

M A Y

DAILY COMPREHENSION

REM 1110

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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INTRODUCTION

Daily Comprehension is a nine-book series with each volume covering a single month from September through May. The format features an “on-this-day-in-history” approach. A short, factual story about a person, place, or event is presented for each day of the month and was chosen because of its particular significance on that certain date.

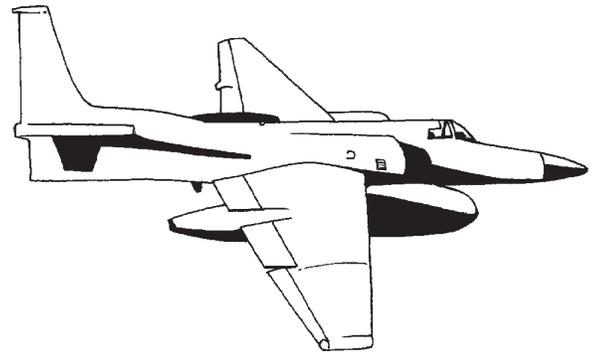
Each story is accompanied by an activity page which tests the student’s comprehension of the article’s content. Activities include questions, crossword puzzles, fill-in-the-blanks, and more. A related research project for each story requires the use of a dictionary, almanac, encyclopedia, or atlas.

The books are designed for use in grades 5 – 12. Readability is on the 3rd – 4th grade level.

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U-2 INCIDENT



In the mid-1940's, a "cold war" started between the United States and Russia. A cold war is when leaders of nations strongly disagree with each other but do not actually start fighting a military war. They do, however, watch each other carefully to find out if the "enemy" is doing something that might threaten the safety and security of their countries. One way of keeping watch is to have spies search for information.

On May 1, 1960, a U-2 spy plane was shot down over Russia. The pilot was Francis Gary Powers. He was working for the United States government. His mission was to secretly photograph Russian military bases.

Powers survived the crash and was taken prisoner by the Russians. U.S. officials said Powers was gathering high-altitude weather information and had accidentally flown off his

course. The Russians did not believe this. They sentenced Powers to ten years in prison in Russia.

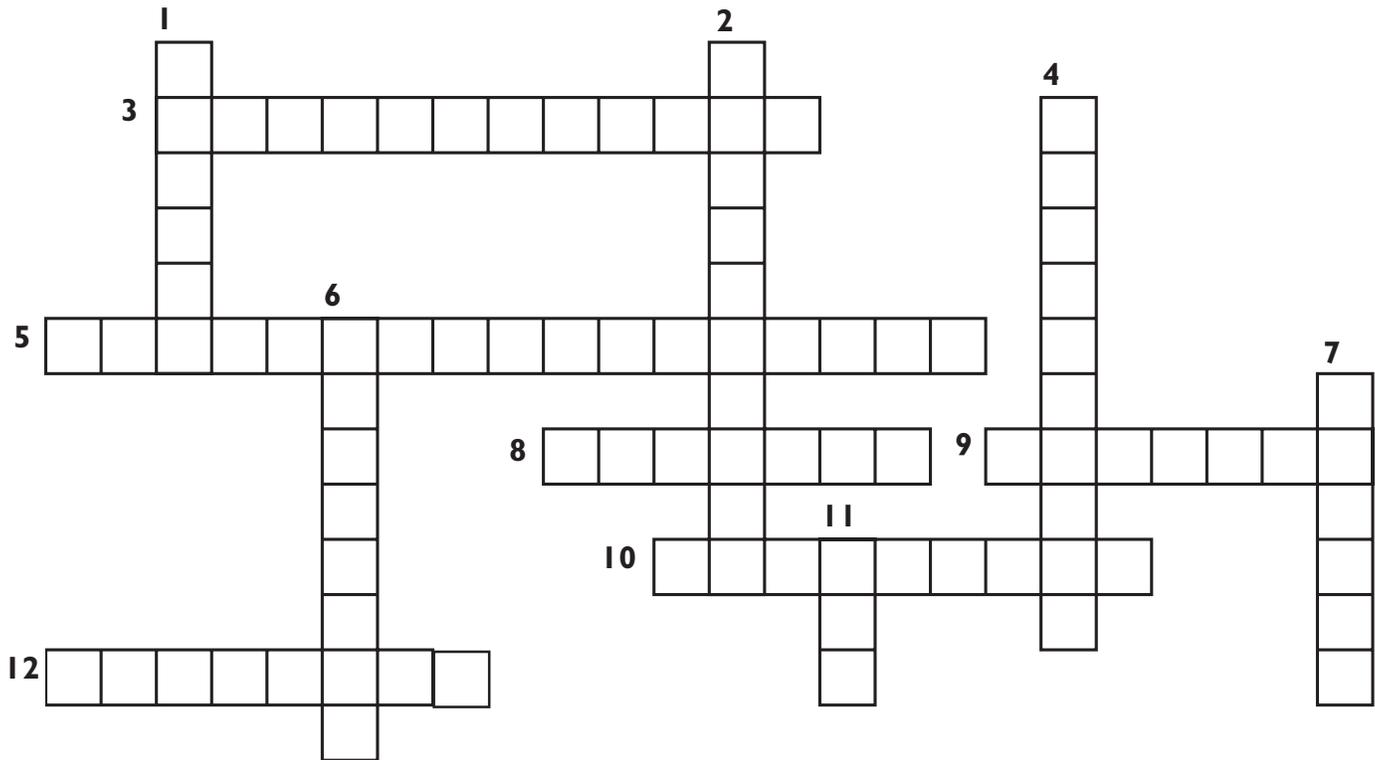
The incident caused added tension between Russia and the United States. President Eisenhower and Russian Premier Krushchev had planned to meet on May 2 to try to work out some of their differences. When Powers' plane was brought down, Krushchev refused to have the meeting.

In 1962, Powers was returned home in exchange for a Russian spy who was in prison in the United States. In 1977, at age 48, Powers died in a helicopter crash near Los Angeles, California.

The cold war continued until the early 1990's. That's when Russia's form of government changed and the U.S. and Russia were able to solve many of their problems.

U-2 INCIDENT

Complete the crossword puzzle.



Across

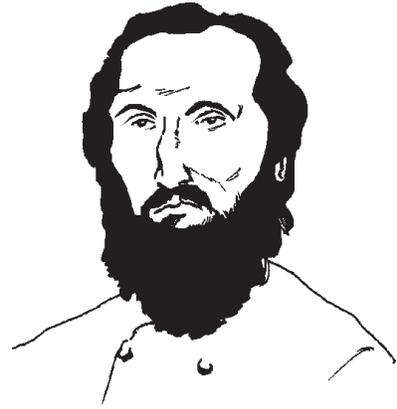
- 3. U.S.
- 5. name of pilot who crashed in Russia
- 8. atmospheric conditions
- 9. a kind of conflict with no military war
- 10. name of Russian official
- 12. to give one for another

Down

- 1. large country in Europe and Asia
- 2. Powers died in a _____ crash.
- 4. U.S. President
- 6. a happening or event that can cause trouble
- 7. Powers spent two years in a Russian _____.
- 11. The U-2 was a _____ plane.

Research: Russia’s form of government was called communism. What does that mean? Use a dictionary or encyclopedia for help.

FRIENDLY FIRE



Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson was a Confederate general in the Civil War. A tragic mistake on May 2, 1863, led to his untimely death a short time later.

Jackson was born in 1824 in West Virginia. As a young man, he entered West Point Military Academy where he graduated in 1846 near the top of his class.

After graduation, he fought in the Mexican War and soon rose in rank from captain to major. Then he became an instructor at the Virginia Military Institute. When the Civil War started, he was made a brigadier general in the army of the South.

His ability to inspire troops to acts of endurance and heroism led to defeats of Union forces sometimes twice as large as his own. At the battle of Bull Run in 1861, it was said that Jackson and his men “stood like a stone

wall” against the enemy. Thereafter he was known as Stonewall Jackson.

In battle after battle, he outsmarted the armies of the North. In 1863, by a clever flank movement, he defeated General Hooker’s army at Chancellorsville, Virginia. On May 2, in the evening of his victory, General Jackson and a few of his men were returning to their camp from a trip to learn more about the enemy’s position. They were fired on by their own soldiers who mistakenly thought they were spies from Hooker’s army. Jackson was seriously wounded. He died on May 10.

In modern wars, when soldiers are accidentally killed by their own side, they are reported as having died from friendly fire. General Stonewall Jackson was a victim of friendly fire.

Name _____

FRIENDLY FIRE

Answer the questions.

1. The story is about an accident in what war? _____
2. General Jackson fought on which side of the war? _____
3. How did he get the name Stonewall? _____

4. Write the letter of the meaning next to the word.

outsmart _____	a. an attack by one's own soldiers
inspire _____	b. ability to withstand hardship
friendly fire _____	c. to cause others to feel or act a certain way
flank _____	d. one who is harmed by the actions of another
endurance _____	e. to overcome, or get the better of someone by quick thinking
victim _____	f. to the right or left side of a formation
5. Name two locations of battles mentioned in the story.

6. How did Jackson become a victim of friendly fire?

7. Circle all the words that could describe Stonewall Jackson.
courageous intelligent cowardly skillful dull-witted
8. What word in paragraph four of the story is made from the word "able"?

Research: Read more about the Civil War. What happened at Appomattox Court House, Virginia? Use an encyclopedia or dictionary for help.