

The Significance of Berlin - Activity 2

What was the impact of the Berlin Wall?

Aims

- Weighing up the evidence to explore how the Wall changed life in East Berlin
- Weighing up the evidence to explore how the Wall changed life in West Berlin

Resources

coldwarBEA2.lgfl.net is your one-stop link to curriculum resources for this activity; you will find videos, photographs and links to the relevant main Cold War sections.

Introduction

The Wall immediately restricted travel between East and West. Families were divided as, for example, blocks of apartments were sometimes split in two if they spanned the border! It was incredibly distressing, disruptive and divisive. Hundreds tried and failed to cross the wall, many being killed in the process.

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Your task

It is not often you are asked to design graffiti in a History resource, so here is your chance! The Berlin Wall was famous for many things, one of which was the graffiti sprayed on it. Some was just abuse, but much was used to pass serious comment. Imagine you are a graffiti artist living in the shadow of the Berlin Wall, either in West or East Berlin. What messages or images would you spray on the wall? You do not have to be good at drawing for this – you could outline your ideas and ask someone else to do any sketching for you – or use copyright-free images from an online repository. Some of the themes you might look at are:

- Why the Wall was built
- Why the Americans, Soviets, and East German authorities said it was built
- How the wall has affected lives, work, families, etc.
- The political effects of the wall, e.g. on free speech
- The victims of the wall

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