



How do we protect both our borders and our ideals?

Overview

Nuclear Reactions: Atomic Diplomacy at the Marin Headlands is designed to supplement your unit on the Cold War. Resources in this packet introduce students to the Nike missile site that operated in the Marin Headlands from during the 1950s until the early 1970s. The historic site, located near a major urban area, offers students the opportunity to consider the national significance and impact of the Cold War from a local perspective: its definition of security, the technology it spawned, the role of diplomacy, and public perceptions of the era. Using these resources, students also can be prompted to conduct research into primary and secondary sources that continue the story of nuclear technology in our political and economic world of today.

Specifically, *Nuclear Reactions* links to the following standards:

National Education Standards for Social Studies:

Content Standard 26

- Understands scientific and technological developments in America after World War II

Performance Standard

- Students identify the role of military technology in the Cold War and demonstrate their understanding of its meaning through reflective learning activities about a national historic site emblematic of the era.

Content Standard 27

- Understands factors that contributed to the development of the Cold War (e.g., the practice of “atomic diplomacy”).

Content Standard 43

- Understands the impact of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Performance Standard

- Students examine the Cold War notions of national security and interpret the implications of “atomic diplomacy” from a national and local perspective.

California State Education Standards for Social Studies:

Content Standard 11.9

- Students analyze U.S. foreign policy since World War II: Trace the origins and geopolitical consequences (foreign and domestic) of the Cold War and containment policy, including the following:
Atomic testing in the American West, the “mutual assured destruction” doctrine, and disarmament policies

Performance Standard

- Students explain the desired, and perceived, impact, of the “mutual assured destruction doctrine” on the national consciousness through self-directed study.



Nuclear Reactions encourages Historical and Social Studies Analysis Skills, including historical interpretation in which students show the connections between particular historical events and larger political trends, as well as interpret past events and issues within the context in which the event unfolded. Students hone their skills in working collectively and respecting the opinions of others.