The Cold War

Just the Facts
Vocabulary

- **Superpower**: A nation that is one of the most powerful in the world.
- **Cold War**: A conflict of words and ideas between nations, rather than armies.
- **Containment**: The policy of preventing a country from gaining control of another country.
- **Limited war**: A war in which total victory is not the goal. Such limitations make it less likely that nuclear weapons will be used.
- **Détente**: An easing of tensions.
- **Communism**: An economic and political system in which the government owns all industries and all means of production.
After WWII

The costs of WWII were enormous. Perhaps as many as 50 million soldiers and civilians died in the war. Across Europe, Japan, and other places where fighting had occurred, cities were in ruins. In some cities more than 90 percent of the buildings were too badly damaged to be used. Large numbers of survivors became refugees – people who leave their homes to seek shelter and safety elsewhere.
View of Dresden from Town Hall.
The dead of Dresden lie in the streets in 1945. Waves of British bombers flew over the city, creating a firestorm in which tens of thousands died.
Kaiser Wilhelm Gedachtnis-Kirk, Berlin

This church was badly damaged by allied bombing during World War II. It has now been braced and left standing as a permanent memorial.
The world needed to be rebuilt. Even before the fighting had ended, Allied leaders Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin had begun to make plans for the postwar world. There were conferences at Yalta, on the Black Sea, and at Potsdam, in Germany.
At these conferences it was agreed that Germany’s weapons would be taken away and Germany would be divided into four zones. Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and France would govern these zones. Berlin, the German capital, located in the eastern Soviet zone, would be divided in a similar way. A new international organization, the United Nations, would replace the old League of Nations and help prevent new wars.
The future of eastern Europe was not decided. The Soviet Union had set up communist governments in several eastern European nations. Stalin wanted these governments to remain. The United States and Britain did not. It soon became clear that the alliance that had won the war was already starting to come apart.
In addition, the United States and the Soviet Union became the world’s most powerful nations. Tensions between these two superpowers soon arose. Americans and Europeans feared that the Soviets wanted to make other nations communist and would use force to meet this goal. Such fears led to a new kind of conflict, the Cold War. During this time the two superpowers did not fight face to face. They did, however, prepare for war with all kinds of weapons. Both sides wanted to have not only the most weapons but also the most powerful weapons.
In 1946, Winston Churchill said that an “iron curtain” had “descended across the Continent” of Europe. He noted that all the nations to the east of this curtain were under Soviet control.
Churchill had good reason to say this. The Soviet Union had promised free elections in the eastern European nations it had freed from Nazi control. But the Soviets had not kept their promise. Instead, they banned all opposition to the communist governments they had set up in those nations.
Many Americans urged their government to adopt a policy of containment. That is, they wanted to develop ways to keep the Soviets from gaining control of other countries. In 1947 President Harry S. Truman said that the United States would give money and supplies to help any nation that wanted to keep out the Soviets. Truman also suggested that the United States was prepared to give military help to any such nation. This new policy became known as the Truman Doctrine.
Truman also saw to it that the European Recovery Act, or the Marshall Plan, passed Congress in 1948. This plan provided $13 billion to help the European countries rebuild their economies. Truman believed that an economically healthy Europe would have little interest in communism. To speed up the work of the Marshall Plan, Britain, France, and the United States decided to unite their zones in Germany and create a new German government.
The Soviet Union saw this action as a threat to its control of eastern Germany. Immediately the Soviets blocked all land and water routes between the western part of Germany and the western zone of Berlin. Britain and the United States then began sending supplies by air to Berlin. In May 1949, after 11 months, the Soviets ended the blockade.
Residents of Berlin awaiting a cargo plane carrying food during the Soviet blockade of the city in 1948-49.
The Western countries continued with their plans to form the democratic Federal Republic of Germany. The Soviets created the communist German Democratic Republic, or East Germany, in their zone.
The city of Berlin was also divided into two parts.
In 1949 the Western powers formed a military alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to help defend themselves against Soviet attack. In 1955 Soviet leaders organized the eastern European nations into an opposing alliance called the Warsaw Pact.
Answers to the Cold War Worksheet

