
Background information

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Source 1

Neither side gained anything from the confrontation. The USSR had not gained control of Berlin. The West had no guarantees that land communications would not be cut again. Above all confrontation made both sides even more stubborn.

Historian Jack Watson writing in 1984

Tasks

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 2. Look at the source 1. Using the information in the card sort and the source explain the impact of the Berlin blockade on the early development of the Cold War.
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<p>A. The Cold War was hotting up – the Truman Doctrine and Czechoslovakia were recent flashpoints.</p>	<p>B. Germany was officially divided into West (Federal Republic) and East (Democratic Republic).</p>
<p>C. At the end of the war Germany and Berlin were split into four zones – Western Allies on one side and Soviets on the other. In January 1947 British and Americans united their two zones to help get industry going again.</p>	<p>D. Keen to avoid confrontation with Soviet tanks, President Truman decided on an airlift operation to keep West Berlin supplied.</p>
<p>E. The USA and the USSR realised that they were in a competition for world domination. They began to build up their armies and weapons.</p>	<p>F. In the winter of 1948–49 Berliners lived on dried potatoes, powdered eggs and cans of meat. They had four hours of electricity a day.</p>
<p>G. The Marshall Aid plan heightened tensions. Stalin stopped Eastern European states from applying as he feared the USA was trying to make them dependant on dollars.</p>	<p>H. Berlin became a powerful symbol of cold war divisions and a potential flashpoint for future conflict.</p>
<p>I. In June 1948 Allies introduced a new currency in the Western zone, which the USSR saw as a threat to economic stability in the East.</p>	<p>J. Stalin wanted to destroy Germany – Britain and the USA wanted to rebuild Germany.</p>
<p>K. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was set up as a defensive alliance against Russia. Later, the USSR set up the Warsaw Pact.</p>	<p>L. Over 318 days, 275,000 flights carried in one and a half million tons of supplies. A plane landed every three minutes. This was known as ‘Operation Vittles’.</p>