1947 – 1991

Cold War Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. What two countries were the main rivals in the Cold War?

- (A) The United States and the Soviet Union
- (B) The Soviet Union and the United Kingdom
- (C) The United States and West Germany
- (D) The Soviet Union and Nazi Germany

2. Why was the Soviet atomic bomb test of 1949 significant?

- (A) It ended World War II by forcing Japan to surrender to the Allied powers
- (B) It gave the Soviet Union the world's first working atomic bomb
- (C) It broke a treaty that had banned all nuclear weapons since 1945
- (D) It ended America's nuclear monopoly and began an age of deterrence

3. What did the Berlin Wall divide?

- (A) North and South Vietnam, after French rule ended
- (B) East and West Berlin, a symbol of divided Europe
- (C) East and West Vienna, in the capital of Austria
- (D) North and South Korea, after the Korean War ended

4. What was the Cuban Missile Crisis?

- (A) A failed US-backed invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961
- (B) A Soviet blockade that cut off food and fuel to Cuba
- (C) A 13-day naval battle between US and Soviet ships near Cuba
- (D) A 13-day standoff over Soviet nuclear missiles found in Cuba

5. What did the launch of Sputnik in 1957 trigger?

- (A) A nuclear test ban and a joint US-Soviet space station
- (B) An arms treaty and a sharp cut in US military spending
- (C) A space race and a huge US investment in science education
- (D) A US invasion of Cuba and a naval blockade of its ports

6. What happened on July 20, 1969?

- (A) American troops withdrew from South Vietnam
- (B) The Soviet Union launched its first satellite
- (C) American astronauts landed on the Moon
- (D) A Soviet cosmonaut first orbited the Earth

7. How did the Soviet war in Afghanistan contribute to the Cold War ending?

- (A) The failed war drained Soviet resources and sped the USSR's collapse
- (B) The war led China to invade the Soviet Union and split it apart
- (C) The war spread into Europe and forced East Germany to open its borders
- (D) The quick Soviet victory convinced the US to sign a peace treaty

8. When did the Cold War officially end?

- (A) 1961, when the Berlin Wall was built
- (B) 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed
- (C) 1973, when US troops left Vietnam
- (D) 1962, when the Cuban Missile Crisis ended

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Cold War Quiz: Answer Key

1. **A** The United States and the Soviet Union

2. **D** It ended America's nuclear monopoly and began an age of deterrence

3. **B** East and West Berlin, a symbol of divided Europe

4. **D** A 13-day standoff over Soviet nuclear missiles found in Cuba

5. **C** A space race and a huge US investment in science education

6. **C** American astronauts landed on the Moon

7. **A** The failed war drained Soviet resources and sped the USSR's collapse

8. **B** 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed