



Scottish CND's educational resource [Nuclear Weapons: Yes or No](#) is aimed at late primary to secondary school pupils. It has 4 units: The Nuclear Weapons Debate, Nuclear Explosions, Trident and Pressure Groups.

The resource is as objective and balanced as possible; with opportunities for pupils to develop their thinking skills and with the underlying principle that young people should be encouraged to have knowledgeable debates and opinions about nuclear weapons.

# The Nuclear Weapons Debate

## Suggested Curriculum Links

### Scotland - Curriculum for Excellence:

People, past events and societies (History): SOC 4-01a, SOC 4-06a, SOC 3-06b, SOC 4-06b

People in society, economy and business (Modern Studies): SOC 3-15a, SOC 4-15a

Religious and moral education: RME 4-02a, RME 4-05a

Topical Science (Science): SCN 3-20b, SCN 4-20b

Listening and talking (Literacy): LIT 3-09a, LIT 3-10a

Social wellbeing (Health and wellbeing): HWB 4-09a

### England - Key Stages:

KS3 Citizenship - Debating a global issue, KS3 English - Language & Skills, KS3

Religious Education - Global issues, KS4 Citizenship - Global citizenship, KS4

English - Speaking & Listening, KS4 History - The Cold War



## Teacher's notes: The Nuclear Weapons Debate

This unit aims to give information to enable pupils to have class debates, group discussions or write discursive essays. The material tries to give both sides of the argument, where possible, covering:

- Nuclear Weapons: yes or no?
- Should the bomb have been dropped?
- The Cold War.

**Video** (available on DVD or via <http://www.vimeo.com/scottishcnd>)

- A video which gives a short and effective overview of the debate by the use of historical archive material and present-day footage.

### Booklet

#### **Nuclear Weapons: yes or no?**

- Information and activities to encourage pupils to differentiate between fact and opinion and to consider differing views about nuclear weapons. The end of the booklet gives guidance for preparing a debate about nuclear weapons.

### Challenges

- The Hiroshima and Nagasaki Debate – factsheets including quotes, and a table to fill-in which will help argue for or against the bomb being dropped.
- Considering the Cold War – a short booklet with activities.

### Further Challenges

- Bar graph - showing the number of nuclear weapons over the years.
- Map to complete to show countries which own nuclear weapons.
- Design a badge for or against nuclear weapons.

### Other recommended resources

- Scottish CND Education Packs & videos: <http://www.nuclearweaponsdebate.org>
- CND UK Peace Education: [http://www.cnduk.org/information/peace-education/Activity B: Concepts about Conflict](http://www.cnduk.org/information/peace-education/Activity%20B%3A%20Concepts%20about%20Conflict) - Tools to debate the issue of weapons in school and global nuclear weapons  
[Activity F: The Bomb Factor](http://www.cnduk.org/information/peace-education/Activity%20F%3A%20The%20Bomb%20Factor) - Explore the nuclear weapons debate through the medium of a popular music talent show.  
[The Bomb Factor](http://www.cnduk.org/information/peace-education/Activity%20F%3A%20The%20Bomb%20Factor) Teachers TV video:  
<http://www.teachersmedia.co.uk/videos/63311> or  
<http://archive.teachfind.com/ttv/www.teachers.tv/videos/ks3-4-citizenship-the-bomb-factor-nuclear-weapons.html>

# The Nuclear Weapons Debate

## Nuclear Weapons: yes or no?

Countries with nuclear weapons



USA

Russia

France

UK

China

India

Pakistan

Israel

North  
Korea

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

What do I know about the nuclear weapons debate before I start this booklet?

My knowledge of the nuclear weapons debate is:

Weak

OK

Strong

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

What do I know about the nuclear weapons debate after I finished this booklet?

My knowledge of the nuclear weapons debate is now:

Weak

OK

Strong

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

# The Nuclear Weapons Debate

## Fact or Opinion

Look at the following pieces of information. Decide which are '**FACT**' and which are '**OPINION**' (write the answer in the circle – see example). This will help you before we start the nuclear weapons debate.

What is the difference between a **FACT** and an **OPINION**?

It is possible for people to disagree about what is a fact.

<input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>F</b>	America and Russia possess nuclear weapons. They took part in the Cold War.	These countries also have nuclear weapons; China, France, India, Pakistan, Israel, North Korea.	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Britain has the bomb and carries its nuclear weapons on board Navy submarines.	Nuclear weapons have not been used to attack people since 1945.	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Nuclear weapons make countries into bullies.	The only country in the world to be bombed by nuclear weapons is Japan. The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed.	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Iran wants to have the bomb.	Faslane is near Glasgow and is a nuclear submarine base	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	The nuclear bomb was dropped in 1945	250,000 people died when America dropped nuclear bombs in World War Two. People are still suffering.	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Money from nuclear weapons would be better spent on better wages, schools and hospitals.	Nuclear weapons protect our country.	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Nuclear weapons can make a country too powerful.		

# The Nuclear Weapons Debate

## Task 1 - Key Points

*Highlight or underline the key points. Be selective!*

At the end of World War 2 nuclear weapons were dropped on Japan by America. The bombs caused around 250,000 deaths in the two cities.

After World War 2 there was a Cold War between America and Russia. Both countries built more and more nuclear weapons. The Cold War finished many years ago but several countries still have nuclear weapons.

Some people believe they are needed to defend our country. They believe if we have the bomb others will not attack us. It will also mean we look like a 'powerful' country in the world.

Some countries like South Africa, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine have given up their nuclear weapons. However, other countries are trying to build nuclear weapons for themselves (see the **map of countries which have or do not have nuclear weapons**).

Some people think nuclear weapons are not a good thing to have. They believe they cause tensions between countries and also make countries more suspicious of each other. Many think that the money spent on nuclear weapons could be used for hospitals, schools and other projects. The strongest argument against nuclear weapons is the massive destruction and huge numbers of deaths they could cause.

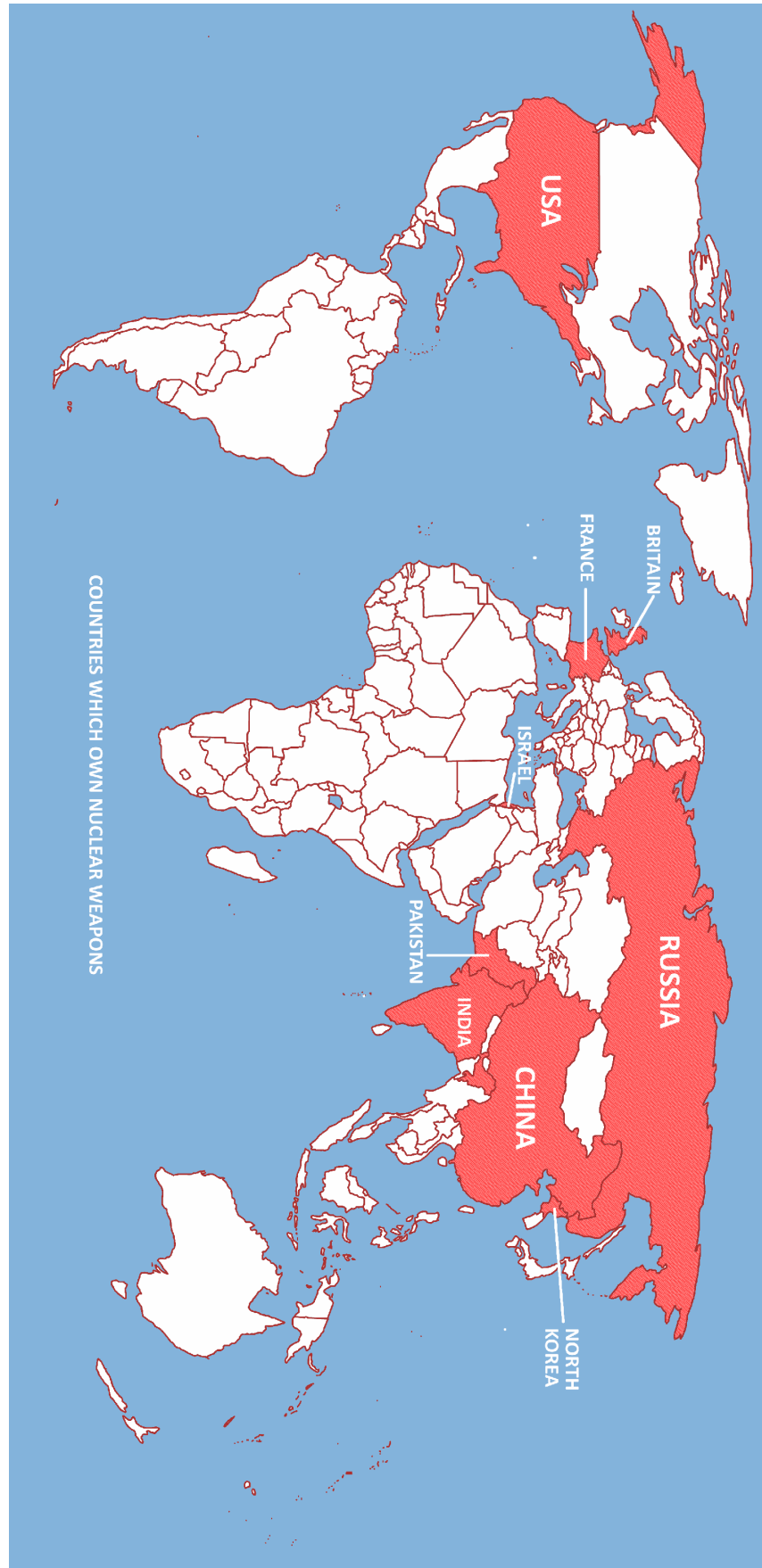
# The Nuclear Weapons Debate

## Task 1: Map of countries which own nuclear weapons



Countries which own nuclear weapons

Countries which do not own nuclear weapons



Year 2014

# The Nuclear Weapons Debate

## Task 2 - Views

*Read and discuss these views*

1. A nuclear war would contaminate the environment for hundreds of years.

2. By having the bomb we do not rely on others to defend ourselves.

3. People have jobs making the bomb.

5. Nuclear weapons have no use against terrorism.

4. Some countries, for example South Africa, gave up their nuclear weapons. Others should follow this good example.

7. The £76 billion spent on nuclear weapons would be better used in hospitals, healthcare & schools.

6. An accident could happen at a nuke base.

8. There are about 26,000 nuclear weapons in the world and they could destroy the human race many times over.

9. Nuclear weapons now exist in our world. There is no way of turning the clocks back so we should keep on making them.

10. Wars have still been fought since inventing the bomb.

11. Nuclear bombs are like knives on our streets today. If people have them then there is a big risk they will use them.

12. Britain is an important country because we have the bomb.

13. No nuclear weapons have been used since 1945 so they stopped nuclear wars.

14. Nuclear bases, such as Faslane in Scotland, are a target. They actually increase the risk of an attack.

15. Countries that have nuclear bombs will not be attacked as enemies are scared of what might happen.

16. Because we are so strong others will not attack us.

# The Nuclear Weapons Debate

## Task 3 - Views

*Put the views from task 2 under the correct heading*

For Nuclear Weapons	Against Nuclear Weapons



# The Nuclear Weapons Debate

## Task 4 - Prepare debate

### Team 1 - For Nuclear Weapons

#### Your challenge:

You have been challenged to write a speech for an upcoming debate on nuclear weapons (use the arguments from task 3).



- Work in groups of 3 - 4.
- Produce a speech (or series of speeches) that should last no more than three minutes in total.
- Allocate jobs (researchers, script writers and speech readers.)
- Make use of the following resources:
  - The school library;
  - School text books;
  - Fact or Opinion worksheet;
  - Quotes Worksheet;
  - The internet.

#### Rules:

- Everyone participates in the production and presentation of your group's work.
- Work within the timescales provided.
- Meet the product criteria - have you done what you were asked to do?

#### Timescale:

- Grouping and planning = remains of this period.
- Production and research = 1 period.
- Production = 1 period.

# The Nuclear Weapons Debate

## Task 4 - Prepare debate

### Team 2 - Against Nuclear Weapons

#### Your challenge:

You have been challenged to write a speech for an upcoming debate on nuclear weapons (use the arguments from task 3).



- Work in groups of 3 - 4.
- Produce a speech (or series of speeches) that should last no more than three minutes in total.
- Allocate jobs (researchers, script writers and speech readers.)
- Make use of the following resources:
  - The school library;
  - School text books;
  - Fact or Opinion worksheet;
  - Quotes Worksheet;
  - The internet.

#### Rules:

- Everyone participates in the production and presentation of your group's work.
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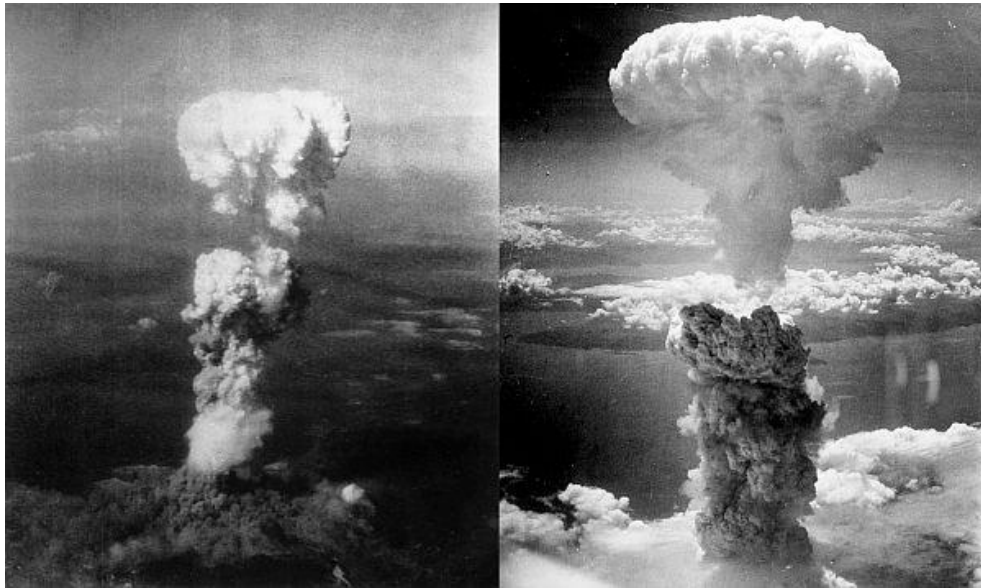
#### Timescale:

- Grouping and planning = remains of this period.
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## Challenge - The Hiroshima Debate

### Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs

At the end of World War II (1939-45) United States aircraft dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Throughout the war the bombing of civilians grew in intensity. Many Japanese cities, but not Hiroshima nor Nagasaki, were fire bombed resulting in tens of thousands of casualties. The atomic bombs dropped in August 1945 were thousands of times more powerful than high explosive bombs. Both cities were destroyed. Since then no atomic bombs have been used in war.



*Nagasaki and Hiroshima mushroom clouds*



*Hiroshima was burnt to ashes*



*The devastated city of Nagasaki*

# Challenge - The Hiroshima Debate

## Quotes

**For the use of atomic bombs:**



*Winston Churchill*

"I am surprised that very worthy people – but people who had in most cases had no intention of proceeding to the Japanese front themselves – should adopt a position that rather than throw this bomb we should have sacrificed a million American and a quarter of a million British lives"

**Winston Churchill**

"If the atomic bomb had not been used ...there would have been many more months of death and destruction"

**Karl Compton - physicist**

"Japan's armed forces were determined to fight a final Armageddon battle."

**Richard Frank - historian**



*"Little Boy" weapon in the pit ready for loading into the bomb bay of Enola Gay.*

# Challenge - The Hiroshima Debate

## Quotes

### Against the use of atomic bombs:

“Japan was that very moment seeking some way to surrender with minimum loss of face. It wasn’t necessary to hit them with that awful thing.”

**General Eisenhower** - Allied  
Commander, Europe



*General Eisenhower addresses troops*

“It would be a mistake to suppose that the fate of Japan was settled by the atomic bomb. Her defeat was certain before the first bomb fell and was brought about by overwhelming maritime power.”

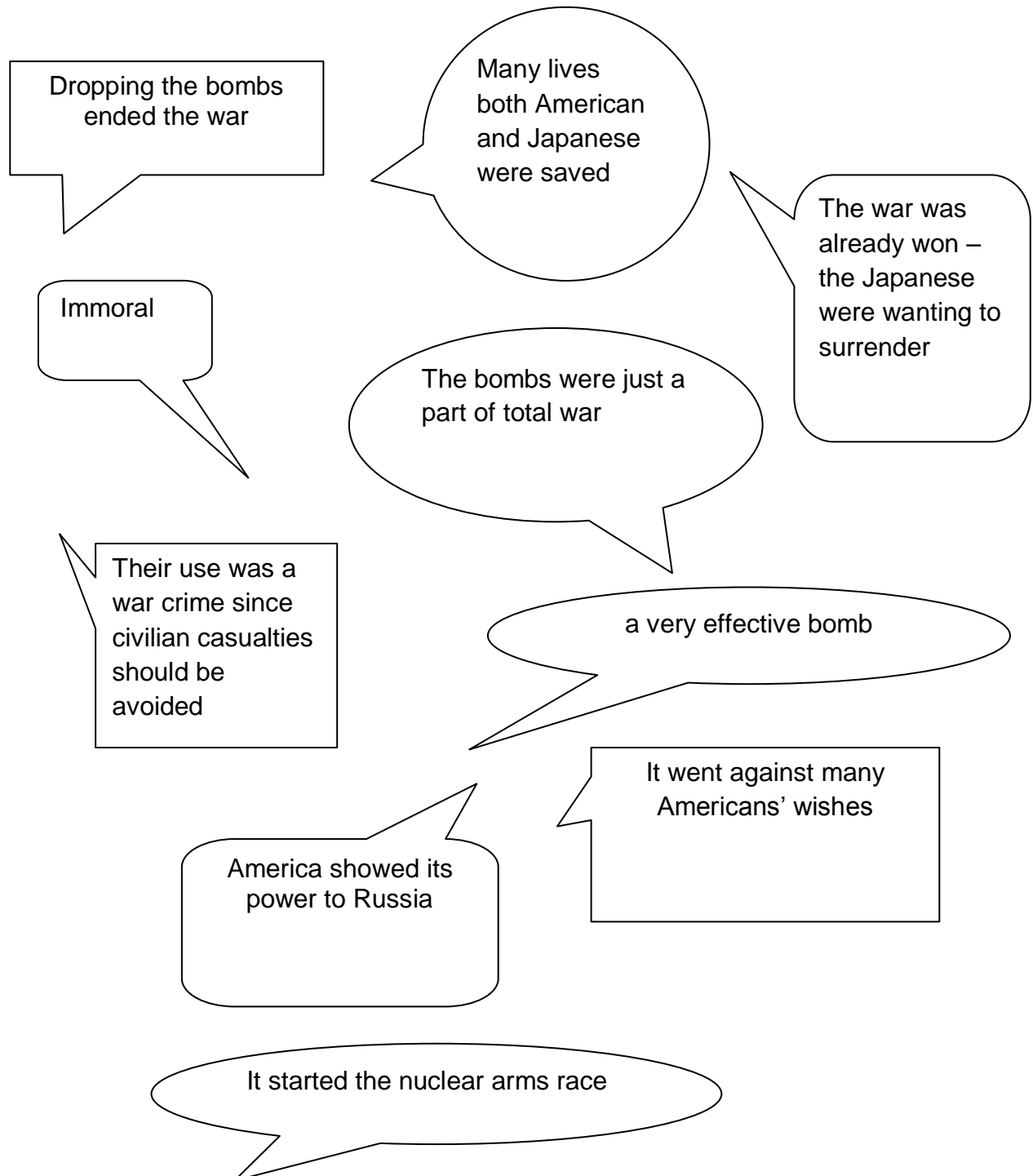
**Winston Churchill**

“The Soviet Union’s entry into the war against Japan was decisive in hastening the end of the war in the Pacific which would have occurred even if the atomic bomb had not been used. The swift blow struck at Japan by the Red Army completed the encirclement which forced Japan to surrender.”

**General Chennault** - Commander of the US Air Force in China

## Challenge - The Hiroshima Debate

### Points of view



## Challenge - The Hiroshima Debate

### Points of view

*Now, using all the information you have got, fill-in this table and at the end add your own opinion.*

<b>Yes</b> - the bombs should have been dropped	<b>No</b> - the bombs should not have been dropped

## Challenge - Considering the Cold War

At the end of World War 2 America dropped two atomic bombs on Japanese cities - Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This showed Russia how powerful America had become.

After the war America and Russia were very suspicious of each other. America was a capitalist country and Russia was communist. Over the years they built, tested and stored more and more nuclear bombs.

This contest became known as the **Cold War** because there was no direct fighting between Russian and American soldiers. However, there were wars and conflicts around the world. The Cold War started in 1945 and ended in 1990.

Both countries used spies to find out when new weapons were made and tested by the other country. Using spies increased suspicion and tension.

People all over the world were worried that one country might launch a nuclear missile by mistake. If this happened the other would retaliate. This could cause lots of missiles to be fired and could end the world.

Today the Cold War is over but America, Russia and other countries have thousands of nuclear weapons.



*Soviet nuclear ballistic missile during the Cold War*



## Challenge - Considering the Cold War

Name the two cities which had nuclear bombs dropped on them in the Second World War.

Name the main two countries that were involved in the Cold War.

How long did the Cold War last?

What were spies used for in the Cold War?

The Cold War has ended, but what do we still have?

## Challenge - Considering the Cold War

### What caused the Cold War?

#### What are the differences between Communism and Capitalism?

***Read and highlight or underline key points.***

The nuclear arms race was caused by a big difference between America and Russia. They had very different ideas about how people, communities and the world should be run.

America believed in capitalism. This meant that they thought people should be able to earn their own money and should develop their own ways to make money. If people worked hard they would succeed and become very wealthy. However, with that wealth came some responsibilities. People had to look after themselves with healthcare and housing in a capitalist country.

Russia had different ideas about how the world should be run. It had become a Communist country and agreed with the ideas of Karl Marx (his ideas are sometimes called Marxism or Communism). Communists did not think that people should own things that can produce massive amounts of money (eg factories etc). Communism thought that the government should own businesses and that way it could make sure everyone received a fair share of money and profits. In a communist country there should not be a big difference between rich and poor.

**Task:** Each of these statements refers to a capitalist or communist idea. Write which is each

The government should provide all education, healthcare and housing \_\_\_\_\_

Private education, healthcare and housing are encouraged \_\_\_\_\_

You are allowed to make as much money as you can and can keep it \_\_\_\_\_

The government controls all profits made and gives you enough to live on \_\_\_\_\_

You are allowed to run your own business and keep the profits \_\_\_\_\_

The government decide what products are made in factories \_\_\_\_\_

There are clear differences between people depending on money made \_\_\_\_\_

There is no working class, middle class or upper class \_\_\_\_\_

## Challenge - Considering the Cold War

### The Arms Race

The differences between America and Russia were in their ideas of how to run a country. Nuclear weapons were not the reason for the conflict between them however they made these tensions worse as both countries began to build them.

