

LESSON PLAN – 10th Grade

Title

Cold War Analysis: Reagan, the Soviet Union, and the Collapse of Communism

Objective

Students will:

- Analyze Reagan’s leadership and policies
 - Evaluate Soviet strengths and weaknesses
 - Explain causes of Soviet collapse
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Vocabulary

Detente, Arms Race, Economic Pressure, Communism, Reform

Warm-Up

 “Can a powerful nation collapse from internal problems?”

Direct Instruction

Reagan’s Strategy

- Military buildup
- Economic pressure
- Support for anti-communist movements
- Diplomacy with Gorbachev

Soviet Union Weaknesses

- Central planning inefficiency
- Food shortages
- Political repression
- Costly arms race

Key Moment

- Reagan's Berlin Wall speech
👉 "Tear down this wall"

Outcome

- Collapse of USSR (1991)
 - End of Cold War
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Guided Practice

Students analyze:

- Cause and effect of Soviet collapse
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Activity

Essay / Group Analysis:

👉 "What was the most important cause of the Soviet Union's collapse?"

Discussion

- Did Reagan "win" the Cold War?
 - Was Soviet collapse inevitable?
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QUIZ – 10th Grade

Multiple Choice

1. Reagan's policy focused on:
 - A. Reducing power
 - B. Strengthening military
 - C. Isolation
2. Soviet economy struggled due to:
 - A. Too much freedom

- B. Central planning
 - C. Trade
3. Cold War ended when:
- A. U.S. surrendered
 - B. USSR collapsed
 - C. War began
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Short Answer

- 4. One weakness of the Soviet system
 - 5. One Reagan policy
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Essay

- 6. Explain the main causes of the Soviet collapse
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Answer Key

- 1. B
- 2. B
- 3. B
- 4–6. Evidence-based answers