THE COLD WAR
(1945-1991)

Capitalism v Socialism v Communism:

Capitalism: is the idea that businesses are privately owned. Business owners and workers are in it to make money. There is incentive to work harder and be creative because you can make more money.

Socialism: Is kinda in between Capitalism and Communism. People can have private ownership of things like houses, but businesses are owned by the people. Socialism can exist with other economic and political systems. Religion is also allowed.

Communism: is an extreme form of Socialism. The goal is that everything is owned by the working class, nobody works to buy nice things, instead profit is redistributed back to the people in the community. There are no wealthy and poor, everyone is equal People's basic needs are provided by each other. In reality, under Communism the government owns all businesses and land. The government (only one party, the Communist party) makes decisions about everything. The government then becomes less concerned about the people and more concerned with keeping power. There is no freedom of speech, press or religion. People follow the government because they are afraid. There is no reward for working hard or being creative, because no matter what, you will make the same salary.

Communism is basically the opposite of Capitalism.

What was the Soviet Union?

During World War I, there was a Communist revolution in Russia. The King (Czar) of Russia was killed and the Communists took over the country. 15 republics, the biggest was Russia, joined together to form the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was huge, stretching across 11 time zones. The government was located in Moscow, in a walled fortress area of the city known as the Kremlin.

What was the Cold War?

The United States and the Soviet Union (USSR) came out of World War II as the two most powerful countries in the world. At the end of World War II, the Soviet army pushed the Germans out of Eastern Europe and eventually

captured Berlin, ending the war. Unfortunately the USSR kicked the Nazis out of Eastern European countries like Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia during World War II, but rather than allowing those countries freedom, they forced Communism on the people and those countries fell under the control of the Soviet Union. Countries in Western Europe, known as "the West" were free and countries in Eastern Europe were Communist. In 1946, Winston Churchill gave a speech where he said, "an iron curtain has descended across the Continent (Europe)." After that, the Soviet Union and the countries it had taken over were referred to as the "Iron Curtain".

The West and the Soviet Union distrusted each other. The Soviets wanted to spread Communism and the west wanted to make sure Communism didn't spread any further. We call it a Cold War because the U.S. and Soviet Union never fought against each other. Instead we helped any countries fighting against Communism and the Soviet Union helped any
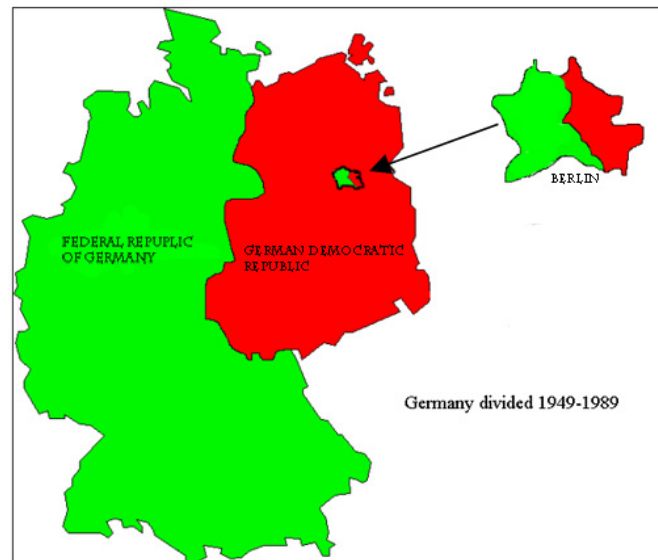
countries fighting us (proxy war). The Soviet Union had a huge army, but the United States military was very powerful and until 1949, we were the only country that had the atomic bomb.

Watch the following video to see what kids in the 1950s were taught in case of nuclear war

https://archive.org/details/gov.ntis.ava11109vnb1

What happened to Germany after World War II?

The allies were afraid to let Germany remain together after the war. When the war ended, Germany was split up, with France, England, the U.S. and the Soviet Union taking control of the parts. The French, English and American parts became West Germany, a free country. While the Soviet part became East Germany, a Communist country.