People feared that the race to build more weapons would end up with one of the two countries firing a weapon at the other one. This period was known as the Cold War.

**Task:**

Produce a cartoon which shows the race between Russia and America to build more and more nuclear weapons. The cartoon should show the huge number of nuclear weapons built.

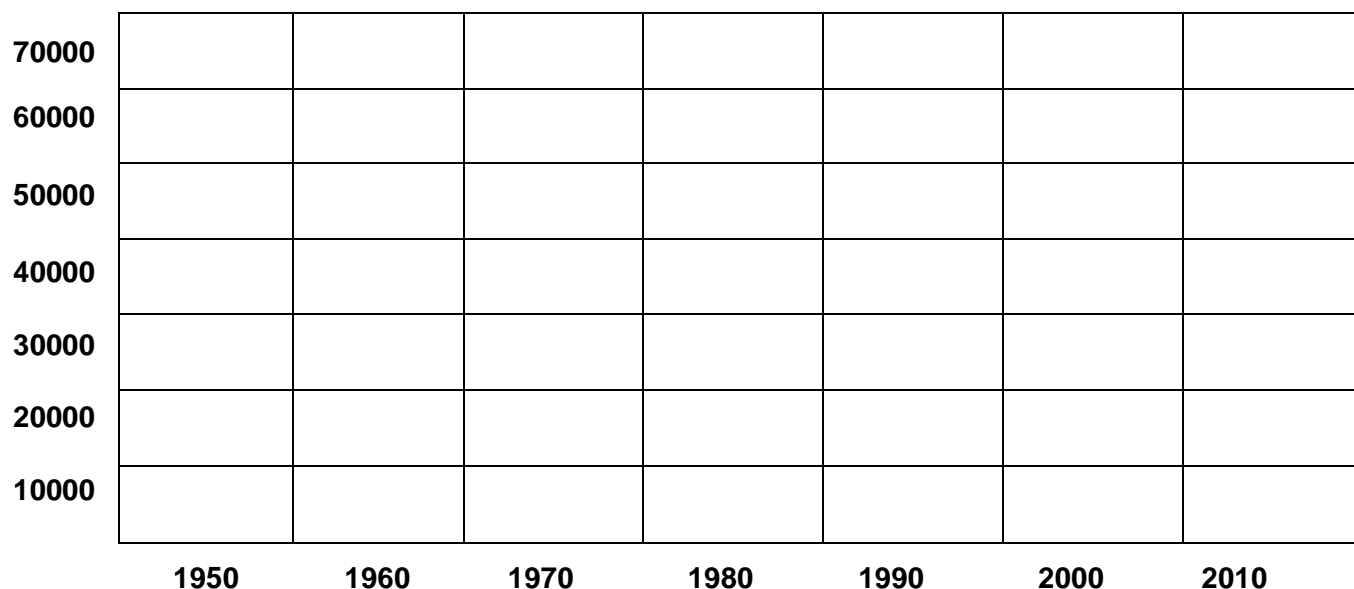
## Further Challenge - Bar Graph Exercise

### The number of nuclear weapons in the world

The table below shows how many nuclear weapons there were in the world in each year:

