

1 Defining the Cold War

Reading, Vocabulary

Read the passage and complete it with words from the box.

supported	curtain	Germans	neutral	civilians
the Soviet Union	Stalin	Cold War	soldiers	countries

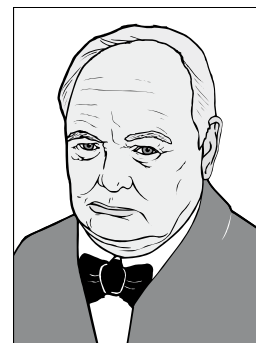
The Cold War

From 1945, the USA and (1)_____ were involved in what was called the (2)_____. This was not a war fought on battlefields, but with words and threats. Many other countries (3)_____ one of these two superpowers, although some countries stayed (4)_____, not supporting either the USA or the Soviet Union. During the last months of the Second World War, the Soviets had driven the (5)_____ out of many of the countries of Eastern Europe and by 1946 most of these countries were seen by the Soviet leader, (6)_____, as 'buffer states', keeping enemies at a distance from the Soviet borders.



Joseph Stalin

Winston Churchill, who had been the British leader during the war, said an 'iron (7)_____' had divided Europe. There were a number of reasons why this had happened. After the Second World War the USA and the Soviet Union did not trust each other. The Soviets felt they had not been fully supported in the war against Germany, and indeed they lost far more (8)_____ and (9)_____ than any other country. The USA was worried that communism, the political system in the Soviet Union, would spread not just to Eastern Europe but to many other (10)_____.



Winston Churchill

Read the text then in pairs answer these questions: What was the Iron Curtain? Where did it begin and end?

The Iron Curtain

Winston Churchill was Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1940–1945. He made a speech in 1946, in Missouri, USA in which he stated that an 'iron curtain' had descended across the Continent. He used the phrase to refer to the ideological and physical boundary between Soviet-controlled eastern Europe and western Europe.

Churchill said that the Iron Curtain started in Stettin in the Baltic and finished in Trieste in the Adriatic. Behind one side of the curtain were all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe: Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia. All these famous cities and the populations around them were under Soviet control.



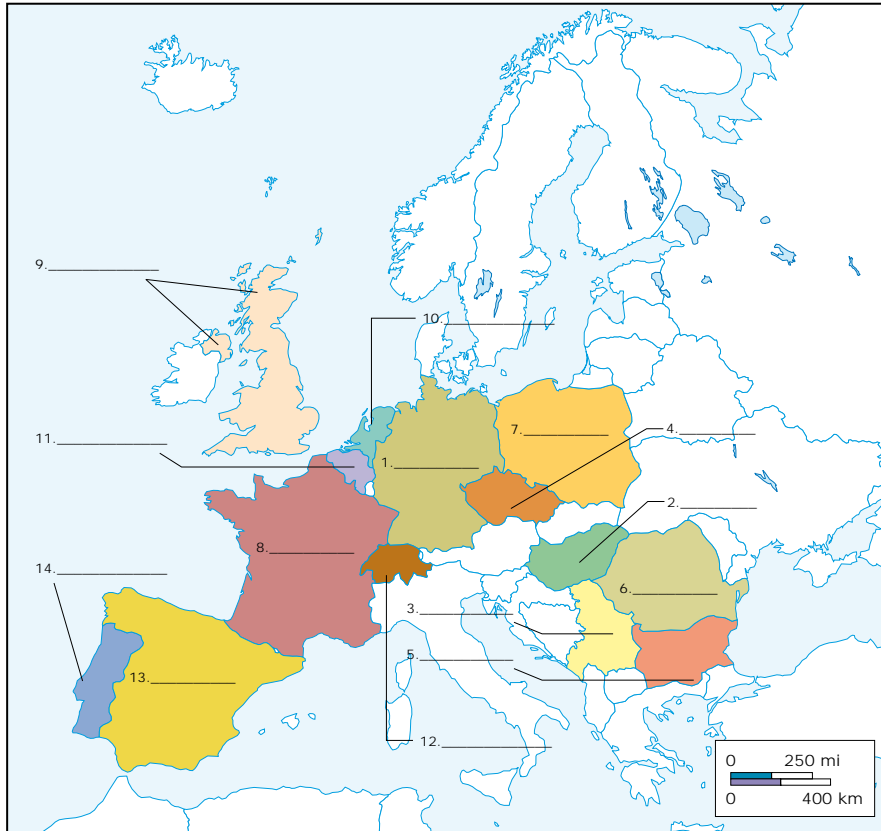
Now match the capital cities mentioned in the text with their countries as they were known at that time.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Warsaw | Germany |
| 2. Berlin | Hungary |
| 3. Prague | Yugoslavia |
| 4. Budapest | Czechoslovakia |
| 5. Belgrade | Bulgaria |
| 6. Bucharest | Romania |
| 7. Sofia | Poland |

3 East and west of the Iron Curtain

Writing

Label these countries east of the Iron Curtain from exercise 2: Germany, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland according to the numbers on the map (1–7).



Then label these countries on the west of the Iron Curtain: France, Great Britain, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal, according to the numbers 8–14.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 14. _____ |

ANSWER KEY

1 Defining the Cold War**Reading, Vocabulary**

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. the Soviet Union | 6. Stalin |
| 2. Cold War | 7. curtain |
| 3. supported | 8. soldiers |
| 4. neutral | 9. civilians |
| 5. Germans | 10. countries |

2 Behind the Iron Curtain**Reading, Vocabulary**

1. Warsaw – Poland
2. Berlin – Germany
3. Prague – Czechoslovakia
4. Budapest – Hungary
5. Belgrade – Yugoslavia
6. Bucharest – Romania
7. Sofia – Bulgaria

3 East and west of the Iron Curtain**Writing**

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Germany | 8. France |
| 2. Hungary | 9. Great Britain |
| 3. Yugoslavia | 10. Holland |
| 4. Czechoslovakia | 11. Belgium |
| 5. Bulgaria | 12. Switzerland |
| 6. Romania | 13. Spain |
| 7. Poland | 14. Portugal |