



# **BEFORE YOUR VISIT**

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**Information to help prepare students  
for an upcoming museum visit**



# INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

- » This resource provides guidance on explaining the Cold War to students as well as information for behaving in the museum.
- » When visiting the Diefenbunker, students occasionally become anxious and overwhelmed by what they are learning and observing within the museum.
- » We understand that educators may not have reached the Cold War in their curriculum yet, however we believe students will gain a better outcome from the visit with a base understanding.

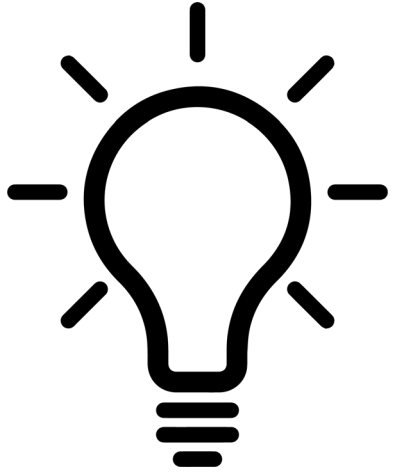


# IN THIS PRESENTATION

- »» What is the Diefenbunker?
- »» Cold War information for students
- »» Rules to follow while visiting the museum



**Tip: Whenever you see the lightbulb icon, there is a question for students to answer**



# **WHAT IS THE DIEFENBUNKER?**

**Have you heard of the Diefenbunker before?**

**Have you visited it?**



# THE DIEFENBUNKER

- » Built by the government of Canada during the Cold War
- » Operated as a military base from 1961 to 1994
- » Now Canada's Cold War Museum and a national historic site, it opened as a museum in 1998 to educate visitors about the Cold War

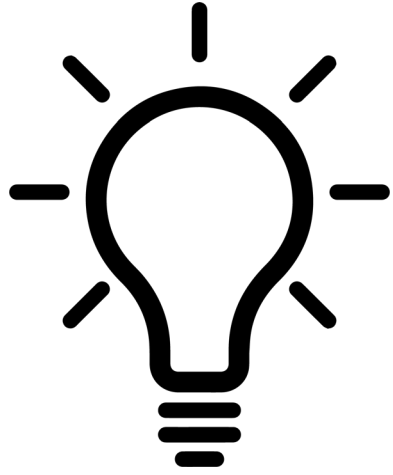




# BUNKER FUN FACTS



- »» The Bunker has four storeys and is 100,000 square feet
- »» Originally was designated the Central Emergency Government Headquarters (CEGHQ)
- »» Built to withstand the force of a 5-megaton nuclear bomb from approximately two km away



# **WHAT IS THE COLD WAR?**

**What do you already know about the Cold War?**



# THE COLD WAR

- » A state of political tension between the Americans and their allies (NATO), and the Soviet Union and their allies (Warsaw Pact) between 1945 and 1991
- » Both the US and the Soviet Union had access to atomic bombs
- » Created mutually assured destruction (MAD), meaning they were less likely to start a war

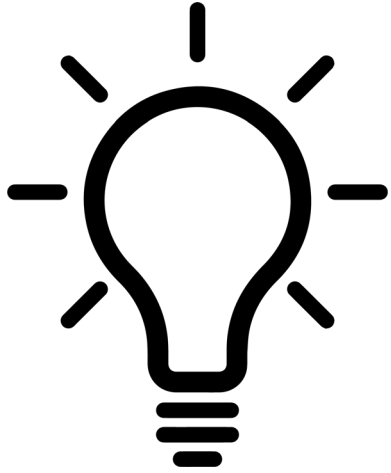




# WHY DO WE STUDY THE COLD WAR?



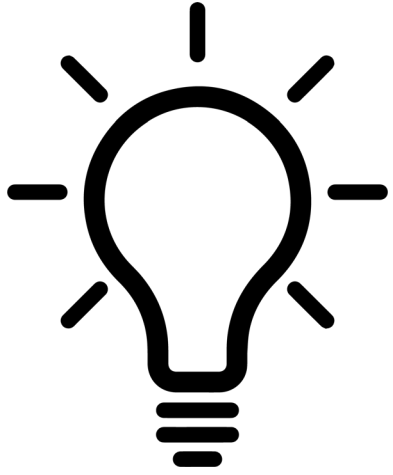
- »» Since neither country wanted nuclear war, they fought through propaganda and economic influence
- »» Tensions cooled after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989
- »» However, the Cold War still has long-term effects present in society today



