

## LESSON PLAN

**Subject: History**

**Topic: Cuban Missile Crisis**

**Age of students: 18-19**

**Language level: B2**

**Time: 90-120 minutes**

**Contents aims:**

**After completing the lesson, the student will be able to:**

Describe and analyze the causes of Cuban Missile Crisis.

Name and identify key figures in Cuban Missile Crisis.

Discuss the reactions of involved sides in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Analyze consequences of Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Language aims:**

**After completing the lesson, the student will be able to:**

Use essential vocabulary about Cuban Missile Crisis.

Use correctly new vocabulary through definitions.

Express a personal opinion about the Kennedy's speech.

Critique the use of the nuclear weapon.

**Pre-requisites:**

Pupils have learned about the Cold War

**Materials:**

**Procedure steps:**

1. Make copies of the handouts for each learner in the class

Lesson Procedure:

2. Watching a short video (10 Minutes)

Purpose: To assess prior knowledge and to see an overview of the events

Description: Teacher tells pupils they are going to watch a short video about the Cuban Missile Crisis. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtDAQB1sA9k>)



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Teacher talks to student about the video and talks with them about keywords from the video and ask what are:

Teacher writes the following on the board and tries to get students to answer what they are:

**Bay of Pigs** – a bay on Cuba where US tried to invade

**U2** – a US spy plane that took photos of missile sites

**M.A.D.**- mutually assured destruction

**DEFCON** –defense readiness condition

**Vasili Arhkipov**- the man who saved the world by not launching a torpedo at US navy

2. Watching JFK's speech to the nation (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W50RNAbmy3M>).

After the first watching of the video- teachers asks pupils several questions to see how much they understood- questions can be:

What did Americans find out on Cuba?

Who do they blame?

What will happen to ships travelling to Cuba?

Then teacher explains that pupils will listen to the speech one more time but this time they have to write the missing words into the text.

Pupils fill missing words from handout 1.

This Government, as promised, has maintained the closest surveillance of the Soviet Military buildup on the island of Cuba. Within the past week, unmistakable evidence has established the fact that a series of **offensive missile sites** is now in preparation on that imprisoned island. The purpose of these bases can be none other than to provide a **nuclear strike capability** against the Western Hemisphere.

Only last Thursday, as evidence of this rapid offensive buildup was already in my hand, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko told me in my office that he was instructed to make it clear once again, as he said his government had already done, that Soviet assistance to Cuba, and I quote, "pursued solely the purpose of contributing to the the **defense capabilities** of Cuba," that, and I quote him, "training by Soviet specialists of Cuban nationals in handling defensive armaments was by no means offensive, and if it were otherwise," Mr. Gromyko went on, "the Soviet Government would never become involved in rendering such assistance." That **statement** also was false.

Acting, therefore, in the defense of our own security and of the entire Western Hemisphere, and under the authority entrusted to me by the **Constitution** as endorsed by the resolution of the **Congress**, I have directed that the following initial steps be taken immediately:

To halt this offensive buildup, a strict **quarantine** on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated. All ships of any kind bound for Cuba from whatever nation or port will, if found to contain **cargoes** of offensive weapons, be turned back.

It shall be the **policy** of this Nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the Western Hemisphere as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States, requiring a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union.

I call upon Chairman Khrushchev to halt and eliminate this clandestine, reckless and provocative threat to **world peace** and to stable relations between our two nations. I call upon him further to abandon this course of world domination, and to join in an historic effort to end the perilous arms race and to transform the history of man.

Our goal is not the victory of might, but the vindication of right- -not peace at the expense of **freedom**, but both peace and freedom, here in this hemisphere, and, we hope, around the world. God willing, that goal will be achieved.



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3. Self assessment activity- teacher distributes self assessment handouts and pupils fill them in.

3. Handout activity (25 minutes)

Distribute handouts to all pupils.

Pupils read the text and the teacher helps them with unknown words.

4. Teacher explains the task in the handout- the idea is that pupils themselves come to options (attack Cuba, come to an agreement, full scale nuclear attack on the USSR...)

5. Wrap up discussion: What did Kennedy choose to do and why?-- in mother tongue (in English if group is advanced) (5 minutes)

### **Attachment \*:**

Classroom handout 1 & 2

### **Assessment**

Self assessment handout



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## ATTACHMENT 1 HANDOUT 1

Listen carefully to JFK's speech and fill in the missing words:

This Government, as promised, has maintained the closest surveillance of the Soviet Military buildup on the island of Cuba. Within the past week, unmistakable evidence has established the fact that a series of \_\_\_\_\_ is now in preparation on that imprisoned island. The purpose of these bases can be none other than to provide a \_\_\_\_\_ against the Western Hemisphere.

Only last Thursday, as evidence of this rapid offensive buildup was already in my hand, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko told me in my office that he was instructed to make it clear once again, as he said his government had already done, that Soviet assistance to Cuba, and I quote, "pursued solely the purpose of contributing to the the \_\_\_\_\_ of Cuba," that, and I quote him, "training by Soviet specialists of Cuban nationals in handling defensive armaments was by no means offensive, and if it were otherwise," Mr. Gromyko went on, "the Soviet Government would never become involved in rendering such assistance." That \_\_\_\_\_ also was false.

Acting, therefore, in the defense of our own security and of the entire Western Hemisphere, and under the authority entrusted to me by the \_\_\_\_\_ as endorsed by the resolution of the \_\_\_\_\_, I have directed that the following initial steps be taken immediately:

To halt this offensive buildup, a strict \_\_\_\_\_ on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated. All ships of any kind bound for Cuba from whatever nation or port will, if found to contain \_\_\_\_\_ of offensive weapons, be turned back.

It shall be the \_\_\_\_\_ of this Nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the Western Hemisphere as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States, requiring a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union.

I call upon Chairman Khrushchev to halt and eliminate this clandestine, reckless and provocative threat to \_\_\_\_\_ and to stable relations between our two nations. I call upon him further to abandon this course of world domination, and to join in an historic effort to end the perilous arms race and to transform the history of man.

Our goal is not the victory of might, but the vindication of right- -not peace at the expense of \_\_\_\_\_, but both peace and freedom, here in this hemisphere, and, we hope, around the world. God willing, that goal will be achieved.



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## ATTACHMENT 2

### Letter from Nikita Krushchev to President John Kennedy

Adapted for educational purposes from Mintz, S., & McNeil, S. (2013). *Digital History*. Retrieved 08/06/2015 from <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu>

Author: Nikita Khrushchev  
Date: 1962

Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev sent the following letter to Kennedy claiming that the Soviet's have a right to keep their missiles in Cuba. He reminded President John F. Kennedy that as long as there are missiles in Turkey, the Soviets will keep missiles in Cuba.

**Document:** October 27, 1962

Dear Mr. President:

I understand your concern for the security of the United States, Mr. President, because this is the first duty of the president. However, these questions are also uppermost in our minds. The same duties rest with me as chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers. You have been worried over our assisting Cuba with arms designed to strengthen its defensive potential -- precisely defensive potential -- because Cuba, no matter what weapons it had, could not compare with you since these are different dimensions, the more so given up-to-date means of extermination.

Our purpose has been and is to help Cuba, and no one can challenge the humanity of our motives aimed at allowing Cuba to live peacefully and develop as its people desire. You want to relieve your country from danger and this is understandable. However, Cuba also wants this. All countries want to relieve themselves from danger. But how can we, the Soviet Union and our government, assess your actions which, in effect, mean that you have surrounded the Soviet Union with military bases, surrounded our allies with military bases, set up military bases literally around our country, and stationed your rocket weapons at them? This is no secret. High placed American officials demonstratively declare this. Your rockets are stationed in Britain and in Italy and

pointed at us. Your rockets are stationed in Turkey.

You are worried over Cuba. You say that it worries you because it lies at a distance of 90 miles across the sea from the shores of the United States. However, Turkey lies next to us. Our sentinels are pacing up and down and watching each other. Do you believe that you have the right to demand security for your country and the removal of such weapons that you qualify as offensive, while not recognizing this right for us?

I think that one could rapidly eliminate the conflict and normalize the situation. Then people would heave a sigh of relief, considering that the statesmen who bear the responsibility have sober minds, an awareness of their responsibility, and an ability to solve complicated problems and not allow matters to slide to the disaster of war.

This is why I make this proposal: We agree to remove those weapons from Cuba which you regard as offensive weapons. We agree to do this and to state this commitment in the United Nations. Your representatives will make a statement to the effect that the United States, on its part, bearing in mind the anxiety and concern of the Soviet State, will evacuate its analogous weapons from Turkey. Let us reach an understanding on



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what time you and we need to put this into effect.

After this, representatives of the U.N. Security Council could control on the spot the fulfillment of these commitments. Of course, it is necessary that the Governments of Cuba and Turkey would allow these representatives to come to their countries and check fulfillment of this commitment, which each side undertakes. Apparently, it would be better if these representatives enjoyed the trust of the Security Council and ours -- the United States and the Soviet Union -- as well as of Turkey and Cuba. I think that it will not be difficult to find such people who enjoy the trust and respect of all interested sides.

We, having assumed this commitment in order to give satisfaction and hope to the peoples of Cuba and Turkey and to increase their confidence in their security, will make a statement in the Security Council to the effect that the Soviet Government gives a solemn pledge to respect the integrity of the frontiers and the sovereignty of Turkey, not to intervene in its domestic affairs, not to invade Turkey, not to make available its territory as a place d'armes for such invasion, and also will restrain those who would think of launching an aggression against Turkey either from Soviet territory

or from the territory of other states bordering on Turkey.

The U.S. government will make the same statement in the Security Council with regard to Cuba. It will declare that the United States will respect the integrity of the frontiers of Cuba, and also will restrain those who would think of launching an aggression against Cuba either from U.S. territory or from the territory of other states bordering on Cuba.

Of course, for this we would have to reach agreement with you and to arrange for some deadline. Let us agree to give some time, but not to delay, two or three weeks, not more than a month. ...

All this, possibly, would serve as a good impetus to searching for mutually acceptable agreements on other disputed issues, too, on which there is an exchange of opinion between us. These problems have not yet been solved but they wait for an urgent solution which would clear the international atmosphere. We are ready for this.

These are my proposals, Mr. President.

Respectfully yours,

Nikita Khrushchev

Based on this letter Kennedy had several options- list the options and advantages and disadvantages of each:

OPTION	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES

What option did Kennedy choose and why?



## Self-Assessment Form

### Task: LISTENING TO RECORDING

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle 1 to 4

1- not much 4-very much

#### Before Listening for the second time

I understood the activity	1	2	3	4
I thought about what I knew about the topic	1	2	3	4
I could predict some missing words in handout	1	2	3	4
I had to concentrate to listen to the passage.	1	2	3	4

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#### After Listening

I liked the activity	1	2	3	4
I think listening exercises could improve my English	1	2	3	4

Rate this lesson 1-5 (5 being excellent)

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