

Lessons Of Tension Answer Key

Sample Response: The Cold War taught the world that fear and power can shape nations' choices, for better or worse. Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union built huge arsenals of weapons because they were afraid of being weaker than the other. This fear caused tension, mistrust, and proxy wars around the world. However, it also showed the importance of communication, diplomacy, and cooperation to prevent disaster and preserve peace.

Teacher's Guide

Purpose: This reflection activity encourages students to synthesize their understanding of the **psychological and political effects of the Cold War**, focusing on global lessons about fear, leadership, and restraint.

Tips for Differentiation:

- **For emerging writers:** Provide sentence starters like "The Cold War showed that..." or "Fear caused countries to..."
- **For advanced learners:** Ask students to include a reference to a specific event (e.g., Cuban Missile Crisis or Berlin Wall).
- **For English language learners:** Pre-teach the terms *fear*, *power*, and *diplomacy* with visual examples.

Engagement Ideas:

- End the lesson with a brief class discussion sharing student reflections to connect emotional insight with historical understanding.
- Play a short news clip or image slideshow of Cold War events before students write to spark reflection.

Extension Ideas:

- Have students write a short follow-up: "How can countries today avoid the same mistakes?"
- Encourage students to illustrate their paragraph with a symbol (e.g., wall, dove, handshake) that represents their main idea.
- Use this as a closing assessment for a Cold War unit to measure both comprehension and personal interpretation.