



ISD Virtual Learning

11th/US History

April 8, 2020



Grade/Course

Lesson: April 8, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Explain the US rationale for the Bay of Pigs invasion and the various ways the mission failed..

Warm Up

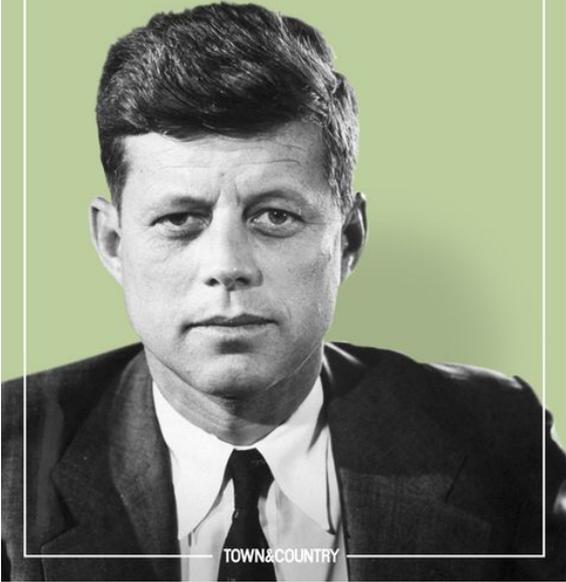
John Fitzgerald Kennedy was elected the 35th President of the United States in 1961. To date he has been the only Roman Catholic President of the US, but contrary to popular belief was not the youngest President (that title belongs to Teddy Roosevelt). He is one of 4 Presidents who have been assassinated.

On the following page, there are three quotes from JFK. Pick one that stands out to you, and on a separate piece of paper write 4-7 sentences of what it means to you.



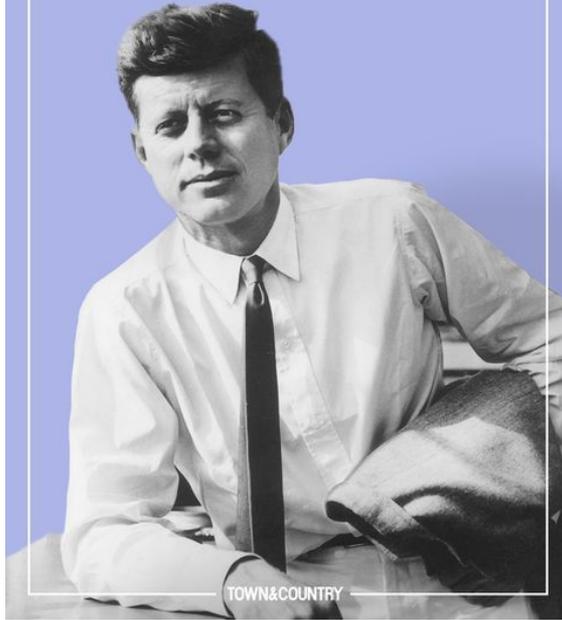
“Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.”

- JOHN F. KENNEDY



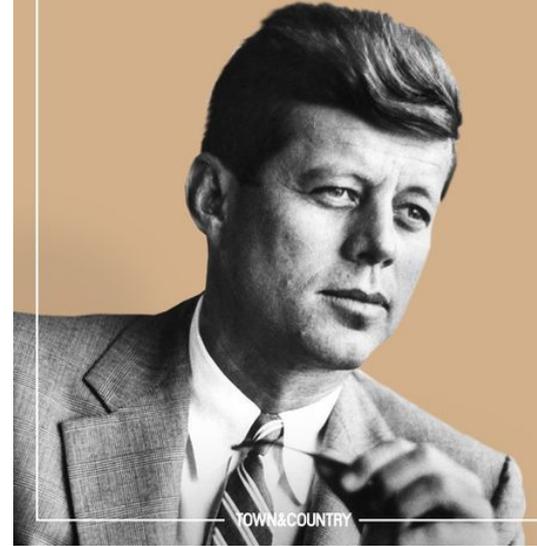
“If not us, who?
If not now, when?”

- JOHN F. KENNEDY



“As we express our gratitude,
we must never forget that the
highest form of appreciation
is not to utter words, but to
live by them.”

- JOHN F. KENNEDY



Warm Up: Pick one that stands out to you, and on a separate piece of paper write 4-7 sentences of what it means to you.

Lesson Activity

The Bay of Pigs Invasion is widely viewed as a failure on the part of JFK and his administration. Today we will be examining if that is a fair assessment.

We will read some background on the Bay of Pigs, read part of a speech from President Kennedy, and then make our claim. Our story will start with President Eisenhower and end with President Kennedy's leadership.

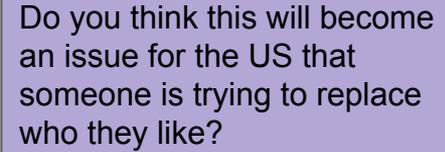
As you read.... **PURPLE** callouts are questions to generate thinking. **GREEN** callouts are teacher thoughts to help in understanding.

Lesson Activity

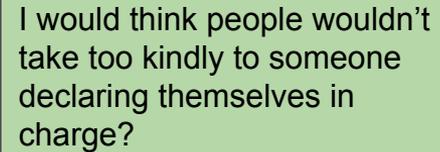
Descent from the Mountains

In the 1950s, a young, charismatic Cuban nationalist named Fidel Castro led a guerrilla army against the forces of General Fulgencio Batista from a base camp deep within the Sierra Maestra Mountains, the largest mountain range in Cuba. Castro's goal was to overthrow Batista, the US-backed leader of Cuba.

After three years of guerrilla warfare, Castro and his ragtag army descended from the mountains and entered Havana on January 1, 1959, forcing Batista to flee the country. Castro took control of the Cuban Government's 30,000-man army and declared himself Prime Minister.



Do you think this will become an issue for the US that someone is trying to replace who they like?



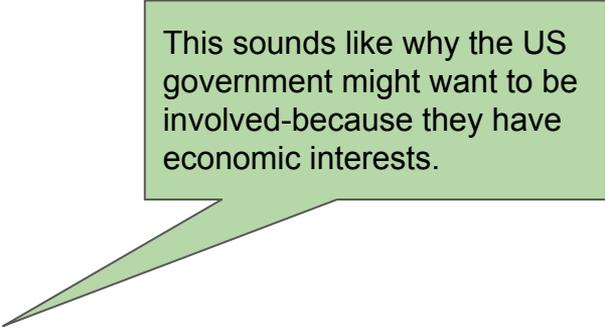
I would think people wouldn't take too kindly to someone declaring themselves in charge?

Lesson Activity

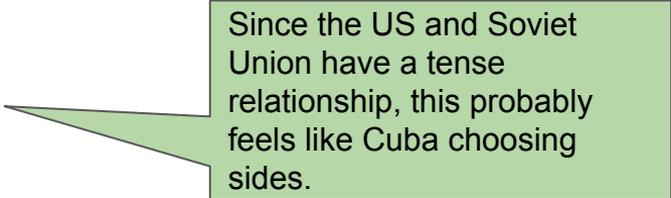
Descent from the Mountains

For nearly 50 years, Cuba had been America's playground and agricultural center. Many wealthy Americans lived in Cuba and had established thriving businesses there. In fact, a significant portion of Cuba's sugar plantations were owned by North Americans. With Castro's self-appointment to Prime Minister, that changed.

In February 1960, Cuba signed an agreement to buy oil from the Soviet Union. When the US-owned refineries in the country refused to process the oil, Castro seized the firms, and the US broke off diplomatic relations with the Cuban regime. To the chagrin of the Eisenhower administration, Castro established increasingly close ties with the Soviet Union while delivering fiery condemnations of the US.



This sounds like why the US government might want to be involved-because they have economic interests.

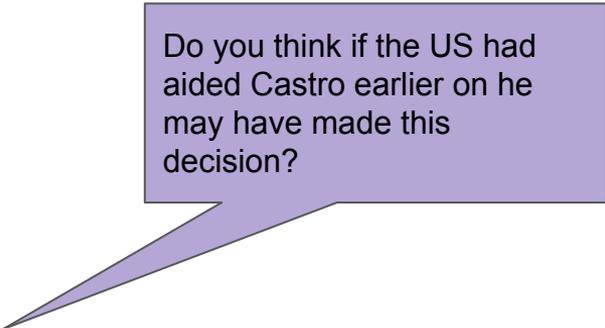


Since the US and Soviet Union have a tense relationship, this probably feels like Cuba choosing sides.

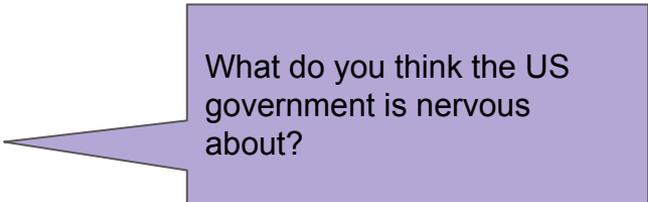
Lesson Activity

The American-Cuban relationship deteriorated further when Castro established diplomatic relations with our Cold War rival, the Soviet Union. Castro and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev signed a series of pacts that resulted in large deliveries of economic and military aid in 1960. Within a year, Castro proclaimed himself a communist, formally allied his country with the Soviet Union, and seized remaining American and foreign-owned assets.

The establishment of a Communist state 90 miles off the coast of Florida raised obvious security concerns in Washington and did not sit well with President Eisenhower.



Do you think if the US had aided Castro earlier on he may have made this decision?



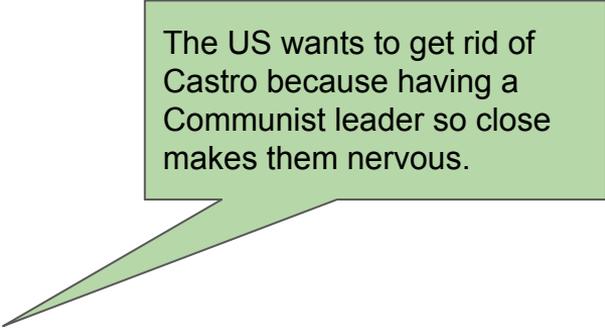
What do you think the US government is nervous about?

Lesson Activity

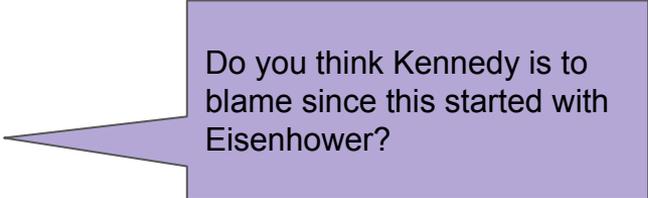
Eisenhower authorized the CIA to conduct a covert operation to rid the island of its self-appointed leader. The CIA formulated a plan to recruit Cuban exiles living in the Miami area. It would train and equip the exiles to infiltrate Cuba and start a revolution to ignite an uprising across the island and overthrow Castro.

At least that was the intended outcome.

Top US Government officials watched as their decisions led to an entirely different outcome: one that would leave a covert operation exposed, embarrass the new Kennedy administration, end the career of the longest serving Director of Central Intelligence Allen Dulles, and, ultimately, leave Fidel Castro in power for decades to come.

A green speech bubble with a black border and a tail pointing towards the left. The text inside is: "The US wants to get rid of Castro because having a Communist leader so close makes them nervous."

The US wants to get rid of Castro because having a Communist leader so close makes them nervous.

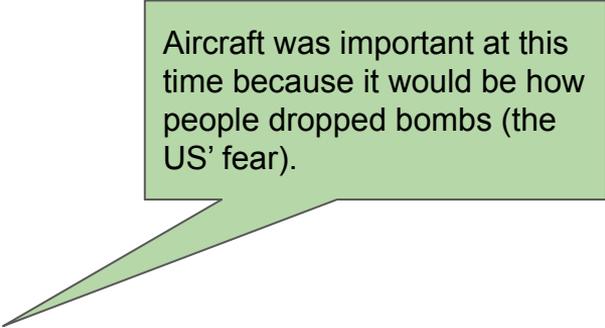
A purple speech bubble with a black border and a tail pointing towards the left. The text inside is: "Do you think Kennedy is to blame since this started with Eisenhower?"

Do you think Kennedy is to blame since this started with Eisenhower?

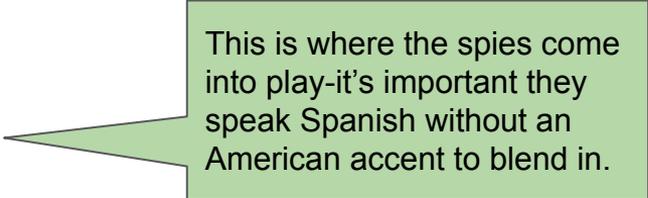
Lesson Activity

For simplicity, the Bay of Pigs invasion plan can be broken down into three phases:

Phase One: Destroy as many of Castro's combat aircraft as possible so that when the Brigade invaded the beach, Castro's air force would have no retaliatory capabilities. To do this, pilots of Brigade 2506 planned to bomb three of Castro's air force bases. The cover story for these bombings was simple. Pilots in the Brigade would pose as pilots in the Fuerza Aerea Revolucionaria (FAR), Castro's Air Force. Allegedly, they would become disgruntled, take their aircrafts, shoot up their own air force bases, and then fly to the US to defect. This first airstrike was supposed to take place two days prior to the invasion (phase three).



Aircraft was important at this time because it would be how people dropped bombs (the US' fear).

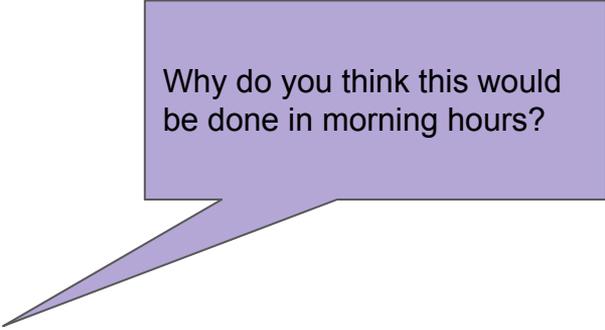


This is where the spies come into play-it's important they speak Spanish without an American accent to blend in.

Lesson Activity

For simplicity, the Bay of Pigs invasion plan can be broken down into three phases:

Phase Two: Destroy any remaining combat planes in Castro's fleet that weren't taken out during phase one. Pilots in Brigade 2506 planned to drop bombs on Castro's air force bases in the morning hours prior to the main invasion (phase three) to destroy any remaining combat planes in Castro's fleet. This would ensure the Brigade members invading the beach would not have to contend with Castro's aircraft dropping bombs and firing mercilessly on them from above during the actual invasion.



Why do you think this would be done in morning hours?

Lesson Activity

For simplicity, the Bay of Pigs invasion plan can be broken down into three phases:

Phase Three: The invasion. The Brigade would invade Cuba by sea and air. Some members would invade Cuba on the beaches of Trinidad; others would parachute in farther inland. The Brigade pilots would fly air cover missions over the beach. The old colonial city of Trinidad was chosen as the invasion site because it offered many significant features. It was an anti-Castro town with existing counter-revolutionary groups. It had good port facilities. The beachhead was easily defensible and, should the Brigade need to execute their escape plan, the Escambray Mountains were there to offer solitude.

A map of Cuba and Trinidad is below.



Lesson Activity

Let's do a quick check for understanding.

Fill out the following information based on what you have learned so far. (Answers on the next page)

Who:

What:

Where:

When:

Why:

Lesson Activity

Let's do a quick check for understanding.

Fill out the following information based on what you have learned so far.

Who: Fidel Castro (Cuba), President Eisenhower (US), Kennedy (US), Premier Krushchev (Soviet Union)

What: US does not like Cuba teaming up with Soviet Union, so they are planning an invasion of Cuba to overthrow Castro

Where: Cuba mostly

When: 1960 (and some years later)

Why: Communist v. Capitalist concerns

Practice

Write down these questions on a separate sheet of paper:

- To whom is Kennedy addressing his remarks? (Newspaper editors? American public? Soviets? Cubans? World?)
- What is the tone of the first part of the speech? (conciliatory, threatening, etc.?)
 - Provide specific examples to support your conclusions.
- How does Kennedy depict the invasion? (As a mainly Cuban effort, a US effort, or both?)
 - Provide specific language to support your conclusions.
- How does Kennedy characterize this invasion? [A failure? A success?]
 - Provide specific language to support your conclusions.

Practice

Watch the video of Kennedy's speech below. [You can find a transcript \(written down record of what was said\) here.](#)

