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Activity: The History and Lasting Impact of the Cuban Missile Crisis

Background: Six decades ago, the United States and Soviet Union engaged in a standoff that nearly ended in nuclear war. In this lesson students will analyze and evaluate the actions taken by the U.S. and Soviet Union during the Cuban missile crisis. The video will explore the history leading to the crisis, the events that nearly led to a nuclear war, and how the actions of leaders can lead to unknown consequences for their country and many other nations.

Objective: Identify and describe actions and reactions by respective nations in both the historic and contemporary crises, and apply knowledge of the Cuban missile crisis to the contemporary conflict in Ukraine.

Directions:

- Look at the terms/numbers/image below and try to predict how they connect to the story in the video you will watch.
- Jot down connections or draw on the graphic organizer below to help organize your thoughts.

90 blockade 13 Ukraine fear pigs

Turkey Kennedy Batista guerillas Castro

Kruschev backyard missiles

misunderstanding invasion Biden dictator

compromise nuclear Putin



Predictions:

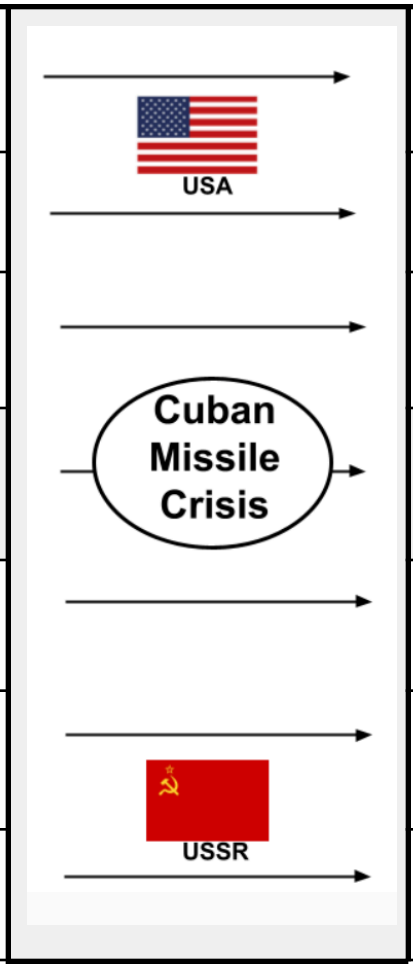
Video Notes: Watch the video "Putin's Nuclear Threats Evoke Cold War Tensions of the Cuban Missile Crisis" (Transcript) and take notes that show the connections to the terms/numbers/image above and will help you explain The Cuban missile crisis.

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Summarize the Cuban missile crisis: Explain what happened using the terms from the video and your notes.

Complete the graphic organizer below. You may find more/less provocations than are in the organizer, it was not created with any specific number in mind.		
Provocations & Why	**USA & USSR**	**Reactions & Why**

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Assessment

1. **Chart** - Select the **four actions/decisions** made by the U.S. and the Soviet Union during the Cuban missile crisis that you think were the most influential. Did the actions/decisions bring the world closer to nuclear war, did it help reduce tensions, or a bit of both? Explain your answers.

USSR Action	Explanation Good/Bad/Mixed - Why?	US Action	Explanation Good/Bad/Mixed - Why?

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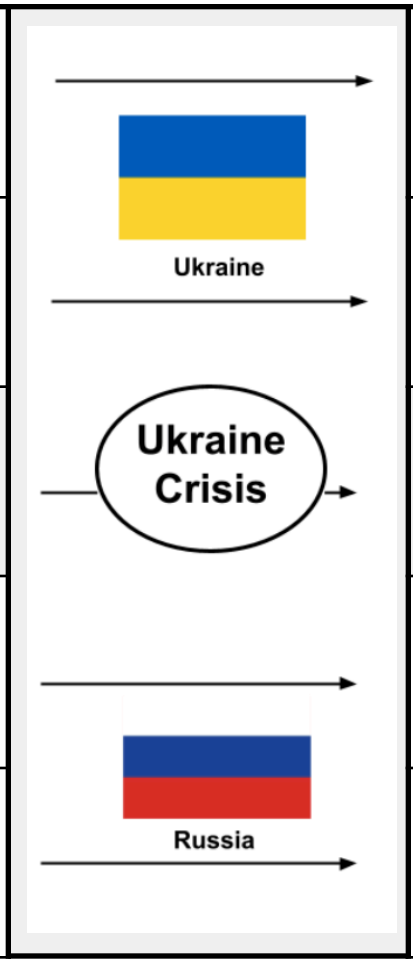
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2. Russia and Ukraine - The video shows Russia attacking neighboring Ukraine. From what you learned about the Cuban missile crisis, what do you think the U.S. should do in a situation where one country attacks another?	
Possible Options	• Send military aid such as tanks, rockets, guns, ammunition • Use long-range missiles and drones to help the attacked country defend itself • Send U.S. troops and planes to assist in the defense of the attacked country • Impose economic sanctions • Stay completely out of it, letting that country defend itself and possibly be taken over • Your own plan: A combination of the above or other ideas
Your plan: Explain and connect it to what you learned about the Cuban missile crisis	

Extension: Identify and analyze the provocations and reactions with the crisis in Ukraine based on readings provided by your teacher or information from your research. Then complete the graphic organizer below. You may find more/less provocations than are in the organizer, it was not created with any specific number in mind.

Provocations & Why	Ukraine - Russia	**Reactions & Why**

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