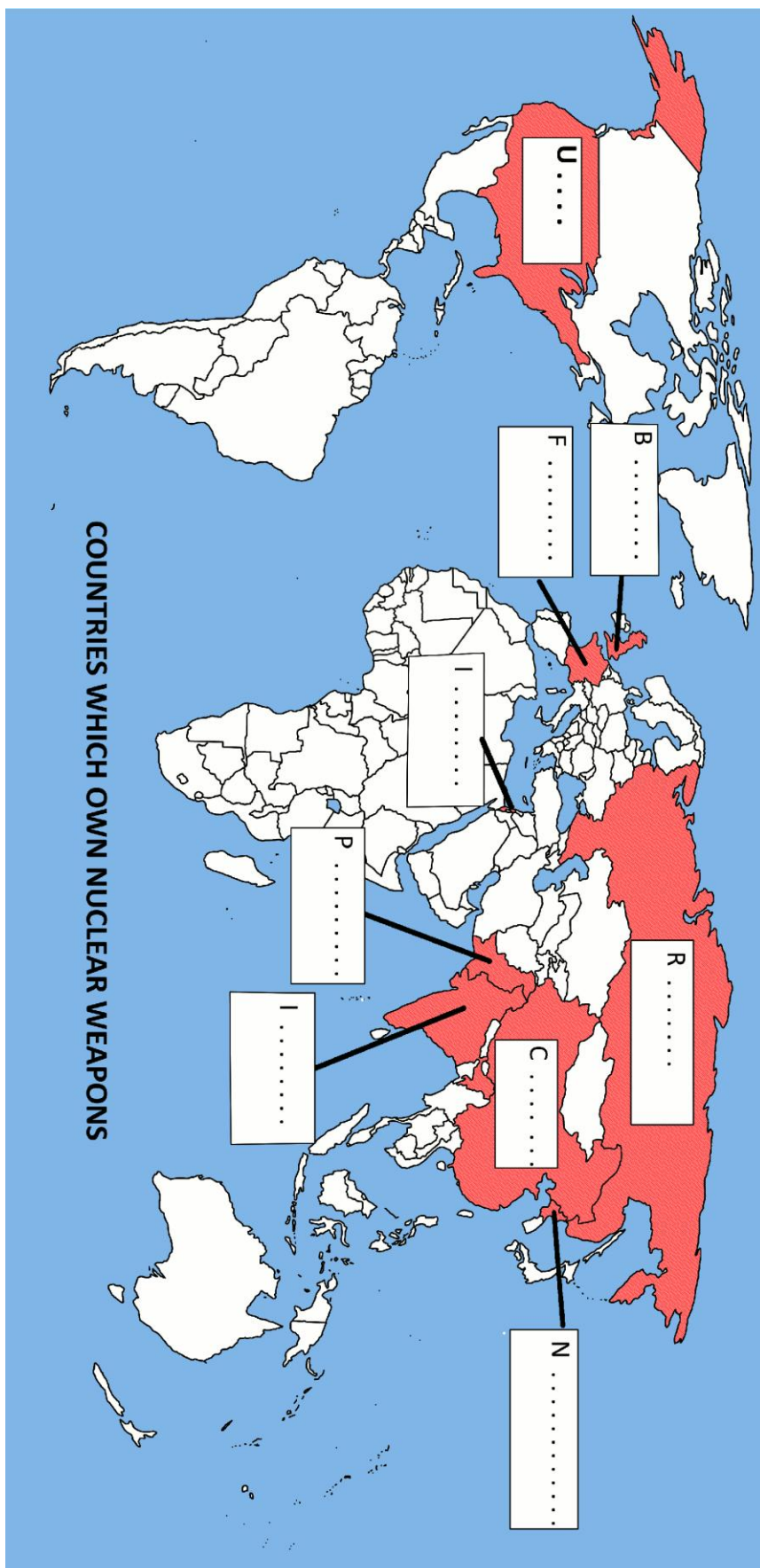
Year	Number of nuclear weapons
1950	300
1960	20000
1970	38000
1980	55000
1990	60000
2000	33000
2010	21000

Draw a bar chart to show the number of nuclear weapon in each year:



## Further Challenge - Map Exercise

### Countries which own nuclear weapons (2013)



Country	UK	China	France	India	Israel	North Korea	Pakistan	Russia	USA
Number of Nuclear Weapons	225	300	300	80	200	6	90	8500	7700

Show on the map which countries own nuclear weapons and how many they have.

- Write the name of each country in the box on the map.
- Below the name of the country, write down how many nuclear weapons the country has.

## Further Challenge - Design a badge

Design a badge *for* or *against* nuclear weapons.

