

The Cold War

(March 12, 1947 – December 26, 1991)

This topic focuses primarily on the conflict between the United States and Soviet Union.

Questions will not be limited to the examples given.

Pivotal Players	People who had a significant contribution to the waging or easing of the Cold War and how it affected others. This includes, but is not limited to, heads of state, key diplomats, spies, government officials, authors, and non-governmental individuals who are associated with the Cold War. Examples: John Kennedy, Nikita Khrushchev, Fidel Castro, Joseph McCarthy, Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Min, Pol Pot, Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, Pope John Paul II, George Orwell, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, etc.
Arms Race	The competition between the United States and the Soviet Union for superiority in the development and accumulation of weapons and the efforts to prevent war. Examples: atomic bomb, hydrogen bomb, Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs), nuclear subs, Mutually Assured Destruction, SALT I and II, nuclear proliferation and disarmament, Warsaw Pact, NATO, Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), détente, alliances, and treaties, etc.
Trouble Near and Far: Cuba and Berlin	Events involving the superpowers' establishment of Cuba and Germany as spheres of influence. Examples: building the Berlin Wall, blockading Berlin, Berlin Airlift, the symbolism of the Iron Curtain, the division of Germany, the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Bay of Pigs, etc.
The Rivalry: Us versus Them	The ways the Cold War led to competition between the American and Soviet people in non-military areas. Examples: Communism v. Capitalism, the Kitchen Debate, the Red Scare, McCarthyism, the House Un-American Activities Committee, Miracle on Ice, Olympic boycotts, the Space Race, etc.
Pop Culture and Potpourri	How the Cold War was depicted and reflected in movies, music, television, books, other media, and marketing. Also included are questions that are appropriate for the Cold War topic but may not fit well in the categories as outlined above.