

## LESSON PLAN – 8th Grade

### Title

Cold War Conflict: Reagan vs the Soviet Union

### Objective

Students will:


- Compare U.S. and Soviet systems
  - Analyze Reagan’s strategy
  - Explain how the Cold War ended
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### Vocabulary

Communism, Capitalism, Arms Race, Cold War, Superpower

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### Warm-Up

 “Can two completely different systems coexist peacefully?”

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### Direct Instruction

#### United States (Reagan)

- Capitalist system
- “Peace through strength” strategy
- Increased military spending

#### Soviet Union

- Communist system
- Centralized control
- Economic struggles and shortages

#### Key Events

- Arms race

- Space race
- Reagan's negotiations with Mikhail Gorbachev

 Outcome:

- Soviet Union collapsed in 1991
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### **Guided Practice**

Students complete comparison chart

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### **Activity**

**Debate:**

 "What caused the Soviet Union to collapse?"

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### **Discussion**

- Did Reagan's policies weaken the USSR?
  - Why did communism struggle economically?
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### **QUIZ – 8th Grade**

#### **Multiple Choice**

1. Reagan's strategy was called:
  - A. Peace through strength
  - B. Isolation
  - C. Trade war
2. The Soviet Union used:
  - A. Capitalism
  - B. Communism
  - C. Democracy
3. The Cold War involved:
  - A. Direct fighting

- B. Ideological competition
  - C. Farming
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### **Short Answer**

- 4. One reason the Soviet Union weakened
  - 5. One action Reagan took
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### **Critical Thinking**

- 6. Was the Cold War avoidable? Explain
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### **Answer Key**

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. B
- 4–6. Answers vary