1. USA and USSR
2. They had an arms race
3. The countries of Eastern Europe were under Soviet control.
4. The Soviet Union had promised elections in the countries they had freed from the Nazis; instead they opposed all opposition to the communist government.
5. To supply money, supplies, and military aid to any nation that wanted to keep out the Soviet Union.
6. The Soviets felt threatened when the British, American, and French zones of Germany were joined together.
7. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
8. The Warsaw Pact
The Spread of Communism in Asia

The Cold War soon spread beyond Europe to Asia. In 1945, communists fought to take over the Chinese government. In October 1949 they set up a communist state called the People’s Republic of China. Beijing became its capital.
The conflict between communism and democracy next spread to Korea. After World War II Korea had been divided into two parts, with Soviet forces in the north and American troops in the south. With the Soviets’ help, a communist government took control of North Korea. In June 1950, North Korean soldiers crossed the border into south Korea in an attempt to reunite the country under communism. The United States and the United Nations quickly sent troops to help the South Koreans. The Soviet Union and newly communist China gave aid to the North Koreans. Tensions between the communist and non-communist nations reached an all-time high level. Many people felt that these tensions might explode into another world war.
President Truman wanted to keep the conflict from spreading. Still, he decided that the conflict would be a limited war. This meant that the United States would not insist on total victory. This decision made it less likely that atomic, or nuclear, weapons would be used. This was a fear because the Soviet Union had tests its first nuclear bomb in 1949.

In 1953 both sides agreed to end the war. Their truce set a new border between North Korea and South Korea, near the 38th parallel (latitude). Although the fighting in Korea stopped, the Cold War continued.
The Korean War

When

American involvement was from June 27, 1950 until July 27, 1953. The actual war ended on January 31, 1955.
Korea was divided into two countries during the Potsdam Conference at the end of WWII. The Two Koreas were divided at the 38\textsuperscript{th} parallel. North Korea wanted to unite the two countries into one communist controlled country. The United States, using the Truman Doctrine as a basis to intervene, did not want any countries to come under communist control, for fear that all the surrounding countries would also fall under communist control. With the backing of the United Nations, the USA entered into a peace keeping/police action conflict with North Korea and also fought against Chinese forces.
Who

The United Nations Commander was U.S. Army general Mark W. Clark. The Chinese leader was Mao Zedong and the leader of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea was Syngman Rhee. The leader of North Korea was Kim Il-Sung, and the leader of the Soviet Union was Joseph Stalin. General Douglas McArthur was fired as commander of USA forces in South Korea by President Harry Truman.
Where

North and South Korea are two Asian nations separated at the 38th parallel. The capital of South Korea is Seoul, and the capital of North Korea is Pyongyang. Both countries have separate governments and flags.
Why

The Cold War between the two Super Powers began after WWII. Neither country wanted to give the other a political advantage. North Korea wanted to unify the two Koreas. South Korea was growing stronger politically, economically, and militarily. This newly powerful South Korea worried the leaders of North Korea. North Korea invaded South Korea in June of 1950. The war was a seesaw battle with neither country gaining an edge. The USA involvement was on a limited basis and vowed not to use atomic weapons. The Domino Theory stated that if one country falls to communism then all the neighboring countries will also fall to communism. The United States, fully aware of the theory, committed to a “police action” in Korea.
Long Lasting Results

The war was instrumental in re-energizing the US military-industrial complex from their post-war slump. The defense budget was boosted to $50 billion, the Army was doubled in size, as was the number of Air Groups and they were deployed beyond American soil in Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere in Asia, including Vietnam where covert (secret) aid to the French was made overt. The Cold War became a much stronger state of mind for American policy makers.
Answers to the Cold War Worksheet

9. The Korean War
10. Joseph Stalin
11. Kim Il-Sung
12. Syngman Rhee
13. Harry S. Truman
14. The decision made it less likely for it to become a nuclear war.

Note: Why: The US became involved to prevent the spread of communism.
In 1958 Nikita Khrushchev became the leader of the Soviet Union. As the Soviet leader, Khrushchev used harsh methods to control the eastern European communist countries. At the same time, he led Western nations to believe there could be peace. “Peaceful coexistence among different systems of government is possible,” Khrushchev said. As a step in improving Soviet-American relations, he visited the United States.
This thaw in the Cold War did not last long. In the 1960s the United States and the Soviet Union came very near to war. In May 1961 Khrushchev demanded that United States President John F. Kennedy remove all American troops from West Berlin. The Soviets said the troops were a threat to East Germany. President Kennedy refused. Khrushchev threatened to use nuclear weapons if the Americans did not leave. Kennedy still stood firm.
In August, East German troops set up a fence of bricks and barbed wire between West and East Berlin. They wanted to stop East Germans from running to freedom in West Berlin. Kennedy answered by sending more troops to the city. Khrushchev also sent more troops. The danger of war seemed very real. Then the Soviet troops left. Tensions eased after this, but the fence stayed. In time the East Germans replace the barbed wire with the concrete Berlin Wall. The wall soon became a symbol of the Cold War and the division between the free world and the communists.
A defecting East German soldier, Conrad Schuman, leaps over a barbed wire barricade at the Bernauer Street sector into West Berlin on August 15, 1961. Schuman made his break to join his family which had fled earlier to West Berlin.

(AP Photo/Contipress)
15. The Berlin Wall was built.
Shortly after the Berlin crisis, another conflict came about. This time the location was Cuba, a small island nation south of Florida. In 1959, revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro had taken control of the island. The Castro government quickly formed close ties with the Soviet Union.

The strength of those ties became clear in 1962. Americans learned that the Soviet Union had built launching sites for nuclear missiles in Cuba, less than 100 miles from the coast of Florida. President Kennedy ordered a blockade of ships around Cuba to stop the Soviets from shipping military supplies to the island. When Soviet cargo ships began sailing toward the blockade, war seemed certain.
On October 22, 1962, President Kennedy made a televised address, which announced the discovery of the missiles in Cuba. He proclaimed that any nuclear missile attack from Cuba on any nation would be regarded as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States. The United States would then respond accordingly.
Suddenly the Soviet ships turned around. “We’re eyeball to eyeball,” United States Secretary of State Dean Rusk said, “and I think the other fellow just blinked.” Within a week the Soviets agreed to take away the missiles. In return, Kennedy agreed not to invade Cuba. In 1963 the two superpowers signed a treaty ending the testing of nuclear bombs above ground or underwater.
Cuban Missile Crisis

WHO

Cuba – Fidel Castro
USA – John F. Kennedy
Soviet Union – Nikita Khrushchev
What

On October 15, 1962, reconnaissance revealed Soviet missiles under construction in Cuba. After meeting with 12 close advisors (EX-COMM Group), Kennedy ordered a blockade around Cuba. Kennedy announced the findings to the public and intimated that any nuclear missile launched from Cuba would be seen as an attack on the United States and immediate retaliatory action would be taken. In response, Khrushchev demanded the USA remove missiles from Turkey before the missiles in Cuba were removed. Kennedy refused, and the Soviet Union deployed a naval armada to Cuba. Kennedy held fast, and the Soviets recalled the armada. On October 28, 1962, the missiles were removed from Cuba. As a show of good faith, Kennedy removed the missiles from Turkey. This event is described as Kennedy’s finest hour, and was also the closest the world has come to WWII.
When

October 14 to October 28, 1962 – an event of the Cold War (1945-1991)
Where

Cuba is an island nation 90 miles off the coast of Florida. Cuba is bordered by the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the Atlantic Ocean. Cuba is one of the last communist countries in the world, and has little if any diplomatic relations with the United States.

Fidel Castro was the dictator of Cuba from 1959 until 2008 when his brother Raul took over government control as Fidel became quite ill.
Why

In 1962, the Soviet Union was desperately behind the United States in the arms race. Soviet missiles were only powerful enough to be launched against Europe but U.S. missiles were capable of striking the entire Soviet Union. In late April 1962, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev conceived the idea of placing intermediate-range missiles in Cuba. A deployment in Cuba would double the Soviet strategic arsenal and provide a real deterrent to a potential U.S. attack against the Soviet Union.
Answers to Cold War Worksheet

16. Fidel Castro
17. October 14 - 28, 1962
18. Cuban Missile Crisis
19. The United States discovered Soviet missiles in Cuba which could land in the US.
20. The US blockaded Cuba. The Soviets removed the missiles, and then, in good faith, the US removed the missiles in Turkey.
Vietnam

Vietnam, a country in Indochina, became the focus of the next Cold War conflict. At the end of WWII, Vietnamese leaders had declared independence from their colonial ruler, France. The French, however, wanted to take back control of the country. The United States supported France because Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese leader, had communist ties. By 1954, after years of fighting, the French were defeated. An agreement was reached to divide Vietnam into northern and southern parts.
With the help of China and the Soviet Union, Ho Chi Minh built a communist state in the north. He also gained a strong following among people in the south. These Vietcong, or "Vietnamese Communists," began a campaign to overthrow the government of South Vietnam. War then broke out between North and South Vietnam. In the early 1960s the United States began helping South Vietnam. The Soviet Union sided with North Vietnam.
By 1969 there were 550,000 American troops in Vietnam. Yet victory seemed no nearer, and Americans were dying every day. Millions of Vietnamese in the north and south also were killed. Fighting spread to other countries in the region as well.

America’s role in the war caused conflict in the United States. Some Americans believed that the United States had a duty to fight communism. Others believed that the United States should not be involved in another country’s battle. Those who opposed the war held protests and marches.
The Counterculture and the Antiwar Movement

With the nation shocked and paralyzed by the Vietnam War, thousands of American youth showed their concern through campus rallies, antiwar demonstrations, and concerts for peace. Many of the nation's youth were strongly opposed to the war taking place halfway across the world, in which their fathers, brothers, and husbands were dying. United in their antiwar sentiment, thousands of young people joined in their creation of the "counterculture." This new culture, which fostered the tenets of rebellion, spread rapidly during the late 1960s. It showcased an alternate lifestyle symbolized by drugs, sex, and antiwar protest.
"All we are asking is give peace a chance," was the mantra chanted in antiwar protests and demonstrations. The youth were more outspoken than ever before. They protested on college campuses and in major cities. Even the United States Capitol was not immune to this new age of rebellious youth. In a surge of boldness, 50,000 flower children and hippies journeyed to San Francisco for the "Summer of Love."
Counterculture groups sprung up across the nation. Some examples include such radical groups as the Chicago Seven and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). "New Left" became a term used to describe the generation of young people radicalized by social injustice, civil rights struggles, and the Vietnam War. These groups were enraged by the draft and American involvement in Vietnam, and in response staged sometimes violent demonstrations such as those held in Chicago and Detroit, and on college campuses like Kent State and Columbia University.
The counterculture stood against the traditional values of middle-class society, and manifested its rebellion in several ways: long hair, rock music as showcased at Woodstock, tye-dye, drugs, and riots are only some of the vehicles through which the counterculture asserted itself. Through protests and anti-war demonstrations, the counterculture challenged the governmental institutions of American society and the youth spoke out for what they believed in.

http://library.thinkquest.org/27942/counter.htm
More and more Americans began to question their government’s reasons for fighting in Vietnam. Therefore, United States leaders tried to end their country’s role in the war. In 1973 North Vietnamese and American leaders reached a cease-fire agreement. Soon after that, United States troops withdrew.

About 58,000 Americans had died in the war, and 360,000 had been wounded. In 1974 North Vietnam again attacked South Vietnam. By April 1975 the Communist had gained control of all of Vietnam. Not until 1994 did the United States again began trade and communication with the Vietnamese.
After its withdrawal from Vietnam, the United States government began a new policy toward communist nations. Called détente, the policy was meant to relax tensions between the communists and the free world. In the spirit of détente, American leaders began talks with China. They also signed an agreement with the Soviet Union to limit the making of nuclear weapons.
In 1979 tensions flared once again. In that year leaders of the Soviet Union sent troops to its neighbor Afghanistan to keep that country’s failing communist government in power. President Jimmy Carter responded by stopping grain sales to the Soviet Union. President Carter also refused to allow U.S. teams to play in the 1980 Summer Olympics, which were held in the Soviet Union. In addition, he threatened to send American troops to Afghanistan. The spirit of détente had temporarily disappeared.
Vietnam War

