From What you have learned so far, describe Ronald Reagan in 25 words.

Be prepared to read out your answer...
Why did the Cold War end?
Lesson 5 - Ronald Reagan... the second Cold War.

Learning Gain - by the end of this lesson I will be able to give details of the 'Stars Wars' (SDI) project Reagan introduced during the second Cold War, analysing the Soviet response to it.

Learning Steps:

• Gain an overview of the events of the period
• Investigate a Case Study: 'Star Wars' (SDI)
• Analyse the consequences of Reagan's aggressive foreign policy
President Reagan was elected in November 1980, defeating President Jimmy Carter. Reagan’s message was to rebuild American military strength after the Vietnam war and the Iranian hostage crisis. His “evil empire” speech increased tensions with the Soviet Union.

Reagan started secret operations in support of the mujahideen in Afghanistan and the “Contras” in Nicaragua. Both these policies were designed to challenge the spread of Communism in the world.

With the invasion of Grenada (another emerging communist state) and his surprising announcement of the “Strategic Defense Initiative” (critics dubbed it “Star Wars”) in 1983, he seemed to be prepared to start a new arms race.

The 'Second Cold War' had started...
Why did the Cold War end?
Lesson 5 - Ronald Reagan... the second Cold War.

Read your information sheet. It may be a good idea to highlight important information on your sheet as you go along...

Watch the clip below about Reagan's SDI initiative.

Add notes from the video to this section of your sheet...
Why did the Cold War end?
Lesson 5 - Ronald Reagan... the second Cold War.

**Task:**

Use your information sheet and the notes you have made from the video clip to complete the task opposite in your book.
Why did the Cold War end?
Lesson 5 - Ronald Reagan... the second Cold War.

Exam question: Describe how SDI affected the relationship between the USA and the USSR. (6 marks)

- A basic answer (level 1) contains simple statements that are accurate but contain no supporting examples.
- A good answer (level 2) contains statements that are accurate and are developed with specific information.
- An excellent answer (full marks) includes two or three detailed statements. Each statement must make a relevant point, backed up with specific examples and an explanation of how this affected the relationship between the USA and the USSR.

For the question above, you can use the notes you made on your spider diagram. How would you develop and explain the following effects of SDI?
- SDI broke from détente.
- SDI turned the space race into an arms race.
- SDI ensured that the USSR could no longer keep up in the arms race.

Top tip: Structure is really important when answering a question such as the one on page 57 (about how SDI affected the superpowers’ relationship). Rather than writing everything you know, break down your answer into three key points. Ensure that you back up each point with examples before moving on to the next point.