

Lesson Plan

Title: The Cold War Effect

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Magazine Issue: This lesson is inspired by the article “Chilling Times” in the “Canada and the Cold War” (February 2025) issue of *Kayak: Canada’s History Magazine for Kids*.

Grade Level: 9/10, 11/12

Themes:

- Canada & the Global Community
- First Nations, Inuit & Metis
- National Politics
- Peace & Conflict
- War and the Canadian Experience

Subject Area: Social Studies/History/Geography/ELA/Civics

Lesson Overview: How did the Cold War affect Canadians? Students will learn about key Cold War events by playing a card game, analyze the facts using the historical method, then engage in reflective questions such as: What happened during the Cold War? How did this affect Canadians then and now? Are there winners in war? Students will engage in a group discussion to consider the ethical questions of war and how the events of the Cold War continue to influence foreign policy and Canadians today.

Time Required: Part I: 30-45 minutes (depending on discussion time), 1 lesson

Historical Thinking Concepts:

- Establish *historical significance*
- Use *primary source* evidence
- Identify *continuity and change*
- Analyze *cause and consequence*
- Take *historical perspectives*
- Understand the *ethical dimension* of historical interpretations.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Understand the historical significance of events related to the Cold War and Canada.
- Consult the primary source evidence (pictures, documents) through the February 2025 issue of *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*.
- Examine and discuss the continuity, change and consequence of Cold War events through use of the card game, making links with the magazine articles.
- Analyze and discuss different historical perspectives.
- Evaluate and reflect upon the ethical dimensions of the Cold War through reflective questions and group discussion.

Background Information:

The Cold War brought the world to the brink of a third world war and nuclear disaster. Protest movements grew in opposition to nuclear war. It had grave consequences for Canada and influenced Canadian politics at home and abroad. The impacts of the Cold War continue to be felt today.

The Lesson Activity:

PART I:

- Have students read the following articles in the "Canada and the Cold War" issue of *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids* to familiarize themselves with the concepts of communism and the Soviet Union and to learn about key events in the Cold War: "New World, New Fight" (pages 4-5) and "Chilling Times" (pages 6-11).
- Distribute a set of the Cold War playing cards to students in teams of 2-3. Task them to place the cards in the correct chronological order by only looking at the information on the A side of the card (note: they should do this without referencing *Kayak* too). Students will compete with other teams in the class to see what group can place the cards in the correct chronological order. Students must discuss the information on the A side of the cards and once the order is agreed upon by the group, they may flip the cards over to the B side to see if their cards are in the correct chronological order.
- Once students have completed their timeline, have them review the information on the B side of the cards to familiarize themselves with the facts and complete the handouts in Part II of this lesson.

PART II:

- Pass out copies of Handout 1A and ask your students to fill it out by analyzing the information on the playing cards. Students will need to indicate the impact of each event on Canada and give it a rating of 1-5 based on how important it was and why.
- Pass out copies of Handout 1B. With the help of the playing cards and *Kayak*, have small groups discuss the reflective questions and fill out the handout.
- Ask the class to reflect on an ethical question related to the Cold War. Encourage students to think about some of the ethical issues raised in the articles they read, including spying, military allies and actions, nuclear weapons, forms of protest, and the Inuit experience.

Here are some examples (teacher chooses only one):

- » Is war sometimes the only answer?
 - » Can there be a clear winner in war?
 - » Can there be only one correct or “right side” in history?
 - » Should there be limits or restrictions to how people protest?
 - » Can government apologies right past wrongs?
 - » How can perspectives change over time, from generation to generation?
- Once students discuss the question that you have posed from the list above, ask them to think about their own ethical question relating to the Cold War and the events they have learned about.
 - Using Handout 1C, have students in their groups write their questions, discuss the significance, and write their points of view. Each group will then ask the class one ethical question and engage in a discussion to reflect on how the events of the Cold War continue to influence foreign policy and Canadians today, with teacher guidance.

Extension Activity

Many people immigrated to Canada during and after the Cold War. Read the John Diefenbaker quote below and discuss its significance then and now:

"I am a Canadian, a free Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, or free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind."

– John Diefenbaker
13th Prime Minister of Canada
June 21, 1957 - April 22, 1963

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. "Government of Canada." Canada. ca / Gouvernement du Canada, 1 July 2012, www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/discover-canada/read-online/memorable-quotes.html.

Materials/Resources:

- "[Canada and the Cold War](#)" issue of *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*
- Cold War Playing Cards
- Handout 1A
- Handout 1B
- Handout 1C

Assessment:

Teachers can collect the handouts and grade.

Handout 1A

Cold War Event	Impact on Canada	Rating and Evidence (facts):
1945: Gouzenko Affair		1 2 3 4 5 Not important Very important Reasons:
1949: NATO		1 2 3 4 5 Not important Very important Reasons:
1950: Korean War		1 2 3 4 5 Not important Very important Reasons:
1954: Dew Line		1 2 3 4 5 Not important Very important Reasons:
1953 & 1956: Inuit Displacements		1 2 3 4 5 Not important Very important Reasons:
1958: NORAD		1 2 3 4 5 Not important Very important Reasons:

1960: Voice of Women		<p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Not important Very important</p> <p>Reasons:</p>
1962: Cuban Missile Crisis		<p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Not important Very important</p> <p>Reasons:</p>
1963: Bomarc Missile Crisis		<p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Not important Very important</p> <p>Reasons:</p>
1983: Cruise Missile Tests		<p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Not important Very important</p> <p>Reasons:</p>
1983: Canadian Constitution Protest		<p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Not important Very important</p> <p>Reasons:</p>
1989: Fall of the Berlin Wall		<p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Not important Very important</p> <p>Reasons:</p>
1991: fall of the Warsaw Pact & USSR collapse. Cold War ends		<p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Not important Very important</p> <p>Reasons:</p>

Handout 1B

Questions: Cold War	Impact on Canada	Rating and Evidence (facts):
<p>What key factor(s) explain the events of the Cold War?</p>		<p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Not important Very important</p> <p>Reasons:</p>
<p>Who is the historical actor(s) or group(s) whose actions caused the historical event?</p>		<p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Not important Very important</p> <p>Reasons:</p>
<p>How did the Cold War impact Canadian society? (Political, social, economic, other)</p>		<p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Not important Very important</p> <p>Reasons:</p>
<p>Were the events unavoidable or necessary?</p> <p>What do you think could have been done differently?</p>		<p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>Not important Very important</p> <p>Reasons:</p>

Handout 1C

YOUR ETHICAL QUESTIONS:	YOUR ETHICAL QUESTIONS:
Response:	Response:

<p>Gouzenko Affair A</p> <p>The Soviet Union opened up an embassy in Ottawa and started spying on Canada. Igor Gouzenko worked at the agency and coded and decoded secret messages for the USSR. Gouzenko defected and exposed Soviet spying in Canada.</p>	<p>NATO A</p> <p>The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed by several North American and European countries to protect each other in the event of an attack.</p>
<p>Korean War A</p> <p>After the Second World War, the Korean peninsula was split into two: North and South Korean. North Korea, supported by Communist China and the Soviet Union, invaded South Korea and the United Nations called on its member states to help the south. Over 26,000 Canadians fought in the Korean War and 500 died in the Korean War. Fear of a WWIII was palpable.</p>	<p>DEW Line A</p> <p>In anticipation of a Soviet attack, the U.S. Military built 63 radar stations across the Far North because the Arctic was the shortest route for the Soviet Union to attack the U.S. The Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line spread across the northern coast of North America, Greenland, and Iceland.</p>
<p>Inuit Displacements A</p> <p>Canada feared its claim to the Arctic might be disputed so the government moved Inuit to be “human flagpoles”. The RCMP took 92 people from Nunavik, Quebec to live 2000 kilometers away in the furthest northern communities in Canada: Qausuittuq (Resolute Bay) and Grise Fjord. Families were separated and hunting and fishing was much more difficult. Inuit were not allowed to return to Nunavik. The consequences were catastrophic.</p>	<p>NORAD A</p> <p>The U.S. and Canada are partners in the North American Aerospace Defense Command that keeps an eye on North American skies and defending against enemy attacks.</p>

<p>NATO</p> <p>1949: North Atlantic Treaty Organization was created to ensure mutual protection in the event of an attack. 1949 member countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States. Countries allied with the Soviet Union formed their own organization in 1955- the Warsaw Pact. Today, Canadians continue to be stationed in NATO allied countries.</p>	<p>Gouzenko Affair</p> <p>1942: The Soviet Union opened up an embassy in Ottawa and started spying on Canada. Igor Gouzenko worked at the agency and coded and decoded secret messages for the USSR.</p> <p>1945: Gouzenko defected and chose to remain in Canada with his wife who preferred the Canadian lifestyle. He then gave all the spy papers he had gathered to Canadian government officials and newspapers. He exposed the extent to which the Soviet Union was spying on Canada and Canadians. He hid his appearance in public for decades. Gouzenko, his wife and eight children eventually became Canadian citizens.</p>
<p>DEW Line</p> <p>In anticipation of a Soviet attack, the U.S. Military built 63 radar stations across the Far North because the Arctic was the shortest route for the Soviet Union to attack the U.S. The Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line spread across the northern coast of North America, Greenland and Iceland. Completed and operational in 1957, the stations became obsolete ten years later as both sides had new missiles the DEW Line could not detect. Today, the Government of Canada operates the much smaller North Warning System.</p>	<p>Korean War</p> <p>After the Second World War, the Korean peninsula was split into two: North and South Korea. Communist China and the Soviet Union supported North Korea while the west supported South Korea. In 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea and the United Nations called on its member states to help the south. Over 26,000 Canadians fought in the Korean War and 500 died. The Korean War ended in 1953.</p>
<p>NORAD</p> <p>Since 1958, the U.S. and Canada are partners in the North American Aerospace Defense Command that keeps an eye on North American skies and defending against enemy attacks.</p>	<p>Inuit Displacements</p> <p>1953 & 1956 Relocations: To prove that Canada controlled the Arctic islands, the government forcefully moved Inuit to be "human flagpoles" by moving Inuit further north and preventing other countries from claiming the Arctic. The RCMP took 92 people from Nunavik, Quebec to live 2000 kilometers away to the furthest northern communities in Canada: Qausuittuq (Resolute Bay) and Grise Fjord. Inuit were told more people would be joining them and that they would receive housing, however few arrived, and they only received tents. Families were separated and hunting and fishing was much more difficult as were the darker days. Inuit were not allowed to return to Nunavik. In 1998 the Canadian government offered to pay for those who wanted to return and officially apologized in 2010 for the 1956 & 1958 displacements.</p>

<p>Voice of Women A</p> <p>The threat of a nuclear war caused many Canadians to put aside their political differences and focus on peace. The Voice of Women was created with the goal of promoting peace and encouraging countries to get rid of their nuclear weapons.</p>	<p>Cuban Missile Crisis A</p> <p>The Soviet Union put missiles in Cuba (an island close to Florida). That could have destroyed cities in the eastern United States and even Canada. The U.S. military sent ships to Cuba and demanded the Soviet Union remove the missiles and that Canadian Prime Minister Diefenbaker support the U.S. action. The crisis lasted 13 days until the Soviets backed down.</p>
<p>Bomarc Missile Crisis A</p> <p>Canadian Prime Minister Diefenbaker announced that Canada would buy 56 Bomarc missiles. However, some Canadians were angered that the missiles would have nuclear war heads. NATO criticized Canada for not arming the missiles. This became an election issue. The Liberals won and the missiles were armed in Ontario and Quebec.</p>	<p>Cruise Missile Tests A</p> <p>The U.S. wanted to test out nuclear missiles over areas similar to the Northern Soviet Union. Canada agreed to allow tests over Northern Alberta although the missiles were unarmed.</p>
<p>Canadian Constitution Protest A</p> <p>A Toronto art student poured red paint on one of the original copies of the Canadian Constitution. He was protesting the plan to test Cruise missiles in Canada.</p>	<p>Fall of the Berlin Wall A</p> <p>The Berlin Wall was erected and heavily guarded to separate people from travelling to East Berlin (communist) from the German Democratic Republic. The fall of the Berlin Wall ended decades of separation and signaled the end of communism in central and eastern Europe.</p>

<p>Cuban Missile Crisis B</p> <p>1962: The Soviet Union put missiles in Cuba (an island close to Florida). The missiles could have reached and destroyed cities in the eastern United States and even Canada. The U.S. military sent ships to block Cuba and demanded Canadian Prime Minister Diefenbaker support the U.S. action. Diefenbaker was angry Canada was not consulted before the U.S. military action that could have angered the Soviets. Diefenbaker put Canadian troops on alert. The crisis lasted 13 days and nuclear war seemed possible until the Soviets eventually backed down.</p>	<p>Voice of Women B</p> <p>The threat of a nuclear war caused many Canadians to put aside their political differences and focus on peace. Scientists held a conference in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, in 1957 to discuss the threat of nuclear weapons. The Voice of Women was created in 1960 with the goal of promoting peace and encouraging countries to get rid of their nuclear weapons. Many other groups held marches and pushed for international peace.</p>
<p>Cruise Missile Tests B</p> <p>The U.S. wanted to test out nuclear missiles over areas similar to the Northern Soviet Union. Canada agreed to allow tests over Northern Alberta in 1984, although the missiles were unarmed. Many Canadians spoke out against these missile tests.</p>	<p>Bomarc Missile Crisis B</p> <p>Under NATO, Canada has the responsibility to defend our allies with the military capacity to do so. Canadian Prime Minister Diefenbaker announced that Canada would buy 56 Bomarc missiles. However, some Canadians were angered that the missiles would have nuclear war heads. NATO criticized Canada for not arming the missiles. This became an election issue. The Liberals won the 1963 election, and the missiles were armed in Ontario and Quebec. The missiles were never used and were returned to the US by 1972.</p>
<p>Fall of the Berlin Wall B</p> <p>The concrete barrier was erected in 1961 and heavily guarded to prevent people from travelling to East Berlin (communist) from the German Democratic Republic. In 1989 the Berlin Wall fell, and people could move freely between east and west Germany. It signaled the end of communism in central and eastern Europe.</p>	<p>Canadian Constitution Protest B</p> <p>In July 1983, a Toronto art student poured red paint on one of the original copies of the Canadian Constitution. He was protesting the plan to test Cruise missiles in Canada.</p>

Collapse of the Warsaw Pact and USSR

A

The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact collapsed. The Cold War ended. The 1955 Warsaw Pact was a friendship treaty between the Soviet Union and seven eastern bloc soviet republics of central and eastern Europe.

Collapse of the Warsaw Pact and USSR

B

1991: The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact collapsed. The Cold War ended. The 1955 Warsaw Pact was a friendship treaty between the Soviet Union and seven eastern bloc soviet republics of central and eastern Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania).