



**'detente - isn't that what a farmer has with
his turkey until Thanksgiving Day?'
(Reagan)**

*What do you think Ronald Reagan meant when he said this?
Be prepared to share your thoughts...*

14th January



Why did the Cold War end?
Lesson 5 - Ronald Reagan... no more
Mr Nice Guy!



Learning Gain - by the end of this lesson I will be able to analyse how and why Ronald Reagan's foreign policy stance towards the USSR became more aggressive.



Learning Steps:



- Find out who Ronald Reagan, the President of USA (1981 - 1989), was
- Investigate the beliefs and character of Ronald Reagan
- Highlight reasons why Reagan rejected the US policy of detente



Why did the Cold War end?
Lesson 4 - Ronald Reagan... no more Mr Nice Guy!



Ronald Reagan was elected President in 1981, becoming the 40th President of the USA. But who was he?

Watch the short video clip and make a few notes in your book under the title.

Ronald Reagan: Fact File!





Why did the Cold War end? Lesson 4 - Ronald Reagan... no more Mr Nice Guy!



When Reagan took office he was quick to criticise the policy of detente followed by earlier Presidents. This should not have been a surprise though. In a speech made in October 1964 called 'A Time For Choosing', Reagan clearly outlined his thoughts and feelings about the relationship between the USA and the USSR.



Questions:

1. Who is 'the enemy' Reagan keeps referring to?
2. What does Reagan think the USA should do to its 'enemy'?
3. Write down 3 words that describe the tone of this speech.





Why did the Cold War end?
Lesson 4 - Ronald Reagan... no more Mr Nice Guy!



Main



How was Reagan different?

Reagan's approach to US foreign policy was different to many of the former US Presidents.

Some historians have said that Nixon and Carter tried to make sure that the US' relationship with the USSR didn't get any worse. They were desperate not to 'lose' the Cold War.

Reagan was different. He actively set about a more aggressive approach towards the Soviet Union; Reagan wanted to 'win' the Cold War.



Why did the Cold War end? Lesson 4 - Ronald Reagan... no more Mr Nice Guy!



Main



What did Reagan believe in?

When Reagan took office in the US, he had 3 main aims:

1. He wanted to make America strong again on the international stage. He did not want to be 'equal' with the Soviet Union, he wanted to be stronger.
2. He wanted more people around the world to reject communism and embrace democracy. He tried to do this by creating a feeling of 'them' and 'us', 'evil' and 'good'. In Reagan's eyes, democracy was 'right', whilst communism was 'wrong'.
3. Linked with point 2, he wanted to make sure that Communism did not spread into new areas of the world, in particular the Third World.

It is also important to remember that Reagan was a christian with a strong belief in God. He often used this and claimed that God was on his, and the American people's, side - The side of 'good'.



Why did the Cold War end? Lesson 4 - Ronald Reagan... no more Mr Nice Guy!



The 'Evil Empire' Speech



The Evil Empire speech was a very important speech that gave a great insight into the beliefs and character of Reagan. Watch a short extract by clicking on the link in the picture.



Task:

Read the extracts from the 'Evil Empire' speech made by Reagan and then complete the tasks on the sheet.





Why did the Cold War end?
Lesson 4 - Ronald Reagan... no more Mr Nice Guy!



Plenary



In 3 sentences, describe the US approach to the USSR under Reagan.



Next time we will look at the actions of Reagan's government between 1981 and 1989.

