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Lesson Title
Kansas in the Movies, the Cold War Period

Class and Grade Levels
Middle School and High School

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
THE STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

ORAL HISTORIES
Interview a person who took part in the Korean War or Vietnam conflict, or who remembers the Cuban Missile Crisis. Talk to parents or other adults about growing up in the 50s or 60s - did they practice Civil Defense Drills, were they afraid of the Soviets using a nuclear weapon, did they have different amounts of fear at different times? Ask an adult who has traveled abroad if he/she knows what is in their CIA file (it is available to anyone through the Freedom of Information Act).

"WHAT IF"
Imagine what would have happened if one situation had changed in the Cold War. For example, what if Truman had not fired General Macarthur and he had decided to drop bombs on China in order to win the war in Korea?

LOCAL EFFECTS
How has the Cold War, past and present, affected your local community? What industries, activities, and attitudes prevail because of the influence of the conflict among nations?

LANGUAGE ARTS ENRICHMENT
Study the media, propaganda, and films of the Cold War: James Bond, The Day After, and A Boy and His Dog.

Russian movies: War and Peace, The Ballad of the Valiant Knight Ivanhoe (The songs of the Russian poet and actor, V. Visotsky).

SCIENCE ENRICHMENT
Examine the Cold War's effects on the environment.

Define the differences between Russian movies made during the Cold War period and American movies made during the same period: apocalyptic truth and realism in American movies and patriotic and historical motives in the movies made in Russia.

Learn about the Socialist Realism art style and its impact on the "Socialist Camp's" movies.
Learn that a reason why "The Day After" is about Kansas is because of the state's strategic and geographic environment: Kansas is in the "heart" of America.

MAIN DATES TO REMEMBER

1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia
1941 Germany attacks the Soviet Union
1942 US involvement in WWII in Europe
   Tehran Summit of the Grand Alliance (US, USSR, GB)

TRANSITIONAL YEAR

1945 Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt meet at Yalta
   V-E Day (end of WWII)
   UN Charter signed in San Francisco
   Stalin, Churchill/Attlee meet in Potsdam
   US drops Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
   V-J Day

1946 ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Interpreter and Computer) dedicated (revealed to the public)
   Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Missouri

1949 Soviets detonate their first Atomic Bomb in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan
1950 Stalin's death
   Khrushchev comes to power in USSR
1956 US underground nuclear test near Las Vegas
1957 Soviets launch the first artificial satellite: Sputnik
1962 Cuban Missile Crisis
1975 End of the Vietnam War

COLD WAR PERIOD

CURRICULUM STANDARDS ADDRESSED

Kansas Education Resource Center, Benchmark #6:

6. Making connections between the visual arts and the other disciplines.
6.1.2 Students demonstrate an understanding of how the meanings of specific artworks reflect factors of other disciplines.
6.1.3 Students demonstrate the ability to research and analyze the characteristics of two or more works of art that share similar subject matter and/or cultural aspects.
6.2 Students understand ways in which the principles and subject matter of other disciplines taught in the school are interrelated with the visual arts.
6.2.1 Students demonstrate the ability to compare interrelationships between human behavior, the environment, and its materials.
Kansas, United States, and World History, History Standard:

The student uses a working knowledge and understanding of significant individuals, groups, ideas, events, eras, and developments in the history of Kansas, the United States, and the world, utilizing essential analytical and research skills.

Civics-Government, Benchmark #5:

The student understands various systems of governments and how nations and international organizations interact.

TIME REQUIRED/CLASS PERIODS NEEDED

You need at list two-class periods to learn about the Cold War and watch the elective parts of the movies. An additional 15-20 minutes taken from the third class period to write a short, one page, quiz.

PRIMARY SOURCE BIBLIOGRAPHY


OTHER RESOURCES USED

http://www.crees.ku.edu/Teachers/teachers.shtml
Who Won the Cold War?
http://www.davar.net/ RUSSIAN/SONGS/ VISOTSKY/ VISOTSKY.HTM
V. Visotsky, White Bath (1968)
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0103838/
The Inner Circle
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0085404/
The Day After
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0063794/
War and Peace (Voyna i Mir)
http://www.foia.cia.gov/foia.asp
Your General Rights Under FOIA
http://www.cia.gov/index.html
CIA Home Page
http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cold.war/experience/culture/
Cold War Experience: Culture
The Ballad of the Valiant Knight Ivanhoe
http://www.huntfor.com/arthistory/c19th/realism.htm
Art Style: Realism
http://worldartlistdirectory.com/artstyles.html
Art Style Definitions
A Boy and His Dog (1975), view elective parts or just discuss
Directed by
L.Q. Jones
Writing credits
Harlan Ellison (story)
Country: USA
Dark Comedy/ Sci-Fi
Plot: A post-apocalyptic tale based on a novella by Harlan Ellison

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0072730/
"... the prize-winning novel A Boy and His Dog by the noted science-fiction writer Harlan Ellison. The 1969 story was later made into a movie... After the nuclear devastation of the "Third War" a group of survivors build a city underground ... They elect to call their town Topeka." (Bader, 134)

The Day After (1983) (TV), view elective parts
Directed by
Nicolas Maier
Drama/ Sci-Fi
Runtime: 126 min
Country: USA
Plot: A graphic, disturbing film about the effects of a devastating nuclear holocaust on small-town residents of central Kansas.

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0085404/

The Inner Circle (1991), view elective parts or just discuss
Also Known As:
Blizhniy Krug (Russia), The Projectionist
Directed by
Andrei Konchalovsky
Drama
Country: Italy / USA / Russia
Language: English
Plot: The true story of Ivan Sanchin, the KGB officer who was Stalin's private film projectionist from 1939 until the dictator's death.

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0103838/
War and Peace (Voyna i Mir) (1968), view elective parts
Directed by
Sergey Bondarchuk
Country: USSR
Drama
Language: Russian/English
Plot: The Russians at Borodino won a moral victory. The direct consequence of the Battle of Borodino was Napoleon's flight from Moscow, the destruction of the invading army of 500,000 men, and the destruction of Napoleonic France.
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0063794/

The Ballad of the Valiant Knight Ivanhoe (1983), view elective parts
Directed by
Sergey Tarasov
Country: USSR
Romantic Adventure/Costume Adventure
Language: Russian
Plot: This heroic film inspired by the Walter Scott classic fiction. Ivanhoe, the disowned knight, is fighting together with the brave hearted and free spirited Robin Hood against the evil Prince John. Robin Hood's army helped King Richard defeat his enemy, but Robin Hood proudly rejected the King's offer to serve under Richard's leadership in the future. The movie is accompanied by the inspired Visotsky's ballads.

REQUIRED MATERIALS/SUPPLIES

Need TV, DVD or VHS Player, movies, CDs, posters, pencils and notebooks.

VOCABULARY

Atomic bomb
First nuclear weapon used in wartime, by the United States on Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945; an A-bomb.

CIA
The American Central Intelligence Agency responsible for obtaining and analyzing information about foreign governments, corporations, and individuals, and reporting such information to the various branches of the U.S. Government.

Cold War
Term used by Churchill in 1946 to describe the growing East-West divide in postwar Europe between communist and democratic nations.
**Hydrogen bomb**
First tested in 1952 by the United States and in 1953 by the Soviets; a nuclear weapon hundreds of times more powerful than the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

**Nuclear winter**
Theory that, immediately following a major nuclear war, radioactive smoke and dust would fill the atmosphere, blocking sunlight, lowering temperatures and destroying agriculture.

**Propaganda.** (propagate: spread, broadcast)
Misinformation; any organization or movement for the propagation of particular ideas, doctrines

**Red Army**
Armed forces of the Soviet Union formed after the Bolshevik revolution from the rebel Red Guards and the ruins of the Imperial Army.

**Realism**
Realism - the accurate and apparently objective description of the ordinary, observable world.

**Socialist Realism**
Art style that prescribed a generally optimistic picture of socialist reality and of the development of the Communist revolution. Its purpose was education in the spirit of socialism.

**Sputnik**
First artificial Earth satellite, it was launched by the Soviet Union in 1957 and sparked US fears of Soviet dominance in technology and outer space. It led to the creation of NASA and the space race.

**PROCEDURE**
The students will listen to the teacher’s lecture about the Cold War and learn more about that time from guest speakers. The next half of the first class period and the second day’s lesson will be devoted to the movies. The class will be encouraged to make notes during the presentations and the movies. The teacher will discuss with the students the differences between the movies made in the USA and movies made in Russia and answer the question: Why some American Cold War movies were made in Kansas and about Kansas?

**ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION**
Questions:

- The Cold War, when did this period approximately start and when did it end?
- Define the meaning of the word: Propaganda.
- What are their differences between the art styles: Socialist Realism and Realism?
- Define the differences between Russian movies made during the Cold War period and American movies made during the same period.
- *The Day After*, when and where was the movie made?
- What purpose did *The Day After* serve?
- Does the movie title, *The Day After*, help to illuminate the topic? What title would you give to this movie?
- Describe the Cold War’s effects on the environment.
- How do you feel about Russian or Chinese people in this modern time?
- Is the Cold War over? If it is over, who is a winner?
Students will be required to write their answers to the assigned questions. The teacher will then provide a short quiz of about 6 questions selected from the assignment. The evaluation should be based on the usual teacher-grading scheme.

Mr. Hund, Principal of The Most Pure Heart of Mary School (Topeka, KS), watches the movie "The Day After" with students during Tatyana Wilds’ class: Kansas in the Movies, the Cold War Period.

Mr. Hund, Principal of Most Pure Heart of Mary School (Topeka, KS), shares his knowledge and memories about the Cold War period with students during Tatyana Wilds' class: Kansas in the Movies, the Cold War Period.