# **DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS**

- 1. Why do you think the Diefenbunker was built?**
- 2. Why do you think it was called a "cold war"?**
- 3. Do you think the Diefenbunker would still work today?**
- 4. Do you think the government has a new nuclear bunker?**





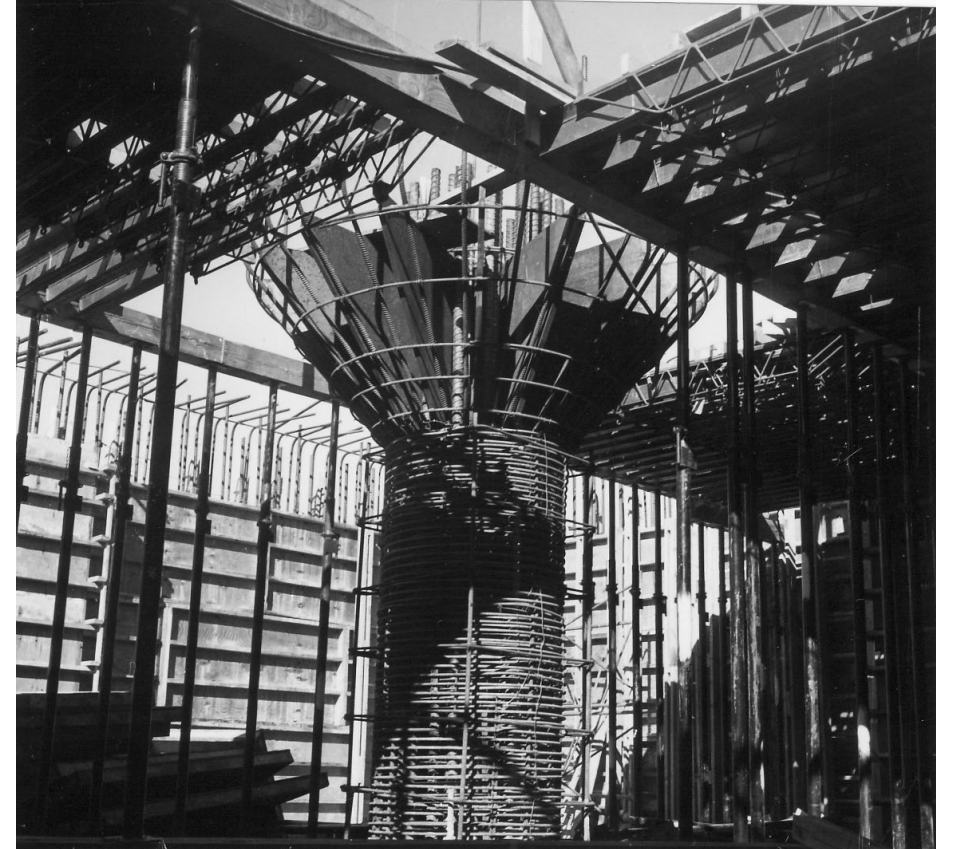
# DISCUSSION

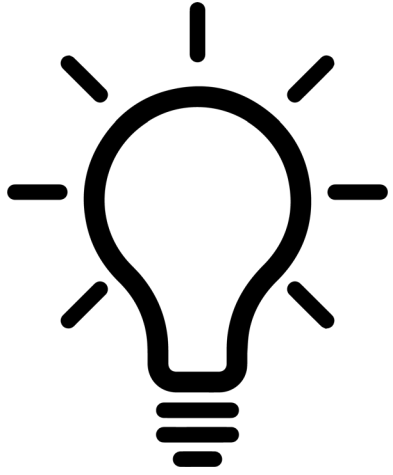
**1. Why do you think the Diefenbunker was built?**



# WHY WAS THE DIEFENBUNKER BUILT?

- » Commissioned in 1959 to be a safe place for key members of the government and military
- » Would have been used as a shelter to maintain government leadership for 30 days in the event of a nuclear attack
- » Fortunately, it was never used as an emergency headquarters, though it did operate as a military base from 1961 to 1994





# DISCUSSION

**2. Why do you think it was called a “cold war”?**



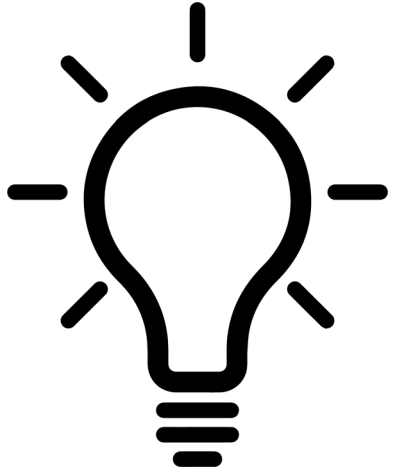


# WHY WAS IT CALLED A “COLD WAR”?



- A state of hostility — without open warfare — between countries
- When the bunker was built, there was high-stakes espionage and a war of information
- However, in the late 20th century, there were active proxy wars
- These included the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Afghanistan War





# DISCUSSION

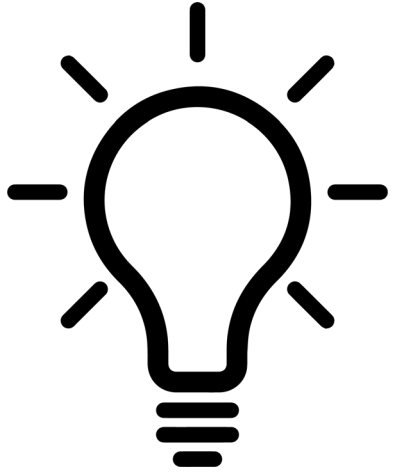
**3. Do you think the Diefenbunker would still work today?**



# WOULD THE DIEFENBUNKER STILL WORK TODAY?

- »» The Diefenbunker was decommissioned in 1994 and all of the machinery and furniture was taken away
- »» The site is no longer equipped to support hundreds of people sheltering for 30 days
- »» The location is no longer a secret, and the building would not hold up against modern-day nuclear weapons





# DISCUSSION

**4. Do you think the government has a new nuclear bunker?**





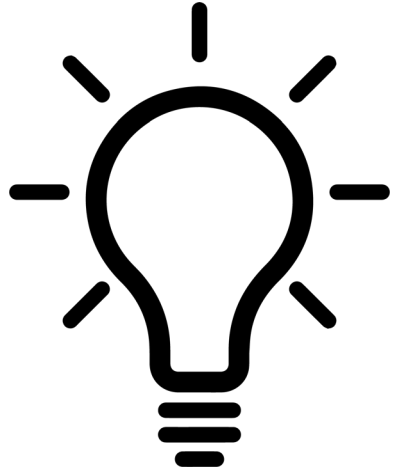
# DID CANADA BUILD A NEW NUCLEAR BUNKER?

