



What Is The Cold War?

Unit: 1945-1968

Lesson #1

Time: approximately 1 period (75 minutes)

Learning Goal: To understand capitalist and communist government systems.
To understand the impact of these two rival governmental systems on the world and the lives of Canadians during 1945-1968.

Resources: Cold War Scenario, Cold War Scenario Task Cards, secret weapon resource materials e.g. Legos, straws, elastics, popsicle sticks, tooth picks, glue, marshmallows, etc. dice,

Handouts: Mission Report

Minds On

- Begin by introducing the time period. To find out the readiness of the students, a pre-test on the Cold War can be done or a class brainstorming session on what they know or a KWL chart can be done in small group or as a whole class.
- Capitalism and Communism will need to be explained in detail, comparing the two systems, and the rivalry that developed during WWII and expanded throughout the 1945-1967 time period.

Action

- Divide the class into two groups: Capitalism and Communism.
 - You may need to review the different types of government and some of the vocabulary such as “mole” and “defector” for the students.
 - Each group will be given a task card that will outline the project to be completed.
 - Each student will pick a task card, but they are to keep it SECRET.
 - Set out the ground rules for the activity—country boundaries, arrest procedures etc.
 - Students in each group will work together to create a Top Secret Military Weapon.
 - Give the class 20 minutes to work together on the project.
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- In groups of two, give the students 5-7 minutes to debrief with a partner from their own group, using the “Mission Report”. Find another pair group from the opposing side and compare your answers.
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- As a whole class, debrief the activity discussing the deep divisions that existed between the communist and capitalist world and how it impacted the people living in these countries (with a focus on Canadians).

Consolidation

Exit pass: How would this rivalry have impacted the lives of Canadians?