The Vietnam War was entered into by the USA because of the Domino Theory – the fear that if one country fell to Communism, all the surrounding countries would also fall to communism.
WHO

North Vietnam led by Ho Chi Minh, South Vietnam led by Ngo Dinh Diem, and the USA led by Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon.
This Southeast Asian War was fought by the communist of North Vietnam with support from the Soviet Union and China. The South Vietnamese (mostly poor rice farmers and peasants) were aided first by France and then the USA. It was a civil war, with the North fighting for a way of life, and the South reluctant to engage. The South Vietnamese were rice farmers, and could be rice farmers whether they were part of a free society or a communist society. The North fought a war of attrition – if one American was killed and 100 North Vietnamese soldiers died in the process, it was a fair exchange. The North Vietnamese were fighting for an ideal.
WHEN

The civil war in Vietnam started in the 1940’s. Vietnam split into two countries in 1954. France got involved on the side of the south in the early 1950’s but withdrew in 1956. The USA got involved during the Truman administration and increased its help to South Vietnam in 1959 under the Eisenhower Administration. The USA fought, bombed, and politically ostracized North Vietnam until President Nixon began withdrawing troops in 1969. The USA troops were officially out of Vietnam on March 29, 1973. North and South Vietnam continued fighting until April 30, 1975.

On July 2, 1976 Vietnam became one unified communist country called the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Vietnam is one of the few remaining communist countries today.
Vietnam is located in Southeast Asia at about the 17th parallel, or 17 degrees north latitude.

Most of the fighting was done in the jungles of Vietnam, a style of fighting that was not the best suited for the American Military. The countries bordering Vietnam are Cambodia, Laos, and China. Vietnam is located on the South China Sea.
WHY

The Vietnam War was the prolonged struggle between nationalist forces attempting to unify the country of Vietnam under a communist government and the United States (with the aid of the South Vietnamese) attempting to prevent the spread of communism. Engaged in a war that many viewed as having no way to win, U.S. leaders lost the American public’s support for the war. Since the end of the war, the Vietnam War has become a benchmark for what not to do in all future U.S. foreign conflicts.

The USA and Soviet Union were locked in battle of words, ideas, and concepts pertaining to economics, government policies, and a military arms race.
Vietnam, a country in southeast Asia, became a French Colony in the 1800’s
Vietnam became 2 countries in 1954
The French aided South Vietnam until it withdrew in 1956
The USA began military aid to South Vietnam during the Truman Administration
The USA continued to help South Vietnam during the Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon Administrations
The Ho Chi Minh Trail was a supply route for the North Vietnamese
1969 – Nixon began withdrawing American Troops
1973 – All US troops are gone from Vietnam
1976 – Vietnam becomes one unified country again
Answers to Cold War Worksheet

22. Ho Chi Minh
23. Ngo Dinh Diem
25. The United States helped South Vietnam, to stop the spread of communism.
26. 1959 – 1973
27. Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon.
28. Nikita Khrushchev
29. The counterculture, or hippie movement
30. 1973
32. Due to the Soviet Union’s involvement in Afghanistan.
Space Race

Robert Goddard
Father of Modern Rocketry
Sputnik 1

Sputnik 1 was the first artificial satellite to orbit Earth. The Soviet Union launched Sputnik on October 4, 1957.
Sputnik 2: Pre-launch

November 3, 1957

Laika (a dog) was sent into space. Unfortunately, she died. However, her trip proved that a living passenger could survive weightlessness and the trip into space.
Before the launch of Sputnik, the average American assumed that the US had technological superiority. But, once the Soviet Union sent into space a 184 pound communications satellite, followed by the launch of the Sputnik 2, with a live dog, the US realized that it needed to take action.

In 1957, President Eisenhower signed and Congress passed, the National Defense Education Act. This bill was designed to give out loans so promising students could pursue college.

