**Iron Curtain**

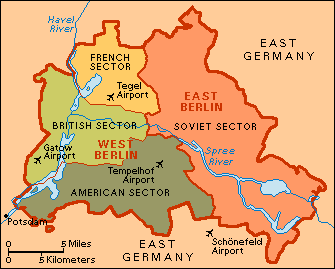
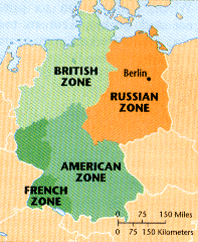
The **Iron Curtain** is a term used in the West to refer to the boundary line which divided [Europe](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/eu/Europe) into two separate areas of political influences from the end of [World War II](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/wo/World_War_II) until the end of the [Cold War](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/co/Cold_War). During this period, Eastern Europe was under the political control and/or influence of the [Soviet Union](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/so/Soviet_Union), while Western Europe enjoyed political freedom (see [Free World](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/fr/Free_World)). The term comes from a long speech by [Winston Churchill](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/wi/Winston_Churchill) on [March 5](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ma/March_5), [1946](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1946) in [Fulton](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/fu/Fulton%2C_Missouri), [Missouri](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/mi/Missouri):

From [Stettin](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/sz/Szczecin) in the [Baltic](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ba/Baltic_Sea) to [Trieste](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/tr/Trieste) in the [Adriatic](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ad/Adriatic_Sea) 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](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/wa/Warsaw), [Berlin](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/be/Berlin), [Prague](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/pr/Prague),[Vienna](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/vi/Vienna), [Budapest](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/bu/Budapest), [Belgrade](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/be/Belgrade), [Bucharest](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/bu/Bucharest) and [Sofia](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/so/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 some cases increasing measure of control from [Moscow](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/mo/Moscow).

Iron Curtain Rubric

1. Title
2. Date
3. Picture
4. Define the Iron Curtain in your own words
5. What was the difference in the countries on the west side of the Iron Curtain to the east side? (Think government-who followed the Soviet Union?)

**Division of Germany after World War II**



Germans frequently refer to [1945](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1945) as the *Stunde Null* (zero hour) to describe the near-total collapse of their country. At the [Potsdam Conference](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/po/Potsdam_Conference), Germany was divided into four military occupation zones by the Allies; the three western zones would form the Federal Republic of Germany, while the Soviet zone became the German Democratic Republic, both founded in [1949](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1949).

This separation lasted until the end of the [Cold War](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/co/Cold_War), when in [1989](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1989) the [Berlin Wall](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/be/Berlin_Wall) fell and Germany was reunited on [October 3](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/oc/October_3), [1990](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1990).

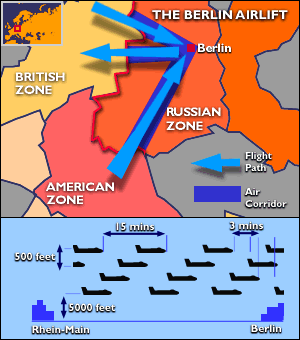
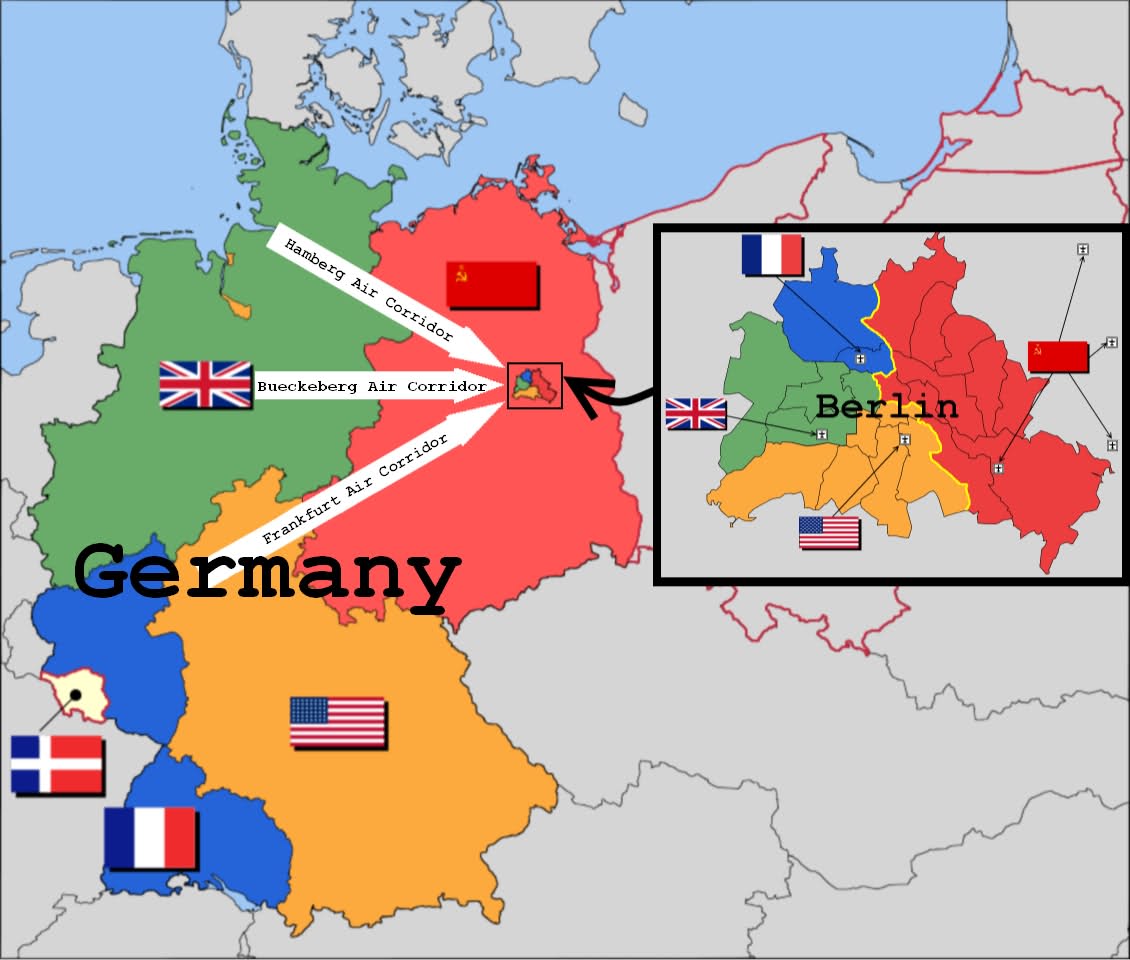
**Division of Germany after WWII Rubric**

1. Title
2. Date
3. Picture
4. How was Germany separated?
5. How long did the separation last?

**Berlin Blockade**

**Blockading Berlin**: The city of Berlin was an island in the middle of the Soviet controlled zone. The west sent supplies there via railroads and roads. However, the Soviets wanted total control of Berlin. They figured if they cut off Berlin from their external supplies and food, then it would fall under their control.   
  
On June 24, 1948 the Soviets blocked all rail and road traffic to Berlin. They cut off the electricity coming from the Soviet part of the city. They halted all traffic going in and out of the city. The only way in was to fly.

The **Berlin Airlift** (1948-1949) was an action during the [Cold War](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/co/Cold_War) taken by the [United States](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/un/United_States) and neighboring Western [European](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/eu/Europe) nations to airlift food and other necessities into a [Communist](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/co/Communist)-surrounded [west Berlin](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/we/West_Berlin). The American action was given the name **Operation Vittles**; the British one was called **Plain Fare**.

It was launched on [June 26](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ju/June_26), [1948](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1948) after the [Soviet Union](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/so/Soviet_Union) started a land blockade of West Berlin on [April 1](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ap/April_1), [1948](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1948). The USSR lifted its blockade at midnight, on [May 11](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ma/May_11), 1949.

