

The Era of the Iron Curtain – For College Students and/or Field Trips

Learning Objectives

- Identify the major causes and effects of the Cold War
- Compare and contrast the speeches of Reagan and Churchill concerning the Cold War and its outcomes

Lesson Outline

1. Go over assignment: Write paper about the Cold War
2. Class Visit to Museum
 - a. Review with students World War II
 - i. Take notes in WWII room
 - ii. Watch WWII video (7 min)
 - b. Review aftermath of World War II – Question worksheet
 - i. Take notes “Sinews of Peace” room
 - ii. Watch “Sinews of Peace” video (7 min)
 - c. Examine the beginning of the Cold War – Question worksheet
 - i. Takes notes on the Meeting at Yalta
3. Era of the Iron Curtain Activity*
 - a. Pick and Research a location that was affected by the Cold War (Examples: Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, Moscow, Hungary, etc)
 - i. Provide a summary of the pre-, during-, and post- Cold War major events in that location
 - ii. How did the Cold War affect the location? Give examples
 - b. Create a timeline of the of major events and time periods of the Cold War
4. End of the Cold War Class Activity*
 - a. Analyze how things changed since Winston Churchill’s speech in 1946.
 - i. Listen/Read Reagan’s “Tear Down This Wall” speech
 - ii. Compare and contrast the two speeches
 - b. Answer questions on Churchill and Reagan Cold War worksheet for guidance
5. Write paper regarding your research and museum visit.

**Can start steps 3 and 4 during the museum visit*

The Era of the Iron Curtain Questions

“Sinews of Peace” Room

1. How did Churchill get to Fulton (who invited him, why did he come, etc)?
2. What was the date of the speech?
3. What had just happened before his visit?
4. Who else was involved?

“Sinews of Peace” Speech Video

1. What was the “Iron Curtain”?
2. What is Churchill’s main message?
3. How do you think those coming out of WWII received this message?
4. What do you think about the content of the speech and its delivery?

Meeting at Yalta

1. Who attended?
2. What was Churchill’s role?
3. What was the agenda?
4. What were the outcomes?
5. What was its impact on the future of Europe and the coming Cold War?

Churchill & Reagan Cold War Guided Questions

1. Listen/Read each of the speeches.
 - a. Churchill's speech – text file - <http://www.historyguide.org/europe/churchill.html>
 - b. Reagan's speech – text file - http://www.ronaldreagan.com/sp_11.html
2. Explain how the Cold War situation described by Churchill is similar to or different from the Cold War situation described by Reagan.
3. Compare how the two leaders spoke about the Soviet Union.
4. Use what you have learned about the Cold War. What is your opinion about what Churchill said in his speech? Were Churchill's warnings inaccurate or was he right on the money?