



7. Why was Israel motivated to join this military action?

8. When did Israel begin the invasion of Egypt? How did British and French forces intervene in the conflict?

9. How did the U.S. and the United Nations (UN) respond to the British and French military occupation of the canal zone?

10. Britain and France's influence as world powers diminished as a result of the Suez Crisis. Why do you think this happened?

**Use the “Cuban Missile Crisis” handout to answer these questions**

11. After the U.S. unsuccessfully tried to overthrow Cuba’s new communist government with the Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961, Cuban leader Fidel Castro sought economic and military support from the Soviet Union. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev approved trade agreements and secretly sent Soviet missiles to Cuba. How did the presence of missiles in Cuba pose a threat to the security of the U.S.?

12. How might you have felt if you were living in the U.S. during the Cuban Missile Crisis?

13. While conducting surveillance flights over Cuba, American U-2 spy planes secretly took photographs. What troubling discoveries did they find?

14. What options did U.S. President Kennedy consider in response to this dangerous situation? Which option did he choose? What did he hope to accomplish with this?

15. Do you agree with the decision President Kennedy made? Why or why not? What do you think may have been some advantages and disadvantages a “quarantine” had in comparison to an invasion or air strike?

16. Khrushchev denounced the naval blockade as an “act of aggression” in a letter to Kennedy on October 24, 1962. Here is an excerpt of that letter:

“The Soviet Government considers that the violation of the freedom to use international waters and international air space is an act of aggression which pushes mankind toward the abyss of a world nuclear-missile war. Therefore, the Soviet Government cannot instruct the captains of Soviet vessels bound for Cuba to observe the orders of American naval forces blockading that Island. Our instructions to Soviet mariners are to observe strictly the universally accepted norms of navigation in international waters and not to retreat one step from them. And if the American side violates these rules, it must realize what responsibility will rest upon it in that case. Naturally we will not simply be bystanders with regard to piratical acts by American ships on the high seas. We will then be forced on our part to take the measures we consider necessary and adequate in order to protect our rights. We have everything necessary to do so.”

How would you have replied to Khrushchev if you were Kennedy? Make sure to outline what needs to happen to avoid war in your response.

17. How did Khrushchev’s bold claim about instructing the captains of Soviet ships to ignore the blockade and proceed to Cuba anyway differ from the actions actually taken by captains of ships bound for Cuba?

18. Describe the details of the agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union to end the crisis. Why do you think that President Kennedy did not want to disclose the last part of the deal to the U.S. public?

19. How did the outcome of the crisis affect Castro, Khrushchev and the Soviet Union?

20. In your opinion, how close do you believe the world came to nuclear war in 1962?