What happened to the capital of Germany, Berlin?

It can get a little confusing. Berlin was the capital and most important city in Germany. It was like a mix of Washington D.C. and New York. After Germany was divided, Berlin was in Communist controlled East Germany. The United States, France and England argued that the Communists shouldn't have complete control of Germany's most important city even though it was deep inside East Germany. To solve the problem, Berlin was divided like Germany was. East Berlin was controlled by the Communists, while West Berlin was free. This made the Soviet Union very unhappy because they controlled everything in Eastern Europe except for half of one city, Berlin. The Communists made plans to try and take over all of Berlin without starting a war.

Berlin Blockade: The 1st thing the Communists tried was to stop the west from sending food, water and medicine to West Berlin. In 1948, the Communists blocked all roads in and out of West Berlin. The Communists were hoping the west would give West Berlin to the Communists rather than have the people of the city starve. The U.S. considered forcing the roads open with tanks and soldiers, but that probably would have led to World War III. Instead the U.S. began to fly food and supplies into West Berlin. For a year, U.S. planes flew 189,000 flights into Berlin to keep the people of West Berlin alive. After a year, the Soviet Union realized the blockade wasn't going to work, so they opened all the roads again and ended the blockade.

Watch this short video about the Berlin Candy Bomber

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2d7eOF8-4gw

Berlin Wall: Many people in East Germany and East Berlin did not want to be under the control of the Communists, so they moved to West Berlin. By 1961, almost 3 million people moved to West Berlin. To stop people from getting freedom in West Berlin, the Communists built the Berlin Wall. During the middle of the night on August 13, 1961, the Communists built a wall surrounding West Berlin. Nobody from East Germany was allowed into the

city, anybody who tried to escape would be shot. The wall separated families and friends. The wall divided the city from 1961-1989. In 1991, the Communists allowed movement between the two parts of the city again. Hundreds of thousands of Germans began to break apart the wall with axes and shovels. In 1990, East Germany began officially tearing down the wall.

Watch this short video about the wall.

http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/berlin-blockade

Who was on our side during the Cold War?

Many countries in Europe and North America were nervous about the spread of Communism. They worried that alone, they would not be able to defend themselves. In 1949, these countries formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The main countries were Italy, France, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. They agreed that if one country was attacked, all the countries of NATO would defend them. Today 28 countries are part of NATO.

What happened in Korea?

During World War II, Korea was controlled by Japan. After the war, just like in Germany, Korea was split in half. North Korea was a Communist country and South Korea was free. In 1950 North Korea invaded the south to take it over and make all of Korea Communist. The United States and 20 other countries came to South Korea's aid. The Communists were quickly kicked out of the south and American soldiers moved into North Korea. China, which was a

Communist country, but not really friendly with the Soviet Union, bordered North Korea. China was nervous about American troops being so close to its border and warned the U.S. not to get to close. On November 26, 1950 the Chinese attacked, pushing American and Allied forces out of North Korea. For the next two and a half years both sides fought back and forth to end the war. In 1953, after intense negotiations, which included a two month argument over the size and shape of the table the two sides would use, an agreement was reached to end the war. Not much changed. North Korea was still Communist and South Korea was still free. The countries were divided on a line known as the 38th parallel. Today the 38th parallel is the most heavily guarded border in the world. Thousands of armed North Korean, South Korean and U.S. soldiers face each other at the border, known as the Demilitarized Zone or the DMZ. North Korea is called "the hermit kingdom" because no one is allowed in or out. It's a very poor country, where the leader, Kim Jung-un (his grandfather started the Korean War) is seen as a god. Only about 1,000 high level government officials and military leaders are allowed access to the internet.

In recent years, North Korea has developed nuclear weapons. The situation on the Korean peninsula is still very tense.
Watch this short video about the Korean DMZ

http://www.cnn.com/2013/04/10/world/asia/korea-dmz-lah/

What happened in Cuba?

