



Cold War/ Space Race Webquest



Name _____ Date _____

Use the following internet sites to help you discover the political factors that led to the Space Race.

1. Visit <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Look up the word political and the word climate (In this instance, climate does not refer to actual weather conditions. Read all three definitions carefully to see if you can find a definition that might fit with the word political). By putting those two definitions together, what do you think the phrase “political climate” might mean?

2. Visit http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War

Read the introductory paragraphs about the Cold War to answer the following questions.

Define the term **cold war**-

Why was this war unlike any other war?

What were people fearful of during the cold war?

Scroll down the page to the “Background” section of this website and read the two paragraphs located there.

What caused the outbreak of the cold war?

What does that word mean?

Click on the word communism and on the word capitalism and read the definitions of both words (define them below).

Communism-

Capitalism-

Why do you think there was a clash between communism and capitalism?

Scroll down the page to the “After World War II” section of this website and read the paragraph located there.

What happened to the country of Germany, and in particular the city of Berlin, after world War II ?

Scroll down the page and read the following sections: “Proxy Wars” “The 1950’s” and “The Cuban Missile Crisis.”

Even though the military forces of the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. (Russia) never officially clashed during the cold war, the conflict expressed in many different ways. Explain the conflicts listed below:

Proxy Wars-

Red Scare-

Nuclear Deterrence-

Cuban Missile Crisis-

The Space Race-

3. Visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Race

Scroll down the page and read the “World War II” and “Rocket Teams Assembled” sections.

After WWII, what did the United States do to help make sure that we could develop our rocketry technology?

Where did America send its rocket team and what was the first project Dr. Von Braun worked to develop as part of the American team?

Read the introductory paragraph about the Space Race

Define the term space race –

What was the official beginning of the space race and what was the date of this event?

Scroll down the page and read the “Cold War Arms Race” section.

How are the space race and the cold war related to each other? (Make sure to read the quote in the grey box)

4. Visit <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/space/sputnik-impact-on-america.html>

Scroll down the page to the “A Crisis of Confidence” section and read the first three paragraphs under that heading.

How were Americans feeling prior to Sputnik? What misconceptions might the country have held about technology and science?

How do you think American’s felt about the launch of Sputnik?

How do you think Russians felt about its launch?

5. Visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sputnik_crisis

What was the “Sputnik Crisis”?

Why did the launch of Sputnik, a small satellite, rattle the American public?

What was the National Defense Education Act and what was its purpose?

List and explain at least 3 things the United States did as a direct response to the launch of Sputnik to try to regain technological supremacy?

-
-
-

Based on what you have read, do you think that we enjoy benefits today that would have been unavailable if it were not for the cold war? Do these benefits outweigh the fear and distrust that were prevalent during the cold war? Why or why not?