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HVL LESSON TITLE:

LIVING BEHIND THE WALL

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

LIVING BEHIND THE WALL

GUIDING QUESTION:

What was it like to be separated
from family and friends while
living behind the Berlin Wall?

OVERVIEW:

After watching a video on veteran Martin Marne, students will participate in activities to better understand life behind the Berlin Wall.



SUBJECT(S):
Social Studies



WWII VETERAN(S):
Martin Marne



DURATION:
60 min.

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“I got fly in Germany a bit and saw and I would see more in a day than people would see in their whole life in Europe.”

Veteran Martin Marne

OVERVIEW:

After watching a video on veteran Martin Marne, students will participate in activities to better understand life behind the Berlin Wall.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The 155-kilometer-long Berlin Wall, which cut through the middle of the city center, surrounded West Berlin from August 13, 1961 to November 9, 1989. The Wall was designed to prevent people from escaping to the West from East Berlin. In all, at least 171 people were killed trying to get over, under or around the Berlin Wall. Escape from East Germany was not impossible, however: From 1961 until the wall came down in 1989, more than 5,000 East Germans, including some 600 border guards, managed to cross the border by jumping out of windows adjacent to the wall, climbing over the barbed wire, flying in hot air balloons, crawling through the sewers and driving through unfortified parts of the wall at high speeds.

The western side of the Berlin Wall was

covered in colorful graffiti, since West German artists and citizens were free to express themselves. The Eastern side remained decidedly bare, because direct access to the wall was forbidden from that side.

OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will be able to

- Understand the purpose and the consequences of the Berlin Wall.
- Utilize their creative skills to create artwork in accordance to the subject of the lesson.

STANDARDS:

AL: 12: A: 2

Describing major foreign events and issues of the John F. Kennedy Administration, including construction of the Berlin Wall, the Bay of Pigs invasion, and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

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MATERIALS & DOCUMENTS

[Martin Marne Video](#)

Cardboard Boxes

Berlin Wall Fill-In Notes Handout (Doc A)

Paint or markers

Computer Access

PROCEDURES

ACTIVITY 01

- Before students enter the classroom, divide it in half using cardboard boxes. These boxes will simulate the Berlin Wall. As students enter the classroom, give them the number 1 (for the West) or the number 2 (for the East). Direct students to the proper side of the classroom.
- Once students are settled, tell students on the East side of the classroom that they must sit at their desks and remain quiet until the timer sounds; tell students on the West side of the classroom that they can talk, laugh, get up and move around within the western zone until the timer sounds. NOTE: set a timer for this to go on for about 3-4 minutes.
- After the timer sounds, ask students on the East side how they felt watching their classmates have their freedom. Discuss.

ACTIVITY 02

- Show the HVL Martin Marne Video
- After the video inform students that veterans like Mr. Marne served in the area as part of the U.S. involvement in the Cold War, including the area surrounding the Berlin Wall.
- Distribute the Berlin Wall Fill In Notes (Doc. A). Students will fill in the blanks as the teacher leads the lecture.

ACTIVITY 03

- **NOTE:** Teacher can choose which artwork from the Berlin Wall they want to show students. [Link to Artwork](#).
- Inform students that the West side of the Wall slowly became a mile-long canvas while the East side remained blank, gray and empty.
- Project one or two pieces of artwork found at the above link. Ask students the following questions: 1. What stands out most about this artwork? 2. What is the tone of the message/artwork?



ACTIVITY 03 CONTINUED

- Tell students that today they are going to create their own artwork on “our Berlin Wall” both the East and West side. Instruct them to use the markers to create their own artwork or message from the perspective of the side of the wall they are sitting on.
- Once students are finished, have them walk around “the Wall”. Ask them to choose a classmates’ artwork. For an exit slip, have students write two-three sentences, depicting their feelings about their classmates’ artwork.

METHODS FOR EXTENSION

Have students research people who were doves (ex. Jane Fonda) and hawks (ex. Robert McNamara). Have students take the place of these people and debate the stance of the doves and the stance of the hawks.



THE BERLIN WALL

The _____-kilometer-long Berlin Wall, which cut through the middle of the _____ center, surrounded _____ Berlin from August. 13, 1961 to November 9, 1989. The Wall was designed to _____ people from escaping to the _____ from East Berlin.

Even after the Wall was _____, leadership was not able to completely _____ the westward migration. In fact, now that the Wall separated _____ and _____ in Berlin, the _____ on East Berliners and people living on the _____ of Berlin to flee was even greater.

In 1961, additional _____ to the border were added to _____ the Wall into a complex multi-layered system of barriers. In the West, the strip was referred to as the “_____ strip” because so many people were killed there while trying to _____. In 1963, a _____ was added and later leadership tore down several _____ to provide border _____ with an “unobstructed view and clear field of fire.” In the 1970s, a _____ inner wall was added.

Of the _____ total deaths that occurred at the Berlin Wall between 1961 and 1989, 91 of the _____ --mostly people trying to _____-- had been shot by _____ soldiers. The order to _____ was not lifted until April 1989.

After Mikhail Gorbachev became the Gen. Secretary of the _____ Party in the Soviet Union in 1985, the _____ situation in the East slowly began to change. The first _____ in the “iron curtain” occurred in _____ 1989.

On June 12, 1987, President Ronald Reagan stood just _____ yards away from the concrete _____ dividing East and West Berlin and uttered some of the most _____ words of his presidency: “Mr. Gorbachev, _____.”

On November 9, 1989, head of the _____ Communist Party, announced that citizens could now _____ into West Germany freely. That night _____ of East and West Germans headed to the Wall to celebrate, many _____ with hammers, chisels and other tools. Over the next few _____, the Wall would be nearly completely _____. East and West Germany officially _____ on October 3, 1990.



THE BERLIN WALL KEY

The 155-kilometer-long Berlin Wall, which cut through the middle of the city center, surrounded East Berlin from August 13, 1961 to November 9, 1989. The Wall was designed to prevent people from escaping to the West from East Berlin.

Even after the Wall was built, leadership was not able to completely stop the westward migration. In fact, now that the Wall separated friends and family in Berlin, the pressure on East Berliners and people living on the outskirts of Berlin to flee was even greater.

In 1961, additional obstacles to the border were added to expand the Wall into a complex multi-layered system of barriers. In the West, the strip was referred to as the “death strip” because so many people were killed there while trying to escape. In 1963, a fence was added and later leadership tore down several buildings to provide border soldiers with an “unobstructed view and clear field of fire.” In the 1970s, a second inner wall was added.

Of the 141 total deaths that occurred at the Berlin Wall between 1961 and 1989, 91 of the victims--mostly people trying to escape-- had been shot by border soldiers. The order to shoot was not lifted until April 1989.

After Mikhail Gorbachev became the Gen. Secretary of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union in 1985, the political situation in the East slowly began to change. The first hole in the “iron curtain” occurred in May 1989.

On June 12, 1987, President Ronald Reagan stood just 100 yards away from the concrete barrier dividing East and West Berlin and uttered some of the most unforgettable words of his presidency: “Mr. Gorbachev, Tear Down This Wall.

On November 9, 1989, head of the East German Communist Party, announced that citizens could now move into West Germany freely. That night thousands of East and West Germans headed to the Wall to celebrate, many armed with hammers, chisels and other tools. Over the next few weeks, the Wall would be nearly completely dismantled. East and West Germany officially reunified on October 3, 1990.