Four months after the launch of Sputnik 1, the US launched its first satellite, the Explorer I.
The Space Race officially began with the launch of Sputnik 1 in 1957. One month later, the Soviet Union launched the Sputnik 2. This was notable because a living, breathing being was sent into space, which proved that a person could survive the journey into space. Before the launch of the Sputnik 1, Americans believed they had technological superiority over the Soviet Union. In 1957, President Eisenhower established the National Defense Education Act. In 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was established.
The Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space when he entered orbit in Russia's Vostok 1 on April 12, 1961. After Gagarin’s flight, President Kennedy looked for an American project that would capture the public’s imagination - the Apollo program.
In a conversation with NASA’s director, President Kennedy said: “Everything we do ought to really be tied in to getting on the Moon ahead of the Russians... otherwise we shouldn’t be spending that kind of money, because I’m not interested in space... The only justification (for the cost) is because we hope to beat the USSR to demonstrate that instead of being behind a couple of years, by God, we passed them.”
On May 25, 1961, Kennedy announced his support for the Apollo program as part of a special address to a joint session of Congress:
In October 1963, Soviet Leader Nikita Khrushchev characterized the USSR as “not at present planning flight by cosmonauts to the Moon”, while adding that the USSR had not dropped out of the race.
The Mercury Program

The Mercury Program was the United States first human spaceflight program. It ran from 1959 to 1963, with the goal of putting a man in orbit around the Earth. This goal was achieved on February 20, 1962 with the Mercury-Atlas 6 flight.
Friendship 7 liftoff.

February 20, 1962

John Glenn was the first American to orbit the Earth (for a total of 3 orbits). Capsule's retropack retained during re-entry due to concerns about heatshield.
John Glenn in space.
Cooper was the first American in space for over a day. Last American to fly into space solo and orbit (since then many American X-15 pilots and the pilots of SpaceShipOne have flown past the 100km "space" plateau and returned to earth without orbiting...). 22 orbits of Earth.
Cooper’s capsule on deck of an aircraft carrier after splashdown
Project Apollo was a series of human spaceflight missions undertaken by the United States of America (NASA) using the Apollo spacecraft and Saturn launch vehicle, conducted during the years 1961 - 1975. It was devoted to the goal (in U.S. President John F. Kennedy's famous words) of "landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth" within the decade of the 1960s. This goal was achieved with the Apollo 11 mission in July 1969.
The first manned Apollo mission was scheduled for launch on 21 February 1967 at Cape Kennedy Launch Complex 34. However, the death of the prime crew in a command module fire during a practice session on 27 January 1967 put America's lunar landing program on hold.
Cause of the Apollo 1 Fire
Although the Board was not able to determine conclusively the specific initiator of the Apollo 1 fire, it identified the conditions that led to the disaster. These conditions were:
• A sealed cabin, pressurized with an oxygen atmosphere.
• An extensive distribution of combustible materials in the cabin.
• Vulnerable wiring carrying spacecraft power.
• Vulnerable plumbing carrying a combustible and corrosive coolant.
• Inadequate provisions for the crew to escape.
• Inadequate provisions for rescue or medical assistance.

(info from http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4029/Apollo_01a_Summary.htm)
Earthrise from Apollo 8 (which orbited the moon).
Apollo 9 docking with LEM (Lunar Excursion Module).
Apollo 11
July 20, 1969
Buzz Aldrin on the moon.
Apollo 14
Moon Rover
January, 1971
On May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy announced the goal of sending astronauts to the moon before the end of the decade. Coming just three weeks after Mercury astronaut Alan Shepard became the first American in space, Kennedy's bold challenge set the nation on a journey unlike any before in human history.

Eight years of hard work by thousands of Americans came to fruition on July 20, 1969, when Apollo 11 commander Neil Armstrong stepped out of the lunar module and took "one small step" in the Sea of Tranquility, calling it "a giant leap for mankind."
Innovation and even improvisation were necessary along the way. In December 1968, rather than letting lunar module delays slow the program, NASA changed plans to keep the momentum going. Apollo 8 would go all the way to the moon and orbit without a lunar module; it was the first manned flight of the massive Saturn V rocket.

