

Nuclear Weapons

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WebQuest Description: This WebQuest explores the question of whether nuclear weapons are a practical solution for a nation's defense strategy in the 21st century.

Grade Level: 9-12

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: nuclear weapons, Cold War, Soviet Union, United States, nuclear proliferation, non-proliferation.

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Introduction

World War II has just ended. The Soviet Union has begun to spread its influence and ideology throughout Eastern Europe. The United States has already developed atomic weapons and is seen as the bastion of freedom throughout most of the world. The battle of ideologies has begun: Democracy vs. Communism. As the Soviet Union looks to spread its influence further, the United States sees their ideology as a threat that could lead to World War III. Since the Soviets have developed nuclear weapons, a potential World War III would make WWII look almost tame by comparison. Albert Einstein once said, "I don't know what weapons World War III will be fought with, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."

Did the creation of nuclear weapons actually make the world safer by preventing the Soviet Union and the United States from fighting World War III? Are these weapons still needed in the 21st century as part of a nation's defense strategy? You be the judge.

Tasks

This WebQuest is a group project that will involve four students completing four tasks in order to come to a conclusion of the two underlying questions:

1. Determine whether or not the weapons possessed during the Cold War actually prevented World War III.
2. Come to a conclusion of whether or not nuclear weapons still have a place for a nation's defense in the 21st century.
3. After your group has completed the research individually, you will come together as a group in order to answer the two underlying questions. You will then post your answers to the questions on either a PowerPoint presentation or Prezi - which you will present to the rest of the class.
4. Your group will complete an essay under one page in length and submit it in one of three ways:
 - a. Send it as an editorial to a major newspaper; post it on a blog; send it to the White House.

Before you begin the process please visit the timeline information that is on a link below.

Process

Before you get started, visit the Prezi link on the background of the Cold War in order to better understand the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union. There is a link below for a Cornell Notes paper for you to take notes on.

Time to do the research! Each group of four students will choose a role within their group. Once all the research is completed individually, the group will combine their information in order to make either a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation that answers the two underlying questions given in the Task section.

One student will be the historian and investigate the background of the invention of nuclear weapons. Your focus as an historian is to research the development of nuclear weapons to their present capabilities. You will report your findings back to your group at the conclusion of the process phase in order for the group to have as much information as possible to present your group project.

One student will be the American/Russian defense analyst and determine both the amount of nuclear weapons that existed throughout the Cold War as well as the current nuclear arsenals of each nation. Your focus will be to determine the nuclear

to Germans in the 1930s.KSI-C Assess the charges brought against the defendants in the Nuremberg War Tribunal.KSI-D Describe the moral implications of the use of nuclear weapons by nations in time of war.O-26 The student will compare alternatives by which international conflicts may be resolved.KSI-A Explain the nature of diplomacy.KSI-B Compare points of view regarding arms control and deterrence.KSI-C Form generalizations regarding contemporary conflicts.World History Objectives• Analyze political and historical events to create new solutions. • Determine the role borders and geography play in shaping events. • Recognize the need to develop global links in order to build respect and understanding for other cultures. • Appreciate how events of the past affect their lives today. • Understand the interdependence of countries of the world on each other. • Express their ideas about causes of conflict between nations. • Collaborate during all stages of this quest, from brainstorming to designing a final solution. • Build consensus for a peace plan for the region.Information Processing and Technology ObjectivesStudents will:• Select and define their research roles. • Develop the skill of asking and answering higher order thinking questions. • Access and research the WWW for data. • Organize and present information. • Compose written and oral presentations. • Polish and edit to produce a quality finished product. • Publish their knowledge. • Use email for feedback by posting to a web site or write a letter to the editor of an online or local newspaper.

Reviews

Reviewed by: Megan

Rate: 4

Review: Good job getting the links to work! Keep up the good work. :D

Reviewed On: 2012-05-24 07:27:39

Footer

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