The Era of the Iron Curtain
Lesson Outline
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Lesson Objectives
By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- 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
- Create a timeline of the major events and time periods of the Cold War

Show Me Standards Addressed

- SS-2: Continuity and change in the history of Missouri, the United States, and the world
- SS-3: Principles and processes of governance systems
- SS-6: Relationships of the individual and groups to institutions and cultural traditions
- SS-7: The use of tools of social science inquiry (such as surveys, statistics, maps, and documents)

Lesson Outline – 2-Day Lesson

Introduction

- Review with students the effects of World War II that we have already gone over
- Give a quote from Winston Churchill’s speech at Fulton and see if students can identify its speaker and its meaning

Main Lesson

- Tell students that over the next two days we will be looking at the Cold War and its effects on the world.
- PowerPoint Presentation – examination of the beginning of the Cold War
  - Focus on Meeting at Yalta
  - Focus on Churchill’s speech at Westminster
    - Speech Activity with Questions
  - Era of the Iron Curtain “Traveling” Activity
    - Have various stations around the room covering different locations and time periods (places are chosen based on their importance in chronology)
      - Examples: Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, Moscow, Hungary, etc.
  - Students will “travel” in groups from one location to the next participating in various activities that deal with different aspects of the Cold War
    - Examples: Truman Doctrine, Warsaw Pact, détente, etc
  - Stations will incorporate interactive learning experiences in a “museum style” structure similar to the Churchill Memorial in Fulton
    - Audio-Visual Materials
o Use of computer technology and use of websites such as Library of Congress and the Churchill Memorial

- Students will answer questions and participate in activities at each station as well as fill out their “Berlin Wall” timeline sheet (chronology of events of the Cold War)
- They will probably have to continue this activity the following school day.

o End of the Cold War Class Activity
  - Students will come back together as a class and we will discuss the climate of the Cold War by the time of Reagan’s Presidency
  - Students will listen to Reagan’s “Tear Down This Wall” speech and answer discussion questions
  - Students will need to analyze how things have changed since Winston Churchill’s speech in 1946.

Assessment/Assignment
- Students will complete “Churchill and Reagan Cold War Activity” assignment and turn in during the next class period

Resources
- www.loc.gov
- www.churchillmemorial.org
- www.coldwar.org
- Churchill by Martin Gilbert
- Chasing Churchill by Edwina Sandys
- The Quotable Winston Churchill edited by Richard J. Mahoney
Churchill & Reagan Cold War Activity

- Read each of the speeches.

- You will now write a newspaper editorial about how the two speeches give insight into the Cold War.

- Imagine you are writing this shortly after Reagan’s speech.

- Explain how the Cold War situation described by Churchill is similar to or different from the Cold War situation described by Reagan.

- Also, compare how the two leaders spoke about the Soviet Union.
  - Using what you have learned about the Cold War and how it turned out, what is your opinion about what Churchill said in his speech?
  - Were Churchill’s warnings inaccurate or was he right on the money?

REMINDER
- Newspaper editorials usually include the writer’s opinion on the subject. You may agree or disagree with the arguments presented by Churchill and Reagan but you MUST EXPLAIN your viewpoint.

EXPECTATIONS
In addition to answering the questions provided above, I will also be looking for the following:
- Must be neatly and clearly written
- Must show an understanding of the contents of each speech
- Must provide an accurate picture of the Cold War