

UNITED STATES – SOVIET COOPERATION

Performance Standard (14E/16BW).I

Examine the “space race” beginning with the first manned space flight of Yuri Gagarin and identify the areas of cooperation in space exploration between the U.S. and the Soviet Union during the Cold War accordingly.

- *Knowledge:* identify key events and instances of cooperation in space exploration;
- *Reasoning:* analyze the evidence to show the long and short term benefits of space cooperation; and
- *Communication:* develop a timeline and write an essay that is well-organized, well-focused and well-detailed; express all ideas in a way that provides evidence of knowledge and reasoning processes.

Procedure

1. *In order to understand United States foreign policy as it relates to other nations and international issues (14E), and understand the development of significant political events (16BW)*, students should receive sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following:
 - Relate historical trends in the United States within the United States and the world that have influenced international relations.
 - Describe the effects of interdependence among nations during periods of world conflict (Napoleonic Wars, World Wars, Cold War).
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. The students will read JFK’s telegram to Khrushchev. Lead the students in a general discussion about the development of space exploration. Viewing excerpts from the film, *The Right Stuff*, the students will compare early 1960’s technology with modern technology as seen in “Space Cowboys” or “Space Camp”.
4. Have students research the areas of cooperation between the United State and the Soviet Union in space.
5. Have students create a timeline of major events that demonstrate cooperation between the two nations.
6. Have students write an essay summarizing their findings that include but are not limited to the:
 - 1966 agreement to protect the free use of outer space by all nations and to prohibit its military use;
 - 1971 agreement on a cooperative space project – the Apollo-Soyuz – mission; and
 - creation of the International Space Station.
7. Finally, have students draw a conclusion about the short term and long term benefits of such cooperation between the two nations at the same time they were involved in intense competition around the world.
8. Evaluate each student’s work using the Social Science Rubric as follows and add the scores to determine the performance level:
 - *Knowledge:* identification of key events and instances of cooperation associated with space exploration is complete and accurate.
 - *Reasoning:* the analysis thorough and shows the long and short term benefits to space cooperation.
 - *Communication:* the timeline and essay are well-organized, well-focused and well-detailed; the knowledge and reasoning were completely and effectively communicated.

Examples of Student Work not available

Time Requirements

- Three to four class periods

Resources

- Textbook
- Magazine and periodical articles
- Newspaper articles
- Internet access
- Encyclopedias
- Social Science Rubric

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 1961

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE
PRESIDENT'S TELEGRAM TO THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS, UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, N.S.
KHRUSHCHEV:

12 April 1961

The people of the United States share with the people of the Soviet Union their satisfaction for the safe flight of the astronaut in man's first venture into space. We congratulate you and the Soviet scientists and engineers who made this feat possible. It is my sincere desire that in the continuing quest for knowledge of outer space our nations can work together to obtain the greatest benefit to mankind.

John F. Kennedy

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Courtesy of the
National Archives and Record Administration