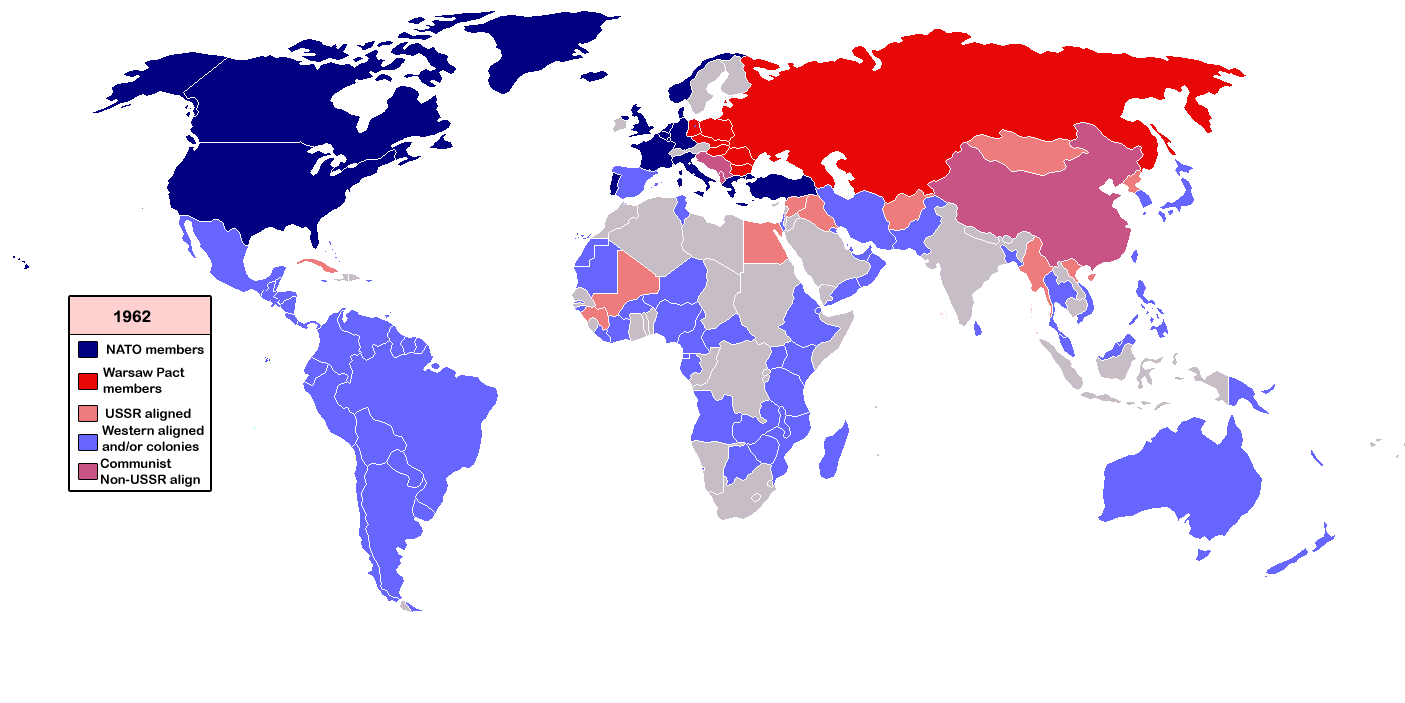
**Berlin Blockade Rubric**

1. Title
2. Date
3. Picture
4. Why did the Soviet Union block in Berlin?
5. How did they block in Berlin?
6. Why did the blockade NOT work?

**NATO and the Warsaw Pact**

The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** (**NATO**) is an [international organization](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/in/International_organization) for defense collaboration established in [1949](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1949), in support of the [North Atlantic Treaty](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/no/North_Atlantic_Treaty) signed in [Washington, D.C.](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/wa/Washington%2C_D.C.) on [April 4](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ap/April_4), [1949](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1949).

This provision was intended so that if the [Soviet Union](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/so/Soviet_Union) launched an attack against the European allies of the [United States](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/un/United_States), it would be treated as if it was an attack on the United States itself. However the feared Soviet invasion of Europe never came. Instead, the provision was used for the first time in the treaty's history on [September 12](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/se/September_12), [2001](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/20/2001) in response to the [September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attack](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/se/September_11%2C_2001_Terrorist_Attack).

The **Warsaw Pact** was a military alliance of the [Eastern European Soviet Bloc](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ea/Eastern_Bloc) countries intended to organize against the perceived threat from the [NATO](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/na/NATO) alliance, established in [1949](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1949). The treaty was drafted by [Khrushchev](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ni/Nikita_Khrushchev) in [1955](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1955) and signed in [Warsaw](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/wa/Warsaw%2C_Poland) on [May 14](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ma/May_14), 1955; its members were the [Soviet Union](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/so/Soviet_Union), [Albania](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/al/Albania), [Bulgaria](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/bu/Bulgaria), [Romania](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ro/Romania), [East Germany](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ea/East_Germany), [Hungary](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/hu/Hungary), [Poland](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/po/Poland), and [Czechoslovakia](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/cz/Czechoslovakia)--all the [Communist](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/co/Communism) countries of Eastern Europe except [Yugoslavia](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/yu/Yugoslavia). The members of the Warsaw Pact were to defend each other if one was attacked. The pact came to an end on [March 31](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ma/March_31), [1991](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1991) and was officially dissolved at a meeting in [Prague](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/pr/Prague) on [July 1](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ju/July_1).