Do you remember why we said the United States is always concerned about what happens in Cuba? That's right, it's really close to the United States, only 90 miles away from Florida. Cuba used to be a fancy vacation spot for Americans with lots of restaurants, hotels, casinos and night clubs, but that all ended when the Communists took over Cuba in 1959. Many Cubans fled to the United States to escape Communism.

We wanted the Communists out of Cuba, we tried several things including assassination attempts against the Cuban leader Fidel Castro. We also gave Cubans in the U.S. guns and training to return to Cuba and kick out the Communists. On April 17, 1961 these Cubans invaded Cuba near the Bahia de Cochinos (Bay of Pigs). The invasion was a complete disaster, the American backed Cubans, called exiles, were all captured or killed and the Communists remained in power. The U.S. and President John F. Kennedy were humiliated over the Bay of Pigs invasion.

In 1962, the U.S. discovered that the Soviet Union was trying to put nuclear missiles in Cuba. These missiles would be able to reach U.S. cities in only a few minutes. President Kennedy decided the U.S. could not allow the missiles to remain in Cuba. The Cuban Missile Crisis began on October 22, 1962 when Kennedy informed Americans about the missiles during a live TV speech. Americans were very nervous, they had good reason to be. If the U.S. attacked Cuba, it would probably lead to nuclear war. If the U.S. did nothing, it might lead to nuclear war.

Kennedy sent navy ships to Cuba to block anymore Soviet ships from going to Cuba. He also communicated with the Soviets that the U.S. would attack if the missiles were no taken out. The crisis went on for 13 days. It
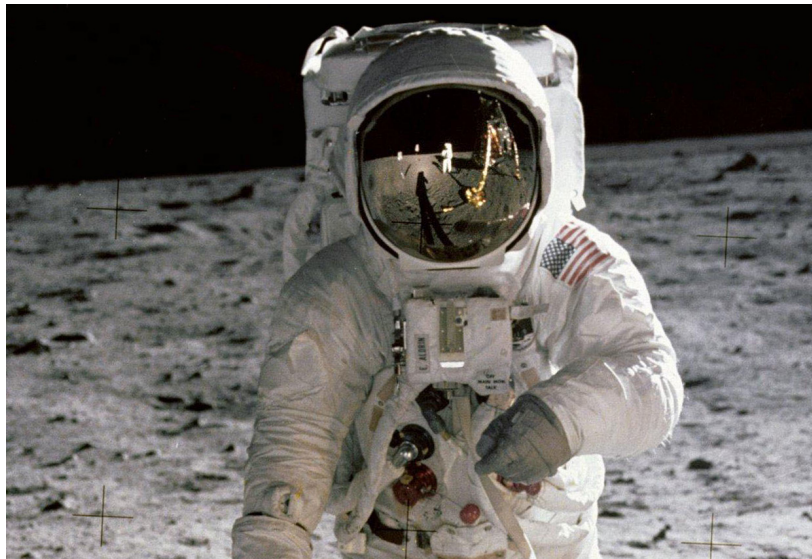
was the closest the world ever came to nuclear war. People stocked up on food and water in case there was a war, churches stayed open 24 hours a day and many parents kept their children home from school. In the end, the Soviets agreed to remove their missiles from Cuba. This was seen as a big victory for the U.S. and John F. Kennedy. Unfortunately Kennedy would be assassinated one year later on November 22, 1963. John F. Kennedy's brother, Robert Kennedy was also assassinated in 1968 while he was running for president.

Watch President Kennedy's original October 22, 1962 speech (you don't have to watch the whole thing, just a few minutes)

http://www.c-span.org/video/?308689-1/president-kennedys-cuban-missile-crisis-oval-office-address

What was the Space Race?

The U.S. and the Soviet Union not only competed for land, they competed to see who would control space, this was known as the space race. It really

started in 1957, when the Soviet Union became the 1st country to launch a satellite into space. The satellite, called Sputnik, shocked Americans.We always felt we were smarter than the Soviets and now they had beaten us into space. To catch up, schools all across America added advanced math and science classes to the curriculum. We were determined to be the 1st country to put a man in space and to land on the moon.

