

1950's

Introduction

This unit emphasizes writing and critical thinking. There are basically three types of activities. The news stories, writing exercises and telegrams require students to evaluate, prioritize and write about historical events. They must **use** the information rather than just passively memorize it.

The chronology and data analysis activities require students to detect trends and draw conclusions.

The viewpoints and issues activities present different views of the same event rather than just the single view often presented by textbooks. The critical thinking exercises that accompany these units require the students to evaluate the information.

Many of the activities deal with popular news stories of the decade that are usually not covered in textbooks.

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Creative Activities for Teaching Critical Thinking and Writing U.S. History: The 20th Century

There are nine units in this series.

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1950's

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Braceros

Farmworkers from Mexico. A program was started in World War II to provide farmworkers to farms in the western U.S. The braceros were used by large farmers to depress the wages paid to farmworkers. This became an issue in the 1960's as Mexican American farmworkers demanded higher wages.

Brown v. Board of Education

A Supreme Court decision in 1954 which ended segregation in public schools. Up to this time the Supreme Court had determined that separate schools for African Americans were legal as long as they were equal. This decision determined that separating the races made one race inherently unequal.

Checkers speech

Richard Nixon was the vice-president under Dwight Eisenhower. In the first campaign it was revealed that he had received money from special interests. Many wanted him kicked off the ticket. He made a televised speech claiming that he had done nothing wrong. While making the speech he had his family and his dog with him. His dog was named Checkers.

Dienbienphu

The final battle in Indochina. The Viet Minh (Vietnamese communists) defeated the French for control of Indochina. The area was divided into North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, setting the stage for the Vietnam war. North Vietnam was under control of the communists.

Domino theory

The idea that if one country fell to the communists, the surrounding countries would also fall to the communists like a string of dominoes.

Eisenhower Doctrine

The extension of the policy of containment to the Middle East declaring the area out of bounds for communist aggression.

Hungarian revolution

In 1956 Hungarians revolted against Russian domination. The Russians used their army to suppress the revolt. Many Hungarians fled the country to Austria and eventually the United States.

Korean War

The Korean War began in 1950 when communist North Korea invaded South Korea. The United States asked the U.N. to help South Korea. The U.S. provided the bulk of the forces.

McCarthyism

The Cold War with Russia began a search for spies and communist sympathizers in the United States. Senator Joseph McCarthy accused innocent people of being communist sympathizers.

Military-industrial complex

When Eisenhower left office he described the military-industrial complex as a threat to the country. Military contractors hire retired military officers. Military bases in Congressional districts have a great political influence in keeping the arms race going.

Panmunjon

The place in Korea where the truce ending the Korean War was signed.

Polio vaccine

Invented by Dr. Jonas Salk. The vaccine prevented the dreaded paralyzing disease.

Sputnik

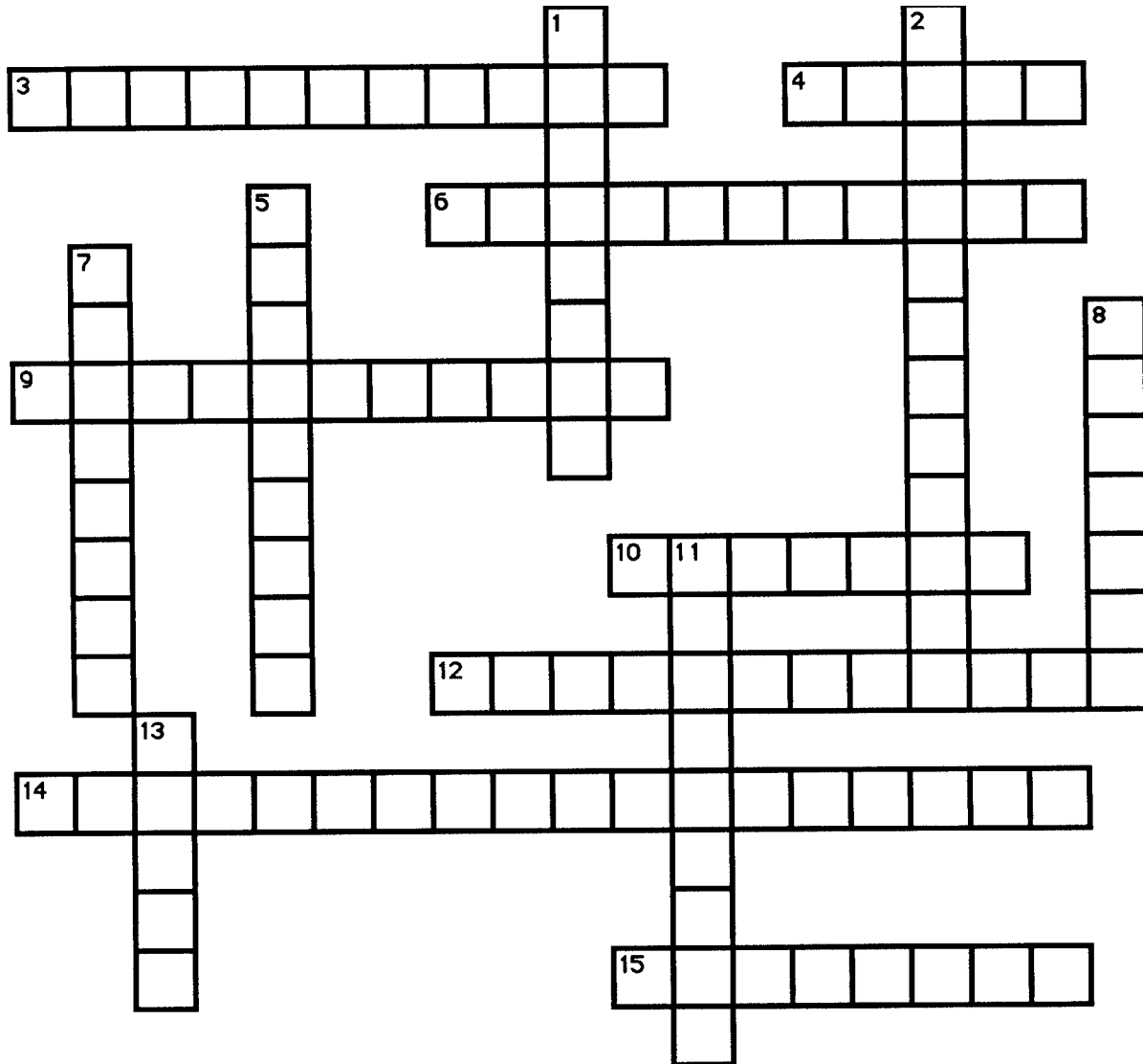
The Russians launched the first satellite in 1957. It was called Sputnik.

U-2 Incident

The U-2 was a spy plane. The plane was shot down over Russia. The U.S. denied that the plane was flying over Russia. The Russians proved the U.S. wrong by capturing the pilot.

Warren Court

The name given to the Supreme Court while Earl Warren was Chief Justice. The court was known for its "judicial activism."



Across

- 3. Where the Viet Minh defeated the French in Vietnam.
- 4. _____ v. Board. The famous case that ended school segregation.
- 6. The fear of communists hiding in government positions.
- 9. The court headed by Earl Warren (2 words).
- 10. What the first Russian satellite was called.
- 12. The idea that if one nation fell to communism, nearby countries would fall also (2 words).
- 14. The politically powerful combination of defense contractors and the Pentagon (2 words).
- 15. The Eisenhower _____ extended the policy of containment to the Middle East.

Down

- 1. Richard Nixon's dog.
- 2. A famous medical breakthrough of the 50's by Jonas Salk (2 words).
- 5. This war ended in 1954 (2 words).
- 7. Workers from Mexico.
- 8. The people revolted in this communist country and many refugees fled to the U.S.
- 11. Where the truce negotiations took place in Korea.
- 13. The U-2 was a spy _____.