**NATO and the Warsaw Pact Rubric**

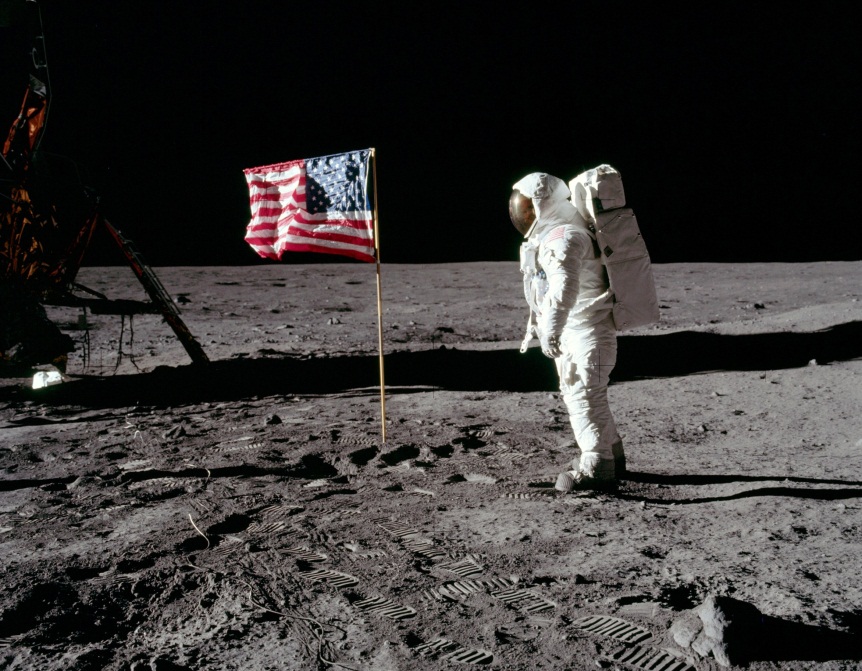
1. Title
2. Date
3. Picture
4. Define NATO and why it was created.
5. What is the Warsaw Pact and what countries were a part of it?

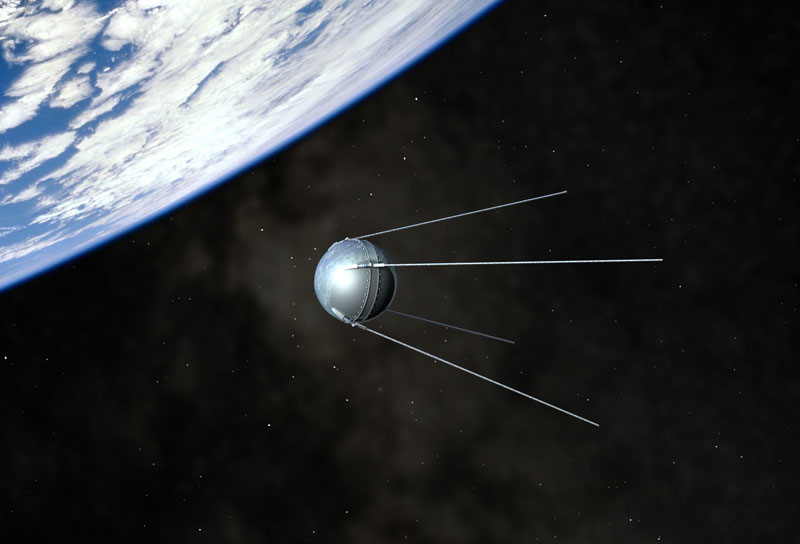
**Cold War Space Race**

The **Space Race** was a competition between the [United States](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/un/United_States) and the [USSR](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/us/USSR) in space exploration and technology, and especially to the race between the two nations to land a human being on the moon. Significant events:

* first artificial satellite - [Sputnik 1](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/sp/Sputnik_1) ([1957](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1957), USSR)
* first animal in space - [Sputnik 2](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/sp/Sputnik_2) (USSR)
* first manned [spaceflight](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/sp/Spaceflight) - [Vostok 1](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/vo/Vostok_1) ([1961](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1961), USSR)
* first [orbital](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/or/Orbit) flight - [Vostok 1](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/vo/Vostok_1) (as above)
* first [spacecraft](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/sp/Spacecraft) on moon - [Luna 2](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/lu/Luna_2) (USSR)
* first orbital flight of moon - [Apollo 8](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ap/Apollo_8) ([1968](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1968), USA)
* first human landing on moon - [Apollo 11](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ap/Apollo_11) ([1969](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1969), USA)

The Soviets beat the Americans in most firsts, but did not manage to beat them to the moon. [Technology](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/te/Technology) and especially [aerospace](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ae/Aerospace) technology advanced greatly during this period. In the sense that it was contested during the [1960s](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1960s), the space race is usually considered to have been ended by the joint [Apollo-Soyuz mission [US/USSR MANNED MISSION]](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/sp/Space_Race?title=Apollo-Soyuz_mission) in [1975](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1975).





