

Winston Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech and the Cold War
Lesson Plan-Mary Laurentius

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 5: The major elements of geographical study and analysis and their relationships to changes in society and environment
- SS 7: The use of tools of social science inquiry (such as surveys, statistics, maps, and documents)

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Place events of the Cold War in chronological order
- Describe how events of the Cold War were related
- Identify countries and cities located in communist vs. non-communist countries
- Describe leadership traits possessed by different leaders of this time
- Explain how Winston Churchill's background impacted his future leadership skills

Prerequisites

Students currently in sixth grade study a chapter on World War I, The Russian Revolution, World War II and the Cold War. Some understanding of these topics would be helpful in the lesson.

Materials Needed

Map of Europe 1950's era
Tape player/The Sinews of Peace speech
Written copy of Winston Churchill's speech
Paper/pens/pencils/colored pencils

Lesson Description

Students will identify the cities and countries mentioned in Winston Churchill's speech to better understand the location of communist vs. non-communist countries. Students will identify the location of the Iron Curtain and put into chronological order the events of the Cold War.

Lesson Procedure

Introduction

The Cold War was a struggle of words and ideas between the Soviet Union and the United States and their allies from 1945 to 1990. During this time no full-scale war broke out. Review events of World War I, The Russian Revolution and World War II as an introduction to the Cold War.

Main Lesson

- Listen to excerpts of the "Sinews of Peace" by Winston Churchill. Students will also have a written account of the speech to aid in understanding. Using maps in the classroom, textbook or the internet,

students will find and label the cities mentioned in his speech on a map of their own. They will also color communist countries red and non-communist countries blue. Students will also note changes in city names and country names compared to today.

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- Students will investigate the following questions as they work.

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Have any of the countries or cities changed names?

Were any cities mentioned that did not come under communist rule?

How were Churchill's words in Fulton, Missouri visionary?

- Using any resources necessary create a chronological time line with the following events.

Korean War

Berlin Wall Falls

Berlin Airlift

Creation of NATO/Warsaw Pact

Berlin Wall

Vietnam War

Cuban Missile Crisis

Arms Race

Conclusion/Closure

Students will come back together to discuss the following:

- What were Americans feelings about communism and what types of things happened because of those feelings?
- The United States government's support of anti-communist Cubans who attempted to overthrow Castro.
- Kennedy's warning to the Soviets that the United States would attack Cuba to prevent its use as a missile base.
- How the arms race, created a competition between the United States and the Soviet Union to have the greatest number of nuclear weapons.

Assessment/Evaluation

Students will complete the map activity and the time line activity to turn in.

Resources

- Macmillan/McGraw-Hill *Our World*
- www.churchillmemorial.org
- CD of *The Sinews of Peace* address by Winston Churchill
- *The Quotable Winston Churchill* edited by Richard J. Mahoney
- *Churchill's England* by Adele Gutman Nathan