;

To illustrate the seriousness of the event (red, amber, green)

To illustrate the type of event described (military, political, economic)

How should I research it?

- You should use the internet ("Cold War Timeline" usually throws out some good results from a search engine) and any other sources available to you.
- **WARNING:** Many timelines will be very detailed. Try to find one that is short and relatively brief to save time. Read through the events and then decide upon some to include.