The Cuban Missile Crisis Activity

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This activity, as well as the Extension interview will serves as the Summative Assessment for our Cold War Unit. To begin, go to my website, feldhistory.weebly.com, and then click on Units: Cold War. At the top of the page is a link to my site on the Cuban Missile Crisis. It can also be reached independently by going to <http://feldcubanmissilecrisis.weebly.com/>. The **Cuban Missile Crisis** was the closest the world ever came to **nuclear war**. First, *choose a document from the list below to analyze with a partner*. Some of the documents are more complex, and if you successfully analyze the document, you will receive a higher level of proficiency

The Documents

* The Presidential Briefing 10/14/62 (include pages 397-405 for an X)
* Theodore Sorenson’s Memorandum to the President 10/18/62 (P)
* CIA Personality Sketch of Nikita Khrushchev (P)
* Kremlin Meeting of 10/22/62 (P)
* Letter for John F. Kennedy to Khrushchev 10/22/62 (P)
* The History of the Resolute Desk (P)
* President Kennedy’s Speech to the Nation, 10/22/62 (must include transcript analysis for X)
* Khrushchev’s Letter to Kennedy, 10/23/62 (P)
* Fidel Castro’s Letter to Khrushchev, 10/26/62 (P)
* CIA Personality Profile of Castro (P)
* President Kennedy Audio Recording, 10/27/62, (This can be difficult to hear at times, possible X depending on level of analysis)
* Article “40 Years After Missile Crisis, Players Swap Stories on Cuba” (P)
* Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Post-Mortem on Cuba, 10/29/62 (P)

Be prepared to learn about your document, and present about it to your classmates.

First, all students must answer questions from ***Background*** and ***Crisis Begins*** pages.

Background – The Bay of Pigs

(These questions can be answered via the Background page)

What was happening in Cuba in 1959, and how did it affect American-Cuban relations?

How did the American government respond to the rise of the Communist Castro government in Cuba, and was this response successful?

The Crisis Begins

In 1961, the United States of America placed missiles in which country within range of the Soviet Union?

How do you think the Soviets would feel about this?

What was the Soviet reaction?

Now, turn toward analyzing **your document** – remember, you will be responsible for explain this document to the class. Please see me if you need help.

Name of Document:

Author(s):

Date:

Source (Where it came from):

Audience (Who was it written for?):

What is the Tone of the document? Is there any emotion or attitude that you can pick up from the document?

In your own words, summarize the document. What is it saying? How does this contribute to our understanding of the Cuban Missile Crisis?

Choose one quote that illustrates a key point the author is making. What is effective or not effective about this quote?

Do you have any additional questions or comments about this document?

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR EXTENSION ACTIVITY

**Extension Activity** – For the final piece, you will interview a relative, friend or acquaintance who lived through the Cold War. Ideally, this would be someone from your grandparents’ generation, but if that is not an option, come see me. Here are some sample questions, but you can certainly create your own:

When you were a child, did you hear people talking about nuclear weapons? If so, how did people seem to feel about nuclear bombs?

Did you understand who the enemy was? What did you think of the enemy?

When you were a child, did your school have air-raid drills? What did the students have to do during an air-raid drill? Why?

 When you were younger, did you ever hear about or see a bomb shelter?

When you were younger, were you afraid that the United States or the world would be blown up by bombs or missiles?

 Do you remember being young and reading books or seeing movies or television shows about nuclear destruction?

Do you have any memory of the Cuban Missile Crisis? The Berlin Wall? The Olympics or sports as it relates to the Cold War?

How do you feel now about the threat of nuclear war?

**Please write down or type up answers on a separate sheet of paper.**