

# The Cuban Missile Crisis

## THE COLD WAR

### Teacher notes

This GCSE level exercise uses articles from the Times to show reports of events while they were happening. The worksheet is suitable for 3-4 pupils using the computer together, searching and reading the articles to answer the questions posed.

The questions require pupils to examine and evaluate the source evidence found in the newspaper articles.

### Preparations

1. Put the CD-Rom into the CD drive.

2. Click on  and then 

3. The Cold War program should be found in the folder 

4. Select  to load the program.

5. After two brief title screens, the main screen appears (as shown to the right). The worksheet begins from here – pupils should follow steps [1] and [2] in the HELP GUIDE.

6. When all the pupils have finished, simply select QUIT at the bottom right of the screen.



### Suggested answers

**1** This question involved analysis of article from 23 October 1962. Part **a**) involves pupils searching the article to find Kennedy's comparison with the Berlin Airlift. This can be found in point 1 on page 4. Kennedy draws a comparison, stated this 'quarantine' is different as "We are not at this time, however, denying the necessities of life as the Soviets attempted to do in their Berlin blockade of 1948." Part **b**) requires pupils to use the article as evidence to decide which description is correct. Obviously this is subjective, and any fully explained answer backed up with evidence should be sufficient, but an example can be found using the last sentence of Kennedy's speech where he states, "one path we shall never choose is the path of surrender or submission."



**2** This question involves using the article (Khrushchev in Crisis from 28 October 1962) to answer using quotations from the source.

- a) page 1, column 1: “the Soviet Union would be prepared to withdraw its "offensive" weapons from Cuba if the United States was prepared to do the same in Turkey”.
- b) page 1, column 2: “an act of piracy on the high seas.”
- c) page 4, column 1: “it would be foolhardy for Khrushchev to move toward the brink of war for the sake of an island which, while glamorous in terms of ideology and propaganda, is hardly worth a thermo-nuclear war.”

**3** This question involves using the article (Kennedy in Crisis from 28 October 1962) to answer using quotations from the source, and then demonstrate their understanding.

- a) page 1, column 2: “They demonstrate more dramatically than ever before his determination to centre decision-making in great affairs in his own mind. To impatient observers this characteristic had seemed in some measure dormant since he took office.
- b) This part is designed to promote understanding of part a). Pupils need to identify the opportunities the crisis offered Kennedy to answer his critics and appear a strong, effective leader. On page 3, column 1 his stance is referred to as “Churchillian”.

**4** This question is more open, but part a) asks pupils to decide upon the best description using source evidence. Parts of the article could be used to put forward any of these views, and thus answers backed up with accurate evidence are required. For example, answer **i) Man of honour** could be considered, using Khrushchev stating on page 5, column 2: “All people are interested in the ensuring of peace Therefore we who are invested with trust and great responsibility must not permit an exacerbation of the situation”.

- b) This part involves using the later pages of the article. Relating back to question 3, it concerns the positive effects upon Kennedy. For example, evidence such as page 7, column 2: “... he had acted more decisively than many Americans, and probably most Russians, had expected”. Pupils need to use such evidence to explain the benefits to Kennedy both domestically and internationally.