Guided Reading Activity

The Cold War Begins, 1945–1960

Lesson 3 The Cold War and American Society

Review Questions: Identifying Supporting Details

DIRECTIONS: Read each main idea. Use your textbook to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

A. Main Idea: During the 1950s Americans lived with the fear of Communist infiltration of government agencies and other organizations.

1. Detail: The anti-Communist period known as the ______________ began in ______________ when a Soviet clerk defected with documents describing Soviet ______________ of the United States and Canada.

2. Detail: President Truman developed a ______________ to screen all federal employees. J. Edgar Hoover urged the ______________ committee to hold hearings focused on the ______________ industry. Anyone who was suspect was ______________ by producers.

3. Detail: A New York couple, ______________, was convicted of spying for the Soviet Union. Cryptographers working on ______________ cracked the Soviet spy code.

4. Detail: Many state and local governments required employees to take ______________. The ______________ of 1947 required union leaders to testify that they were not Communists.

B. Main Idea: Senator Joseph McCarthy made sensational charges of communism directed at people at home and abroad, spreading fear throughout the United States.

1. Detail: In 1950 Congress passed the ______________ which made it illegal to agree to perform any act which would contribute to the establishment of a ______________.

2. Detail: McCarthy became chairman of the Senate subcommittee on ______________. His tactics became known as ______________. His downfall occurred in the year ______________ when he targeted ______________, the army’s lawyer.

3. Detail: The Senate voted to ______________ him, one of the most serious criticisms of a senator.

C. Main Idea: Fear of communism and nuclear war affected the lives of many ordinary citizens.

1. Detail: When the Soviets successfully tested the ______________, many Americans were fearful of a(n) ______________. Schools held ______________ while families built ______________ for protection.

2. Detail: McCarthyism, fears of ______________, and nuclear war led to plays, television shows, dance tunes, and popular fiction containing Cold War ______________.
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Summary and Reflection

DIRECTIONS: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

How did the fear of communism shape life in the United States in the 1950s?

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