Six of the missions -- Apollos 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 -- went on to land on the moon, studying soil mechanics, meteoroids, seismic activity, heat flow, lunar ranging, magnetic fields and solar wind. Apollos 7 and 9 tested spacecraft in Earth orbit; Apollo 10 orbited the moon as the dress rehearsal for the first landing. An oxygen tank explosion forced Apollo 13 to scrub its landing, but the "can-do" problem solving of the crew and mission control turned the mission into a "successful failure."

End of the Space Race

The Soviet Union claimed that by first sending a man into space they won the unofficial “race”. Americans, however, claim that they won the “race” by being the first to land a man on the moon. As the Cold War subsided, and as other nations began to develop their own space programs, the notion of a continuing “race” between the two superpowers became less real. In 1975, the Americans and the Soviet Union had a joint mission – the Apollo-Soyuz mission. The Soviet craft Soyuz 19 met and docked in space with Apollo 17.
In April, 1961, the Soviet Union succeeding in sending the first man into space. This prompted President Kennedy to commit the United States to not only sending a man into space, but to the moon and back, safely.

February, 1962: John Glenn was the first American to orbit the earth.

In January 1967, a setback occurred, with the fire in Apollo 1. The fire was mainly caused by the cabin of the space craft being filled with oxygen.

July, 1968: United States lands the first man on the moon.

The Space Race was considered over in 1975, with the joint Apollo-Soyuz mission, a joint United States and Soviet Union mission.
Picture of the Soyuz 19 from the Apollo 17. July, 1975
33. Who were the leaders of the Soviet Union during the Space race?
   Nikita Khrushchev, Leonid Brezhnev

34. Who were the U.S. Presidents that were involved?
   Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford

35. What were the years of the Space race?
   1957-1975

36. What was the Space Race about?
   To see which country (the Soviet Union or the United States) had the best technology.
The End of the Cold War

Cold War Dates:
1945 - 1991
Many changes came to both Europe and Asia during the last years of the twentieth century. After WWII eastern Europe and large parts of northern and central Asia were controlled by the Soviet Union and closed to the outside world. All that changed as the century ended.
In the early 1980s the Soviet Union was without question a world superpower. Yet beneath its military strength lay troubling economic and social problems. Years of poor planning by its leaders had destroyed the economy. There was never enough food or goods. Also, factories built in Stalin’s time dumped chemicals into the water and the air. These chemicals polluted the environment, causing sickness and death. In addition, the people of the Soviet Union had few freedoms.
In early 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in the Soviet Union. Gorbachev had new ideas about governing the country. In 1986 he announced a plan for a “moral revolution”. Two keys to this plan were the policies of *perestroika* and *glasnost*. 
Perestroika, or “restructuring”, meant a rebuilding of the Soviet political and economic systems. Under this policy Gorbachev reduced the authority of the Communist party and formed a new legislative body. He also called for open elections. When these elections took place, many longtime members of the Communist party were voted out of office.
Gorbachev’s economic reforms took most of the authority for production decisions away from central planners and gave it to local farm and factory managers. Gorbachev also started a reward system to boost productivity.
Glasnost, or “openness”, gave Soviet citizens new freedom to speak out without fear of being punished. The news media gained the freedom to report information that once had been hidden. Gorbachev also changed the Soviet policy toward religion so that people could now practice their beliefs openly. In addition, he set free from prison many dissidents – people who had spoken out against the government.
With the introduction of *glasnost*, some people began to speak out very strongly. In fact, people living in the Soviet Baltic republics – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia – called for total independence.
Citizens of eastern European Communist countries that were not actually a part of the Soviet Union but under its control also wanted more freedom. In the past the Soviet Union had stepped in and even used its army when any communist government faced demands for more freedom from its citizens. But by 1989 Gorbachev realized that it was no longer possible to stem the tide of change. He decided to keep the Soviet Union out of political developments in eastern Europe.
37. Last leader of the Soviet Union
38. Soviet Union had economic and social problems, as well as pollution
39. He wanted to rebuild the Soviet political and economic systems
40. A rebuilding of the political and economic system
41. local farm and factory managers
42. Openness, which gave Soviet citizens the right to speak out, without punishment
Poland’s system changed first. During the 1980s a workers’ group called Solidarity led a campaign for a more democratic government. Led by Lech Walesa, Solidarity called for strikes across Poland. After years of struggle, Communist leaders agreed to hold free elections. In August 1989 Communist rule in Poland ended, and Solidarity took control of the government. Poland soon became a democracy. Its command (socialist) economy was transformed into a market (capitalist) economy.
Widespread peaceful demonstrations in 1989 brought new freedoms to people in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia, too. Their communist governments promised reforms and free elections.
In Romania the move toward democracy proved more violent. For years President Nicolae Ceaușescu (chow-SHE-koo) had ruled the country with threats and force. When Romanians took to the streets to demand change, Ceaușescu ordered the army to stop the revolt. Instead, many soldiers died with the people. By the end of 1989, Ceaușescu had been removed from office. The new leaders promised to put the country on the path toward democracy.
Perhaps the greatest changes came in East Germany. Huge protest in 1989 had little effect on the East German government. It rejected all calls for reform. More and more unhappy East Germans found ways to leave the country. Many got permission to visit other communist countries and then fled to West Germany. On November 9, 1989, East German leaders said that they would open their borders. In Berlin joyous demonstrators gathered at the hated Berlin Wall, which had divided the city. They climbed on top of it, breaking off chucks of concrete with whatever they had at hand. The wall that had separated East and West Berlin for 28 years finally crumbled.
In October 1990 the two Germanys united to form the Federal Republic of Germany.
Election in other eastern European countries also created new democratic governments. People who had been against the communist now found that they were the ones in control. They quickly cut themselves off from the Soviet Union, because they felt that their future lay with the West. They also withdrew from the Warsaw Pact, the economic and political alliance led by the Soviet Union. By mid-1991 this organization no longer existed.
People in the Soviet Union watched carefully what was happening in eastern Europe. Some watched with hope. Others, including many communist leaders, watched with fear. In August 1991 some longtime Communist Party leaders tried to overthrow Gorbachev and take back the freedoms Gorbachev had given the people. Even though they failed, Gorbachev’s authority was weakened.
More and more people in the Soviet Union wanted full democracy, not just a change in the Communist ways. “You can’t ride two horses at once,” said Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Republic, the largest state in the Soviet Union.
In December 1991 Yeltsin and the presidents of the other Soviet republics declared that the Soviet Union no longer existed. In its place they set up a loose association, or group, called the Commonwealth of Independent States. Gorbachev stepped down and handed over authority to Yeltsin. The Commonwealth was created to build a new market economy for its member countries. By 1995, 12 of the 15 former Soviet republics had joined the Commonwealth.
Current members of the Commonwealth are the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Ukraine is an unofficial member, since it did not ratify the Charter. Georgia had been a member until 2009, when it left to join NATO.
The fall of communism completely changed international relations. The breakup of the Soviet Union brought the Cold War to an end. The former communist countries now wanted to cooperate with the countries of the West. In 1991, for example, during the Persian Gulf War, some joined with the West to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.
The final collapse of the USSR was one of the most sudden and dramatic territorial losses that has befallen any state in history. Between 1990 and 1992 the Kremlin had lost direct government control over about one-third of Soviet territory – most of it acquired in the period between 1700 and 1945 – which had about one-half of the Soviet population by the time of the dissolution.

The collapse of the Soviet Union, and the breakdown of economic ties which followed, led to a severe economic crisis and catastrophic fall in the standards of living in the 1990s in post-Soviet states and the former Eastern Bloc. Even before Russia's financial crisis of 1998, Russia's Gross Domestic Product was half of what it had been in the early 1990s, and some populations were still poorer as of 2009 than they were in 1989, including Ukraine, Moldova, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.
43. The Berlin Wall was taken down
44. October, 1990
45. More and more member nations sided with the west, so the Warsaw Pact no longer existed by mid-1991.
46. In December 1991, the Soviet Union was broken up into independent nations
47. Glasnost and perestroika – under these programs, people gained more freedoms, so they didn’t want to return to the old ways.
48. In December 1991
49. The breakup of the Soviet Union