

NUREYEV: THE RUSSIAN YEARS

PROJECT GUIDELINES

Name: _____

Date: _____

You have learned some basic information about communist Russia, the Cold War, and the story of Rudolf Nureyev's defection. Using that information as a reference and starting point, you will create a project that expands on one or more of these topics. It will require outside research, creativity, and imagination.

Topics:

You should select a topic that you are interested in and complete research about it. You will want to include key facts such as who, what, where, why, when, and how as well as interesting additional facts and why your topic is significant.

Below is a list of some possible project choices.

- Learn about the KGB and its importance in keeping the communists in power and the Soviet people under control.
- Research daily life for the citizens of communist Russia. Write a series of journal entries or letters that could be used to teach others about what it was like to live under communist rule.
- Learn about an important Russian leader such as Joseph Stalin, Nikita Khrushchev, Leonid Brezhnev, Yuri Andropov, Konstantin Chernenko, or Mikhail Gorbachev and create a display, multimedia presentation, or Web page that includes a biography along with information about key political events and achievements.
- Research the Berlin Wall. Learn about why it was constructed, its history, how it affected the daily lives of Germans, and the events that led up to its demolition in 1989. Be sure to describe how life has changed in Germany since the wall was removed. Create a time line, multimedia presentation, or podcast that describes what you have learned.
- Research one aspect of the Cold War and create a display, Web page, podcast, or multimedia presentation that can be used to teach others about your topic. Ideas could include:
 - the space race
 - the nuclear arms race
 - spies and espionage
- Tell the story of another person who defected from the U.S.S.R. It could be someone famous (such as an athlete, musician, scientist, writer, etc.) or an ordinary citizen. Document their escape by creating a time line, writing a fictional diary from the defector's point of view, or creating a visual display that includes pictures of important people, places, and things along with a map relevant to the story.
- Design your own project. Be sure to get your teacher's approval before you begin.

Research:

Using good sources is important when you are conducting research. Use reliable Internet sites along with library resources to learn about your topic. Some relevant sites are listed below.

CNN Interactive: Cold War

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cold.war/>

Provides an in-depth look at the history, key events, and people associated with the Cold War.

Cold War International History Project: The Cold War Files

<http://www.coldwarfiles.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.flash>

Find documents from the Cold War and profiles of crucial events and individuals from the era.

PBS: AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: "The Nuremberg Trials": The Start of the Cold War

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/nuremberg/peopleevents/e_coldwar.html

A page about the key people and events related to the beginning of the Cold War.

The Cold War Museum

http://www.coldwar.org/museum/museum_features.html

Offers time lines, exhibits, and activities related to the Cold War period.

PBS: RED FILES: "Soviet Sports Wars": Soviet Athletes Who Defected

<http://www.pbs.org/redfiles/sports/defectors.htm>

Profiles of Soviet athletes who defected to the West.

Connection Newspapers: "An Orchestrated Defection"

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?archive=true&article=59842&paper=69&cat=115>

An article about the defection of bassoonist Arnold Irchai from the Soviet Union.

Constitutional Rights Foundation: "Life Under Communism in Eastern Europe"

http://www.crf-usa.org/bria/bria19_1a.htm

A description of the economic and social conditions and the status of human rights under communist governments in Eastern Europe.

Geographia: Asia: Russia: History of Russia: The Soviet Era

<http://www.geographia.com/russia/rushis07.htm>

Provides a brief history of the Soviet Union from the 1930s through 1991.

Creating the Project:

Many of the project topics have suggestions for how to present what you have learned. Be creative. Use technology. Some suggested formats include: diary/journal entries, time lines with pictures, maps, display boards, Web pages, multimedia presentations (i.e., Power Point), podcasts, videos (mock newscasts, documentaries, etc.), and so on. Your job is to incorporate what you have learned into a project that can be used to teach others. Making a quiz or game to accompany your project could keep people interested and test their knowledge at the same time.

The Presentation:

Your project will be presented by you to at least one other person in the class. In addition, it will be put in a public display area so that others can see it and learn from it. Be sure your project is well written and that it meets high standards for quality, since it will be a reflection of your learning and personal effort.

Evaluating Your Success: After you have presented your project to at least one classmate, she or he will provide feedback by completing the sentences below. You will then, in turn, listen to at least one project and provide feedback using these same sentences.

- Three things I learned from your project were ...
- The thing I liked best about your project was ...
- A suggestion I have for a way to improve your project is ...