As of: EMGOV FACILITIES		As of: 2002 GOVERNMENTAL SITES	
SITE	PROTECTED	SITE	PROTECTED
CENTRAL	COMB	ONTARIO	COMB
CEGHO CARP	✓	90 REGHO BORDEN	86
CRU KEMPTVILLE	✓	88 RRU ORILLIA	79
CRU CARLETON PL.	✓	88 ZEGHO BARRIE	63
CRU SMITH FALLS	✓	92 ZEGHO LONDON	73
CRU ABRIPRIOR	✓	100 ZEGHO HAMILTON KITCHENER	NOT ACTIVATED
CRU PEMBROKE	✓	99 ZEGHO THUNDER BAY	DESTROYED 16-15-92 2 Sept
CRU CORNWALL	✓	ZEGHO SUDBURY	✓ 69
<b>B.C.</b>		ZEGHO KINGSTON OTTAWA	NOT ACTIVATED
REGHO NANAIMO	✓	79 ZEGHO BELLEVILLE-TRENTON	NOT ACTIVATED
RRU NANAIMO	✓	<b>QUEBEC</b>	
ZEGHO NANAIMO	✓	71 REGHO VALCARTIER	91
ZEGHO LOWER MAINLAND	NOT ACTIVATED	RRU RIGAUD	NOT ACTIVATED
ZEGHO P. RUPERT	✓	40 ZEGHO RIMOUSKI	64
ZEGHO P. GEORGE	✓	63 ZEGHO CHICOUTIMI	77
ZEGHO NELSON	✓	89 ZEGHO QUEBEC CITY	NOT ACTIVATED
ZEGHO KAMLOOPS	✓	92 ZEGHO SHAWINIGAN	92
<b>ALBERTA</b>		ZEGHO SHERBROOKE	83
REGHO PENHOLD	✓	96 ZEGHO ST. JEROME	59
RRU HINTON	NOT ACTIVATED	ZEGHO HULL/OUTAOUAIS	NOT ACTIVATED
ZEGHO CAMROSE	✓	74 ZEGHO ROUYON NOR	NOT ACTIVATED
ZEGHO OLDS	✓	47 ZEGHO B. COMEAU	71
ZEGHO GR. PRAIRIE	✓	83 <b>NEW BRUNSWICK</b>	
<b>SASKATCHEWAN</b>		REGHO FREDRICKTON	53
REGHO REGINA	✓	RRU (A/REGHO)	54
RRU REGINA	NOT ACTIVATED	<b>NOVA SCOTIA</b>	
<b>MANITOBA</b>		REGHO DEBERT	97
REGHO SHILO	✓	78 RRU TRURO	NOT ACTIVATED
RRU BRANDON	NOT ACTIVATED	ZEGHO KENTVILLE	✓
ZEGHO PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	✓	64 ZEGHO SYDNEY	✓
ZEGHO BRANDON	✓	77 ZEGHO TRURO	✓
		<b>P.E.I.</b>	
NOT ACTIVATED		REGHO CHARLOTTETOWN	✓

- No, the threat of nuclear war decreased significantly by the end of the Cold War
- The Canadian government no longer has a dedicated department to assist in case of nuclear emergencies
- The museum is separate from the government and is not involved in future planning







# **RULES FOR VISITING THE MUSEUM**

**What are some rules you think you should follow during your visit?**



# MUSEUM BEHAVIOURS

- » Stay with your guide
- » Be respectful of your guide and other visitors (e.g., no yelling or running)
- » Do not touch the fire, electrical, or water equipment
- » For drinking, use the water coolers, not the water fountains
- » Ask before you touch anything
- » Have fun!

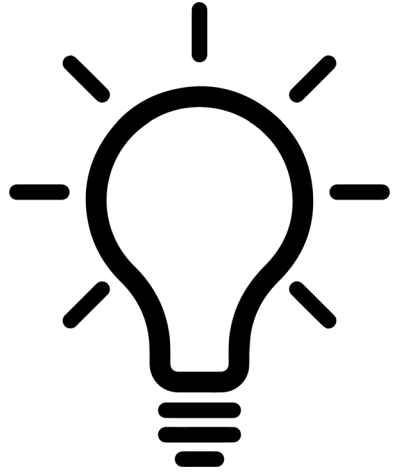




# **DIEFENBUNKER**

CANADA'S COLD WAR MUSEUM | MUSÉE CANADIEN DE LA GUERRE FROIDE

**We hope you enjoy  
your visit!**



# **POST-VISIT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**What did you think about your experience?**



# POST-VISIT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- »» If you were in a role that was designated to be stationed at the Diefenbunker in the event of a nuclear attack, would you have accepted your invitation or chosen to stay with your family?
- »» Do you think the Diefenbunker was a good investment by the government?
- »» How did your visit to the Diefenbunker change your understanding of the Cold War?
- »» Why is it important that we study the Cold War and the Diefenbunker?

