**What was the Cold War, 1945-91?**

**Activity 1: Fill in the gaps to create a summary of the Cold War!**

The Cold War emerged during and after the end of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1945. During the war, America and Russia were allies from December 1941 against Germany and \_\_\_\_\_\_. Towards the end of the war there were a series of conferences held at Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam. These conferences were an attempt by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to seek agreement about how to divide power and influence in the world after Germany and Japan had been defeated. However they failed to reach agreement in key areas in Europe, Middle and Far \_\_\_\_\_, and this resulted in an atmosphere of tension and instability in the world after \_\_\_\_\_. This era is referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_\_ War.

1945 Japan allies East Cold WW2

**Activity 2: What were the causes of the Cold War?**

There were many reasons why the Cold War began. Read the ones listed below and decide which you think would have been most significant. **1 = most significant, 5 = least significant.**

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| **Causes of the Cold war** | **USA (America)** | **USSR (Russia)** | **Rank of importance 1-5** |
| **Superpower rivalry** | The USA wanted to become more **powerful** after 1945. | The USSR wanted to become more **powerful** after 1945. |  |
| **Beliefs** | **Capitalist** (freedom to own private property, and get rich, free trade with other countries).  **Democratic** (voting and lots of political parties to choose from). | **Communist** (the government owns everything, everyone has the same amount of money).  **One Party State** (no voting, only the Communist Party exists). |  |
| **Suspicions** | **Suspicious** of the USSR, who believed in the opposite of the USA and was getting more powerful. The USSR broke promises in Eastern Europe and took over countries by force.  Both sides used **spies**, so they didn’t trust each other. | **Suspicious** of the USA, who believed in the opposite of the USSR and was very powerful. The USA had better weapons and more money, which made the USSR feel threatened.  Both sides used **spies**, so they didn’t trust each other. |  |
| **Propaganda** | The USA made the USSR look evil and aggressive, and **persuaded** people the USSR was a threat. | The USSR made the USA look evil and corrupt, and **persuaded** people that the USA was bribing everyone. |  |
| **Nuclear arms race** | In 1945 the USA created the first **atomic bomb** and an enormous number of weapons by the 1960s. | The USSR tested its first **atom bomb** in 1949 and competed with America throughout the 1950s and 1960s. |  |

# **Activity 3: What were the main phases of the Cold War?** **Match the headings with the correct description!**

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| **Phases of the Cold War** | **Match up!** | **Description** |
| 1) Escalating conflict 1945-62 |  | 1. After the Cuban Missile Crisis, both the USA and USSR realised they had gone too far, and that they needed to be more careful. The superpowers had a period of over 10 years of improved relations, known as détente. They held talks and signed treaties promising to limit nuclear weapons and improve human rights. |
| 2) Emergence of Detente 1962-79 |  | 1. The new leader of the USSR (Gorbachev) made big changes in Russia. He held disarmament talks with the USA and brought an end to communism in Russia. The Cold War came to an end. |
| 3) Cold War 2 1979-85 |  | 1. The period of better relations ended when the USSR invaded Afghanistan, triggering a second Cold War. The USA escalated the Arms Race as relations between the superpowers deteriorated. |
| 4) The End game 1985-91 |  | 1. The USA and USSR competed throughout the world for power, influence and allies after WW2. This led countries to form military alliances: the USA formed NATO, and the USSR formed the Warsaw Pact with its allies. The countries of Europe, the Middle East and Africa were divided in allegiances and a series of crises in Korea, Berlin and Cuba confirmed a divided world. |

# **Activity 4: What were the main crises of the Cold War? Match the headings with the correct description!**

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| 1. Korea 1950-53 |  | 1. The USSR succeeded in crushing a rebellion in Czechoslovakia amidst western protests. They kept the country under strict Communist control. |
| 1. Berlin 1958-61 |  | 1. After a period of anxiety and suspicion since 1945, and after a blockade of the city in 1948-49, Berlin was formally divided by a wall in 1961. Berlin remained a divided city until 1989 when the wall came down and Germany reunited. |
| 1. Cuba 1959-1962 |  | 1. Another hot war, where Communism and Capitalism clashed for 20 years. The country was reunited when American troops withdrew. |
| 1. Czechoslovakia 1968 |  | 1. Russia invaded Afghanistan in 1979 causing an escalation of international rivalry and arms race with the USA, who supported Afghan rebels. |
| 1. Vietnam 1955-75 |  | 1. The USSR attempted to station nuclear missiles in Cuba. The USA succeeded in preventing this. |
| 1. Afghanistan 1979 |  | 1. The first hot war of the Cold War 1950-53 resulted in a division of the country between American and Russian interests. |

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# **Activity 5: What factors brought an end the Cold War? Fill in the gaps with the missing words.**

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| **Defeat of Soviet Union in Afghanistan** | The United \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ requested the USSR leave Afghanistan and the USA placed economic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (punishments) on the USSR. Many Middle Eastern countries were critical of the invasion and there was unrest. When Mikhail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ came to power in 1985, he withdrew troops from Afghanistan. The Soviets signed a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ treaty in 1988. They had withdrawn from the country by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. | **Gorbachev**  **Nations**  **Peace**  **1989**  **sanctions** |
| **Failure of Communism in Eastern Europe** | Opposition to Russian policies was growing in Eastern \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The majority of people were against Russian interference and the presence of the \_\_\_\_ Army in the Eastern Bloc. During the course of 1989 Communists regimes in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Hungary and Germany began to fall and new political and economic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were pursued which more closely reflected \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Europe. | **Western**  **Poland**  **Europe**  **policies**  **Red** |
| **Role of Reagan** | Ronald Reagan was elected \_\_\_\_\_ President in \_\_\_\_\_\_, partly due to his criticism of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and his staunch anti-communist stance. Reagan was determined to increase pressure on the USSR and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them into making compromises in the Cold War. | **US**  **USSR**  **intimidate**  **1980** |
| **Role of Gorbachev** | Gorbachev wanted to radically \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ how the USSR was led and how it co-operated with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ countries. He introduced the policies of **glasnost** and **perestroika** in an attempt to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ relations with the West and the state of the Russian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. | **reform**  **improve**  **economy**  **foreign** |
| **Russian Economic weakness** | The Russian economy was struggling severely. They didn’t have enough \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to maintain the arms race. Living standards in the USSR were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, while in the West they were rising rapidly. Consumer goods were of a much lower standard as industrial \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lagged behind the West. Gorbachev wanted to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the USSR and improve relations with the \_\_\_\_. Realising the Russians could no longer compete in the arms race if Russia was to be modernised, he looked for ways to end military competition and reduce \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between the superpowers. | **production**  **modernise**  **money**  **tensions**  **falling**  **USA** |