

Name

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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

- Bader, Robert Smith. Hayseeds, Moralizers, and Methodists. University Press of Kansas, 1988.
- Barnet, Sylvan. A Short Guide to Writing about Art, 7th ed. Longman, NY, 2002.
- The Columbia Encyclopedia, 6th ed., 2001-05.
- Friedman, Thomas L. The World is Flat. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, NY, 2003.
- Lindey, Christine. Art in the Cold War. New Amsterdam Books, NY, 1990.
- Webster's New World Dictionary. Nashville, TN, 1972.

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

http://movies2.nytimes.com/gst/movies/movie.html?v_id=168429

The Ballad of the Valiant Knight Ivanhoe

<http://www.huntfor.com/arhistory/c19th/realism.htm>

Art Style: Realism

<http://worldartistdirectory.com/artstyles.html>

Art Style Definitions

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CIA>

Central Intelligence Agency

<http://www.ksde.org/outcomes/ssstd8.doc>

Kansas Curricular Standards for History and Government; Economics and Geography

<http://www.kerc-ks.org/>

Kansas' Education Resource Center



A Boy and His Dog (1975), view elective parts or just discuss

Directed by

[L.Q. Jones](#)

Writing credits

[Harlan Ellison](#) (story)

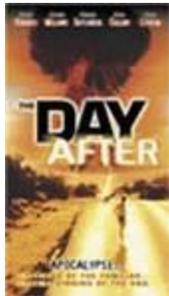
Country: **USA**

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

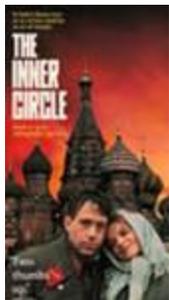
Drama/ Sci-Fi

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 (Voina i Mir) (1968), view elective parts

Directed by

Sergey Bondarchuk

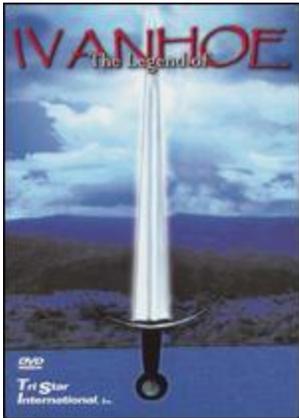
Country: USSR

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.

http://movies2.nytimes.com/gst/movies/movie.html?v_id=168429

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.

[Link to a photo](#)

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.

[Link to a photo](#)

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.