**Cuba**

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| **Aim:** | **Date:** |
| **Key Words:**  **1.**  **2.** |  |

**A. Pre-Revolutionary Cuba**

In 1952, Fulgencio Batista came to power in Cuba and ruled with an iron fist, maintaining his office through violence and oppression. Cuba was a wealthy country, but these benefits were unevenly distributed. Rural poor Cubans were the most disadvantaged. It was described as a "rich country with too many poor people." The U.S. presence in Cuba was another source of resentment. By 1928, U.S. investors controlled three quarters of Cuba's sugar, as well as banking and utilities. The United States supported Batista because he defended the interests of American companies. During Batista's leadership, the economy grew but the people remained poor.

*Based on the reading, what claim can you make about pre-revolutionary Cuba? (Claim and evidence)*

**B. Cuba turns Communist**

In 1959, Fidel Castro led a revolution in Cuba and made himself dictator. In less than two years Castro turned Cuba into a communist country and an ally of the Soviet Union. The leader of the Soviet Union, Khrushchev, gave Cuba both economic and military aid, and promised to defend Cuba if it were attacked by the U.S.

“My life if so much better than it used to be. I lived in a run-down shack before the revolution. I now live in a cement house full of furniture. In the old days, I had a hard time making a living. I couldn't go to school because that cost money. Now, Castro's government tries to improve the lives of all Cuban people every worker gets a home and education is free, and children are encouraged to go to school.”

- Enrique Salazar Fernandez

“I am a teacher/poet who was sentenced to 20 years in prison for promoting ‘activities against the power of the state.’ The experience of prison in Cuba has been defined by forced labor and brutality. From the beginning the guards have been trained to hate us...Food in the prison is rotten and terrible. Some people faint from hunger.”

*List the positive and negative effects of Communism in Cuba.*

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| *Positive Effects* | *Negative Effects* |
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**C. Bay of Pigs Invasion**

In 1961 the U.S. trained Cubans (those who hated Castro and had fled Cuba) with the hope that they would invade Cuba and force Castro out of power. The U.S. gave the Cubans weapons, training, and a plan to get rid of Castro. At the last minute the U.S. backed out of the plan and left the Cubans to fight Castro alone. As a result, Castro’s army won the battle.

The Bay of Pigs was a failure, and an embarrassment to the U.S. Khrushchev (Soviet leader) took the chance to blame the U.S. He said, “Everyone knows that the U.S. is responsible for this. The Soviet Union will do everything it can to help Castro and the Cuban government protect itself from an invasion from the U.S.”

*Explain the purpose of the Bay of Pigs invasion.*

**D. Cuban Missile Crisis**

In 1962 the U.S. found out that the Soviet Union was hiding nuclear missiles in Cuba. The missiles were a threat to the U.S. because Cuba was only 90 miles away from Florida, and the missiles could be used to destroy almost any part of the U.S. President Kennedy demanded that the missiles be removed from Cuba, but Castro and Khrushchev refused to remove the missiles. Kennedy responded by ordering a quarantine of Cuba. The US Navy would stop any ships from entering Cuba. World War 3 nearly started over what happened in 13 days.

*According to the video and reading, how did the U.S. react to the Soviets putting nuclear missiles in Cuba?*

*According to the video and reading, why were these 13 days so tense?*

**E. Activity: What Should President Kennedy Do?**

After Kennedy orders the quarantine of Cuba he found out that the Soviet Union was still sending boats carrying more missiles to Cuba. Kennedy wanted to stop these boats and have the missiles removed from Cuba, but knew that he had to be careful to not start a nuclear war.

*If you were one of Kennedy’s advisors what would you tell him to do?*

*Your choice:*

*Explain:*

*Kennedy chose to:*