**Cold War Space Race Rubric**

1. Title
2. Date
3. Picture
4. What was the “Space Race?”
5. Who won? Explain.

**U-2 Incident**

Flying the U-2 spy plane from [Adana](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ad/Adana), [Turkey](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/tu/Turkey) to [Bod](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/bo/Bod%F8), [Norway](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/no/Norway) a Soviet aircraft was shot down by a [SAM](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/su/Surface-to-air_missile) (Surface to Air Missile) on [May 1](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ma/May_1), [1960](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1960).

The Paris Summit between [Dwight Eisenhower](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/dw/Dwight_Eisenhower) and [Nikita Khrushchev](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ni/Nikita_Khrushchev) collapsed, in large part because Khrushchev demanded an apology over the incident. Khrushchev had announced the shooting down on May 5 and American attempts to claim it was an off-course meteorological flight were embarrassingly destroyed when the Russians revealed they had captured the pilot.

Powers, of the United States, was convicted of espionage on August 19 and sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment and 7 years of hard labor. He only served one and three-quarter years before being exchanged for Colonel [Rudolph Ivanovich Abel](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ga/Gary_Powers?title=Rudolph_Ivanovich_Abel) on [February 10](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/fe/February_10), [1962](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1962). The exchange occurred on the Glienicke Bridge in [Berlin](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/be/Berlin).

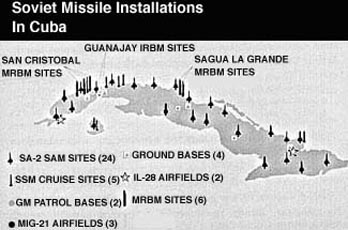


**U-2 Incident**

1. Title
2. Date
3. Picture
4. What country was shot down? What country shot down the aircraft?
5. How was the issue resolved later on?

**Cuban Missile Crisis**

The Cuban missile crisis was the clash between the [USSR](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/us/USSR) and the [USA](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/us/USA) over the Soviet deployment of [nuclear missiles](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/nu/Nuclear_weapon) in [Cuba](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/cu/Cuba). The crisis began on [October 15](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/oc/October_15), [1962](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1962) and lasted for thirteen days. After seeing that there were Soviet missiles on Cuban land, the United States cut off ways in which anything or anyone could get into or out of Cuba. In exchange for the United States removing missiles from other countries, the Soviet Union removed all missiles from Cuba.

**Aftermath** The crisis was a tactical victory for the Soviets but a strategic loss. They had been seen backing down, and the attempt to gain strategic parity had failed, to the anger of the Soviet military commanders. Khrushchev's fall from power a few years later can be partially linked to [Politburo](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/po/Politburo_of_the_CPSU_Central_Committee) embarrassment at both Khrushchev's backing down from the Americans and Khrushchev's creation of the crisis by deciding to install missiles in Cuba in the first place.



**Cuban Missile Crisis Rubric**

1. Title
2. Date
3. Picture
4. What was the CMC all about?
5. What could have happened if there had been no solution/agreement?

**Berlin Wall Falls**

The **Berlin Wall** was a long wall isolating West [Berlin](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/be/Berlin) from the surrounding territory of [East Germany](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/ea/East_Germany). It existed from [1961](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1961) until [1989](http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/19/1989).

In 1987 [President Ronald Reagan](http://www.ducksters.com/biography/uspresidents/ronaldreagan.php) gave a speech in Berlin where he asked the leader of the Soviet Union, [Mikhail Gorbachev](http://www.ducksters.com/biography/world_leaders/mikhail_gorbachev.php), to "Tear down this Wall!"



Around that time the Soviet Union was beginning to collapse. They were losing their hold on East Germany. A few years later on November 9, 1989 the announcement was made. The borders were open and people could freely move between Eastern and Western Germany. Much of the wall was torn down by people chipping away as they celebrated the end to a divided Germany. On October 3, 1990 Germany was officially reunified into a single country.



**Berlin Wall Falls Rubric**

1. Title
2. Date
3. Picture
4. Why did the wall exist?
5. When, how, and why did the wall get torn down?