

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

The Berlin Wall 20 Years After the Fall, 11/06/2009

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/july-dec09/berlinwall_11-06.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is special about November 9, 2009?
2. Why was the fall of the Berlin Wall so important?
3. What was the Berlin Wall?
4. How was the city of Berlin divided after WWII?
5. What happened in the years after Berlin was separated into East and West Berlin?
6. Why did East Germany build the Berlin Wall?
7. What was the "Iron Curtain?"
8. When did the Berlin Wall fall? What happened?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What lessons can be learned from the story of the Berlin Wall? What has the fall of the wall come to symbolize?
2. What did the fall of the Berlin Wall mean to the Germans, the United States and the rest of Europe?
3. North Korea and South Korea are still divided by a line drawn during the Cold War. How and why are they divided? How does it affect the people living there? Are there other "walls" or dividing lines around the world that you can think of?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.