

The teacher will read or tell (Teacher Part 1) then students will find out what happened next by reading the middle section (Student Part) and the teacher will finish the story with Teacher Part 2.

The Scientist Story (Teacher Part 1)

Before WWII, a group of scientists in Germany were working on rocketry. They would strap rockets to cars and shoot rockets into the sky and this team of scientists became known all over the world for their expertise in rocketry. During WWII, they continued their work and scientific study.

One day, Hitler came to this group and asked them if they could make rockets directional. In other words, could they make their rockets fly where they wanted them to fly? The scientists told him that they had never tried to do that, but if they worked at it, they probably could. So Hitler told them to spare no expense, he wanted them to make the rockets have directional abilities and then they should report back to him. The scientists were honored and excited to have this new funding and started working feverishly on making the rockets fly in a certain direction. Eventually, they were able to accomplish this task and reported to Hitler. Hitler was impressed and took their design. What they didn't know was that Hitler had plans for these rockets. The plan was to use the rockets as a way to carry bombs to a certain place where he wanted them to land. This was the earliest form of guided missiles. This new technology was something that started to change the course of the war. Being able to guide where bombs were landing made great gains for the German army.

Later, Hitler had another idea and came to the scientists to have them develop it. This time, the scientists weren't as willing to help. They had seen the destruction and death caused by the rocket bombs that they had helped to develop. They told Hitler they wouldn't help him. Hitler had them immediately arrested and put in a prison to be executed by firing squad the next week.

(Tell students that they are going to find out what happened next by reading the next part of the story)

Student Part

The Americans heard about the scientists and decided to rescue them. This would be a challenge because of where they were being held in Germany. But, at the time of this story, Russia held a bit of the shoreline next to Germany along the Baltic Sea. Late one night, a small boat came up the coast and the rescue team from the U.S. went through this small part of Russia to get into Germany secretly. Since the Russians were our allies (we were working together against Germany), we thought it would be safe to bring them through this part of the country.

The Americans successfully rescued the scientists and took them back to safety in the boat. After they had all assembled there, the scientists explained to their rescuers that they had to go back. They knew that if Hitler got into their lab, he would have all their plans and secrets. The decision was made that only half (nine) of the scientists would go back with the soldiers. The soldiers took the scientists back to the lab and helped them get all of their research, but as they came back through the little part of Russia, they were captured and held by the Russians.

Teacher Part 2

(Ask for a brief summary of what they read—quick discussion)

So, here we had our nine German scientists and the Russians had the other nine. The war ended, but these scientists, for the most part, stayed where they were. After the war, Russia and America were no longer allies or friendly. We both had a very different idea of what the world should be like now that the war was over. This was the start of the Cold War. The Cold War is not the kind of war you think of when you think of a war. It's more like when a couple of bullies meet up and then make threats to beat each other up. A lot of talking happens, but the fight never materializes. It was like that for the U.S. and Russia. We were gathering up weapons and making threats, and so were they, but thankfully no one ever started the war! In the meantime, we were trying to prove we were superior to the Russians and they were trying to show they were superior to us. In a cold war, technological advances are something that says you are better than the other guys. This is how the Space Race started between Russia and the United States. We had some of the best rocket scientists in the world, so we decided to conquer space, but remember...the Russians had part of the same team of scientists!

What Happened Next???

Student Reading



The Americans heard about the scientists and decided to rescue them. This would be a challenge because of where they were being held in Germany. But, at the time of this story, Russia held a bit of the shoreline next to Germany along the Baltic Sea. Late one night, a small boat came up the coast and the rescue team from the U.S. went through this small part of Russia to get into Germany secretly. Since the Russians were our allies (we were working together against Germany), we thought it would be safe to bring them through this part of the country.

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Name _____

Student Worksheet

Vocabulary: While you listen, write definitions for the following words:

Cold War

Space Race

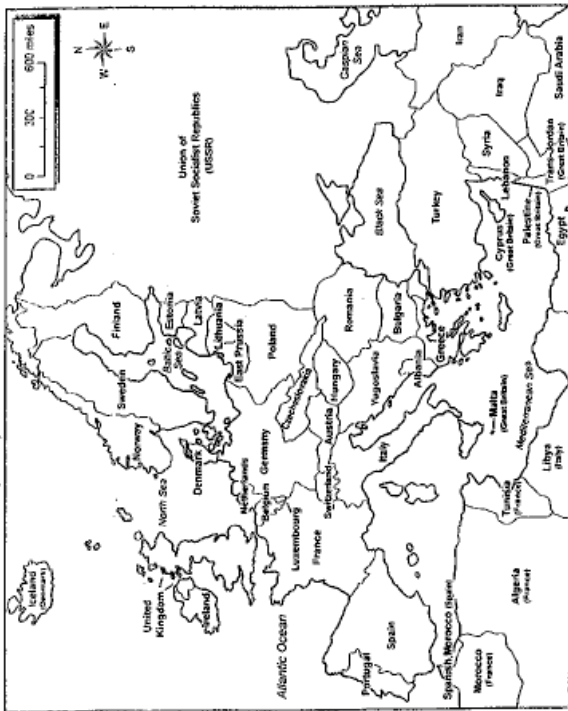
Sputnik

Satellite

Connections

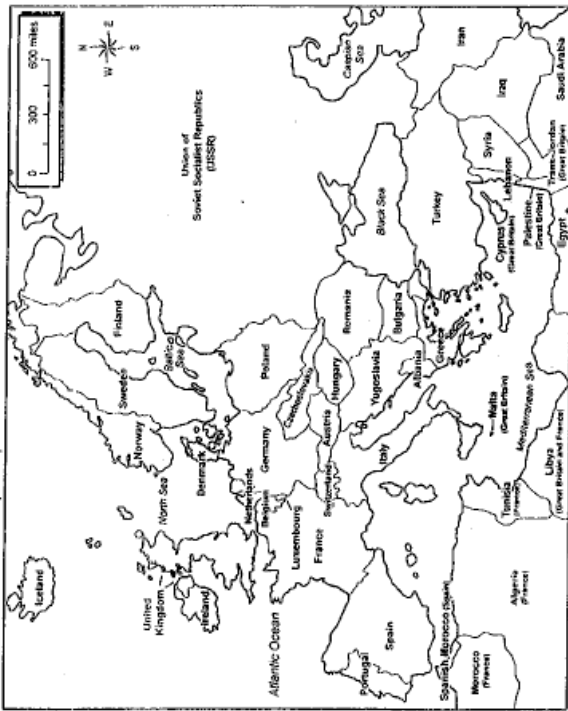
Look at the two maps below. What do these two maps compare?

Europe Before World War Two (1939)



Note: Boundaries were constantly changing and are approximate for this year.

Europe After World War Two (1945)



Note: Boundaries were constantly changing and are approximate for this year.

Circle on the map where the main differences in boundaries were. What route might the scientists have taken? Draw it on the map.

Engineering Design Model

Ask:

Imagine:

Plan:

Create:

Improve: