

The Cold War Summary (LHM)**name:**

World War II

Unit 9

Key Idea:

SS.912.A.6: Understand how World War II, reshaped the United States' role in the post-war world.

A) Rewrite the Key Idea as an investigative question.

B) Read and Annotate. No Annotation, no grade.

The United States and the Soviet Union emerged as global superpowers following World War II. The two nations held vastly different ideas and beliefs, which led to fierce conflict. The U.S., as a capitalist, democratic nation, sought to promote free elections and free markets. The Soviet Union was communist and totalitarian. They wanted to ensure the security of their borders and the political dominance of the Communist party. The two nations never directly engaged in combat. Instead, the two powers competed for global influence in the areas of military, economics, politics, and even culture. From 1947 to 1991, the intense rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, referred to as the Cold War, caused conflict around the globe.

After World War II, the Soviet Union set up communist governments in Eastern Europe, essentially splitting Europe into Communist Eastern Europe and democratic Western Europe. The U.S. viewed any communist expansion as a threat. America adopted a policy of containment, which was the use of military and nonmilitary means to stop communist expansion. In 1948, Congress approved the Marshall Plan, which gave \$13 billion in aid to Western Europe. By helping European nations rebuild, the Marshall Plan reduced the threat of communist revolutions in Western Europe.

Germany, which was divided into two separate parts after World War II, became a Cold War battleground. Eastern Germany was controlled by the Soviet Union. The United States, France and Britain controlled Western Germany. The capital of Berlin was even divided, although it lay inside the Soviet zone. In 1948, the Soviet Union created a blockade around West Berlin. In response, American and British planes dropped tons of supplies from the air in what is known as the Berlin Airlift. In 1961, the East German government built a huge concrete wall in Berlin to completely seal off East Germany from West Berlin.

America and 11 other allies formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949. In 1955 the Soviets and Communist governments of Eastern Europe formed their own military alliance, the Warsaw Pact. Most of the world became divided into two armed camps. In 1949 the United States learned that the Soviet Union had tested an atomic bomb. America was no longer the only nation with nuclear capabilities. During the 1950s, the United States and the Soviet Union were involved in an ever-escalating arms race. Both sides increased their nuclear weapons and military resources to gain superiority over the other side. Fear flooded American society as stockpiled nuclear weapons meant a nuclear war could happen at anytime. Cold War tensions reached every possible area –even space. The “space race” was a Cold War competition between the two superpowers to develop aerospace capabilities, including artificial satellites, unmanned space probes, and eventually human spaceflight.

Korea, a peninsula in East Asia, was another country divided following World War II. Korea was divided at the 38th parallel of latitude. North Korea was communist and supported by the Soviet Union. The U.S. backed a noncommunist government in South Korea. On June 25, 1950, North Korean troops invaded South Korea. American and United Nations forces were sent to Korea to help South Korea. During the conflict, UN forces advanced into North Korea. China saw the advance as a threat to its own security as UN forces neared the Chinese border. Communist Chinese troops pushed UN forces back to South Korea. Heavy fighting occurred along the 38th parallel for two years as the fighting turned into a stalemate, with neither side able to advance. In July 1953 both sides signed an armistice to end the fighting. The border between North and South Korea was redrawn near the 38th parallel. Nearly 5 million people were killed during the war. By fighting in Korea, America demonstrated that they were ready to fight to prevent Communist expansion.

In 1959, Cuba -an island located just 90 miles off the coast of Florida -formed a communist government. The Soviet Union began supplying Cuba with large amounts of aid. In October 1962, an American spy plane took photographs that showed the Soviets were secretly building nuclear sites in Cuba. U.S. President John F. Kennedy ordered a blockade of Cuba until the Soviets removed the missiles. After 13 tense days, the Soviet Union agreed to stop sending missiles to Cuba and remove all the missiles that were already there. America ended the blockade and removed U.S. missiles from near the Soviet Union. The Cuban Missile Crisis brought the world closer to a full-scale nuclear war than at any other point during the Cold War.

Cold War tensions grew as conflict escalated in Vietnam; a country located in Southeast Asia. In 1954, Vietnam was divided. North Vietnam was communist, while South Vietnam was noncommunist and back by the U.S. War between North Vietnam and South Vietnam began in 1955. During the late 1950s, South Vietnamese communists, called the Vietcong, fought to take over the South Vietnamese government. U.S. leaders feared that if South Vietnam fell to communism, countries around them

would follow. The idea became known as the Domino Theory because it foresaw communism toppling surrounding nations like a row of falling dominos. To contain communism, the U.S. government sent billions of dollars in aid to South Vietnam. Then in March 1965, U.S. combat troops were sent to fight in the conflict. Following years of intense combat, Americans at home and in service began to grow frustrated with the lack of progress in the war. Many U.S. officials were convinced that the war could not be won at a reasonable cost. American public opinion largely turned against U.S. involvement in the war. In 1973, America withdrew from the war, agreeing to a cease-fire. After the United States withdrew from the conflict, North Vietnam invaded the South in 1975 and united the country under a communist government. Over 3 million people died in the Vietnam War. The U.S. government, motivated by the ongoing Cold War, spent more than \$150 billion on the war.

By the late 1980s the Soviet economy was beginning to collapse. Soviet citizens had limited access to food and other necessities. Waves of anti-communism spread. In 1989, the Berlin Wall –one of the most visible symbols of the Cold War –was torn down. In 1991, the Soviet Union was dissolved and broken into over a dozen independent nations. The Cold War was over.

C) Based on what you read, complete the worksheet.

1) Complete the following chart.

	What was it?	When did it occur?	Why did it end?
The Cold War			

2) List the following events in chronological order by number 1 – 5.

The Vietnam War ends	NATO is formed	Cuban Missile Crisis	The Berlin Wall is torn down	The Korean War begins

3) Cause and Effect

Cause:	In 1948, the Soviet Union created a blockade around West Berlin.
Effect:	

4) Complete the following chart.

	When did it occur?	Who fought?	What were the results?
The Korean War			
The Vietnam War			

5) Circle statements that are correct. Mark an X over statements that are NOT correct.

<p>The United States and the Soviet Union never directly engaged in combat during the Cold War.</p>	<p>Following WWII, Western Germany was controlled by the Soviet Union.</p>	<p>The Soviet Union and communist allies formed a military alliance called the Warsaw Pact.</p>	<p>John F. Kennedy was the American President during the Cuban Missile Crisis.</p>	<p>In 1975, Vietnam was united under a democratic government.</p>
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6) What was the Cuban Missile Crisis? What were the results?

7) Identify the following terms by writing a description OR drawing a picture to show the meaning of the term.

Containment	The Marshall Plan	Arms Race	The Domino Theory

D. Summary: Rewrite the question made from the Key Idea at the beginning and summarize this worksheet by answering it below. IF YOU DO NOT REWRITE THE QUESTION, I WILL NOT READ YOUR ANSWER.

Rewrite your Key Idea as a Question:
