

Curriculum Materials – Thinking Keys (all themes)

The following thinking keys may be of use to teachers to use at any point within existing lessons and schemes of work, or alongside the Lesson Activities provided for each theme within The Cold War resource. The list is of course not exhaustive, but may be of use to provoke thought and discussion in what is a complex area for minds young and old.

1) What would happen if the number of nuclear weapons around the world / UK / London:

- Doubled?
- Increased by 100?
- Reduced to zero?

2) Name five things that increased or decreased the likelihood of conflict between East and West during the Cold War at local, national and international level.

3) How might international politics result in a second Cold War in the future? Why?

4) “Human conflict is inevitable; the invention of nuclear weapons makes destruction of the earth inevitable at some point.”

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your answer.

5) The answer: “Because nuclear war was prevented.” What is the question?

6) Explain five reasons why we need to understand the importance of the non-proliferation agreement.

7) It is in everyone’s interest to understand and respect other cultures. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

Commonalities

What are the similarities and differences between the current political crisis in the Ukraine and the conflict between East and West during the Cold War.

Interpretations

The reasons for mistrust between countries during the Cold War are more relevant now than during the Cold War because...

Nuclear weapons are no longer the biggest threat to peaceful life for citizens across the world because...

Questions and Answers

The answer: “That’s why the UN non-proliferation treaty was set up”. What is the question?

Alternatives

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If an atomic bomb had not been dropped during WWII, then it would have happened in a conflict later in the 20th century. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

How might the Cold War have ended if President Gorbachev had not been elected?

What if?

What would the implications have been of a nuclear bomb landing on London:

- For London?
- For the UK?
- Globally?

Forced relationship

How might the Cold War have unfolded differently if scientists / politicians knew what they knew today.....

- 100 years ago
- 50 years ago
- 10 years ago