Name_____

The Iron Curtain

At the end of World War II, many Americans believed the Soviet Union was America's ally. The Soviets had fought on the side of Germany at the beginning of the war but had later left the Axis forces and joined the Allies in fighting against Germany, Italy, and Japan. But by 1946, the Americans realized a friendship between the Soviet Union and the United States of America was not to be the case. Then Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin began a deliberate campaign to spread Communism to other nations in Europe and Asia. In a country ruled by a communist government, the citizens do not have the same freedoms as in a democracy. This act of aggression—the refusal to leave the countries occupied after the war by the Soviet Union—began a conflict with the United States known as the Cold War.

After World War II, Soviet troops refused to leave countries they had liberated, despite America's insistence that the countries be allowed to hold free elections. Winston Churchill, Britain's prime minister, said an "Iron Curtain" had come down on Europe, and behind this curtain people's basic freedoms were disappearing. One clear example of the Iron Curtain was the Berlin Wall—a wall that separated West and East Berlin in Germany. Those on the western side were free, while those in East Berlin were under Soviet control.

President Truman believed the United States should support those people who wanted to be free. This policy and belief would later lead the United States into wars such as the Korean War and Vietnam in an effort to stop the spread of communism.

Text Questions

1. Which adjective best describes America's relationship with the Soviet Union after the start of the Cold War?
   a. friendly
   b. open
   c. affable
   d. hostile

2. Why did the Soviet Union refuse to leave any of the countries occupied by them at the end of World War II?
   a. They wanted to spread communism to other European countries.
   b. They wanted to continue Germany's mission of dominance.
   c. They wanted to go to war with the United States and Great Britain.
   d. They wanted to become a democratic nation.

3. Which statement is <u>not</u> a fact about the story?
   a. After World War II, the Soviet Union attempted to spread communism.
   b. The United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a conflict known as the Cold War.
   c. The Cold War is the most frightening time in America's history.
   d. After World War II, the Berlin Wall separated East Berlin from West Berlin.

4. At the end of World War II, why could the United States no longer remain allies with the Soviet Union?
   a. The Soviet Union wanted to take over the United States.
   b. The Soviet Union's refusal to withdraw from European countries it had occupied near the end of World War II was seen as an act of aggression by the United States.
   c. The Soviet Union's dictator was not friends with the president of the United States.
   d. The Soviet Union was unstable and could not be counted on economically for any help the United States might need.

5. Which part of the text helps you to explain your answer for question four?
   a. first paragraph
   b. second paragraph
   c. third paragraph
   d. the title

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