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HVL LESSON TITLE:

BUILDING THE IRON CURTAIN

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

BUILDING THE IRON CURTAIN

GUIDING QUESTION:

**What did the Iron Curtain
represent during the Cold War?**

OVERVIEW:

Vietnam era veteran Martin Marne flew missions over Germany during the Cold War. At the time, the country was divided into East and West Germany with the Berlin Wall dividing Berlin.



SUBJECT(S):
Social Studies



VIETNAM VETERAN(S):
Martin Marne



DURATION:
60 minutes

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“I got to fly in Germany quite a bit. And at the time there was the Iron Curtain. And we just over there to patrol and keep things in order.”

Veteran Martin Marne

OVERVIEW:

Vietnam era veteran Martin Marne flew missions over Germany during the Cold War. At the time, the country was divided into East and West Germany with the Berlin Wall dividing Berlin. He says Europe, during that time, was drastically different than it is today.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

After World War II, Germany was divided into four areas: the American sector, British sector, French sector, and the Soviet sector. The capital of Germany, Berlin, was also divided with the east and west divided with what Winston Churchill named the Iron Curtain in 1946.

This division of Germany started the Cold War which lasted until 1991. During this time period, U.S. and Soviet relations were tense, causing conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Cuba and other areas of the world.

OBJECTIVES:

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

- Analyze primary sources.
- Write a summary of things learned.

STANDARDS:

ACT COURSE STANDARDS:

Identify and interpret different types of primary and secondary sources of fundamental importance and relevance to topical inquiry and understanding.

AL: 11: 9 Social Studies

Outline the foreign policy changes that led the United States into the Cold War and contributed to its emergence as a superpower.

A COUNTRY DIVIDED

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MATERIALS & DOCUMENTS

[HVL Martin Marne Video](#)

Germany Post WWII Map (Doc A)

Capitalism vs Communism Worksheet
(Doc B)

Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech (Doc C)

Cold War Cartoons (Doc D)

Exit Slip (Doc E)

PROCEDURES

ACTIVITY 01

- Show the [HVL Martin Marne Video](#)
- After the video, ask students what era do they think Mr. Marne served.
- Inform students that the Cold War stemmed from the end of WWII and was a battle between the ideologies of capitalism and communism.
- Project the Division of Germany Map (Doc A). Show students how Germany was divided after WWII.

ACTIVITY 02

- Distribute copies of the Capitalism vs Communism Handout (Doc B) digitally if possible. Instruct students to complete the chart using the URL embedded in the handout.
- Give students 15 minutes to complete and then discuss.

ACTIVITY 03

- Distribute the Iron Curtain Speech (Doc C). Have students read and answer the questions that follow or read aloud and answer the questions as a class.
- Inform students that the Cold War only intensified after the speech Churchill gave in 1946 with the phrase "iron curtain" being used to describe the division between the West and the East.

ACTIVITY 04

- Distribute or project the Cold War Cartoons (Doc D).
- Students will complete the questions after each cartoon. Discuss if time allows.
- Inform students to complete the Exit Slip (Doc E) to end the lesson.

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GERMANY POST- WORLD WAR II MAP



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CAPITALISM VS COMMUNISM

DOC B



Directions: Access the following [LINK](#) to complete the chart below in regards to the differences between Capitalism and Communism in ideology, economics, government structure, and how the government influenced their people.

	CAPITALISM	COMMUNISM
IDEOLOGY		
ECONOMICS		
GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE		
PEOPLE INFLUENCE		

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IRON CURTAIN SPEECH-WINSTON CHURCHILL



THE SINEWS OF PEACE-1946

EXCERPT: Winston Churchill, 1946, Westminster College, Missouri

From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an **iron curtain** has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the **Soviet sphere**, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in many cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow.....

Police governments are prevailing in nearly every case, and so far, except in Czechoslovakia, there is no true democracy. Turkey and Persia are both profoundly alarmed and disturbed at the claims which are being made upon them and at the pressure being exerted by the Moscow Government. An attempt is being made by the Russians in Berlin to build up a quasi-Communist party in their zone of Occupied Germany by showing special favors to groups of left-wing German leaders.....

If now the Soviet Government tries, by separate action, to build up a pro-Communist Germany in their areas, this will cause new serious difficulties in the British and American zones, and will give the defeated Germans the power of putting themselves up to auction between the Soviets and the Western Democracies. Whatever conclusions may be drawn from these facts — and facts they are — this is certainly not the Liberated Europe we fought to build up. Nor is it one which contains the essentials of permanent peace.....

In front of the iron curtain which lies across Europe are other causes for anxiety. In Italy the Communist Party is seriously hampered by having to support the Communist-trained Marshal Tito's claims to former Italian territory at the head of the Adriatic. Nevertheless the future of Italy hangs in the balance.

1. What is Churchill referring to when he says "iron curtain?"
2. According to Churchill, what is the Soviet Sphere subject to?
3. If the Soviets build up in pro-Communist Germany, how will that affect Britain and America?
4. Why does the iron curtain cause anxiety?
5. How do these words help to inflame an already tense relationship between the West and the East?

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COLD WAR CARTOONS

DOC D



British cartoonist Leslie Illingworth June 1947

1. What is Stalin doing in this graphic? Why?
2. What does the ? mean on France and Sweden?
3. What does this cartoon imply about the Cold War?

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COLD WAR CARTOONS

DOC D



*By British cartoonist Leslie Illingworth,
September 9, 1948*

1. Who is the cat representing?
2. Who do the mice represent?
3. What is the message behind the mice named "" in the air?
4. What do you think the message of this cartoon is?

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COLD WAR CARTOONS

DOC D



British cartoonist Leslie Illingworth, Feb. 6, 1946

1. Who is peeking under the curtain?
2. Why does the fence state “No Admittance by Order of Joe?”
3. Describe the images you see on both sides of the fence.
4. What do you think the message of this cartoon is?

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COLD WAR CARTOONS



"Bridge the Gulch" by Dr. Paul Kowert, 1946

1. Who does the bear represent? Who does the eagle represent?
2. What is the tone of the facial expressions on both the bear and the eagle?
3. What does the divide in the cliff represent? What is causing this divide?
4. What do you think the message of this cartoon is?

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EXIT SLIP

DOC E



In your own words, what did the **IRON CURTAIN** represent to the American people?