We felt embarrassed and angry again, when Soviet Yuri Gagarin became the 1st man in space in 1961. Three weeks later, Alan B. Shepard became
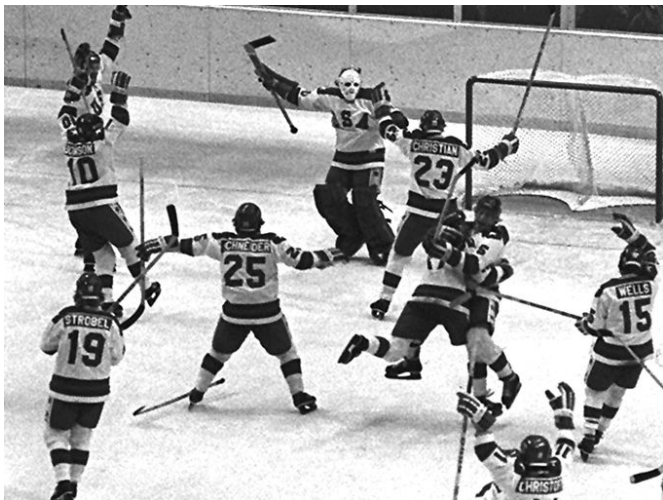
the 1st American in space. President Kennedy vowed that America would be 1st to the moon. He was sure we could do it before the end of the 1960s. On July 16, 1969 astronauts Michael Collins, Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong lifted off from Florida aboard Apollo 11, headed for the moon. On July 20th Neil Armstrong uttered the famous words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" as he became the 1st human to step on the surface of the moon. No other country has landed a man on the moon. The U.S. landed on the moon 5 more times, the last happening in 1972.

http://i.imgur.com/R3LZZkK.gif **AMERICA!**

The Miracle on Ice

You wouldn't think sports would be a famous part of the Cold War, but it was. One of the most famous events of the Cold War was a hockey game

during the 1980 winter olympics. Before the olympics let professionals play, the rule was only amateurs could participate in the olympics. The United States sent college kids to represent the country. The Soviets got around this rule by saying the players on their olympic hockey team were all in the army and were still amateurs. In reality, the players were in the army, but all they did all day long was practice hockey. They were so good, they even beat the NHL all-stars. Going into the 1980 olympics which were held in Lake Placid, New York. Nobody gave the U.S. much of a chance to win any medal. Amazingly, the American team won 5 games in a row and would now play the Soviet team which had won the last four gold medals and were considered the greatest team in the world.

The game was back and forth, a late goal by U.S. team captain Mike Eruzione gave the U.S. team the lead. As the clock ticked down, TV

announcer Al Michaels asked, "Do you believe in miracles?" The clock hit zero and the U.S. team pulled off one of the biggest upsets in sports history. With the recent defeat in the Vietnam War, gas prices skyrocketing, and the hostages still being held in Iran, American's spirits were low. The 1980 hockey team's victory over the USSR and winning the gold medal a few days later, gave the country confidence again. Celebrations broke out all over the United States. The members of the 1980 olympic hockey team are still famous today!

Watch the last minute of the 1980 Miracle on Ice

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYscemhnf88

How did the Cold War end?

By the mid-1980s, the Soviet Union was having problems. They had been defeated in Afghanistan, many call this war, "the Soviet Vietnam". The Soviet economy was not doing well, the United States was still very strong economically and militarily and people behind the Iron Curtain were getting tired of having no freedom. In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev became the leader of the Soviet Union. He wanted closer relations with the United States and started a new program called, Glasnost. Soviet citizens were given more freedom and access to foreign goods.

In 1989, Poland voted the Communist party out of power. Many expected the USSR to invade Poland and put the Communists back in power like they had done before, but Gorbachev did nothing. Seeing this, other countries did the same. Hungary and Czechoslovakia voted out the Communist government. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania declared independence and Romania's dictator was executed. In Germany, the Berlin Wall was torn down. The speed with which Communism began to disappear amazed everyone. In 1991, several Soviet republics declared their independence, and the Soviet Union dissolved. With the Soviet Union no longer in existence, the Cold War came to an end.