

Overview

On July 14, 1958 the National Air and Space Administration (NASA) was formed, entering the U.S. into the space race that would ultimately end with Russia launching Sputnik. McCarthyism also took flight in this era, as a result of the fear instilled in many by Communism. Similarly, the threat of nuclear weapons loomed overhead during the Cold War, leading to fallout shelters and duck and cover drills. Next, the red, green, and blue of Hess's Department Store became a symbol of style and class. Still, African Americans fought segregation in their struggle to find jobs and housing, trying to achieve the American Dream. Adding to fear, Polio became an epidemic identifiable by the hissing sound of the iron lung, but the Salk vaccine made a cure available.



Charles Farmer

Discussion/Questions

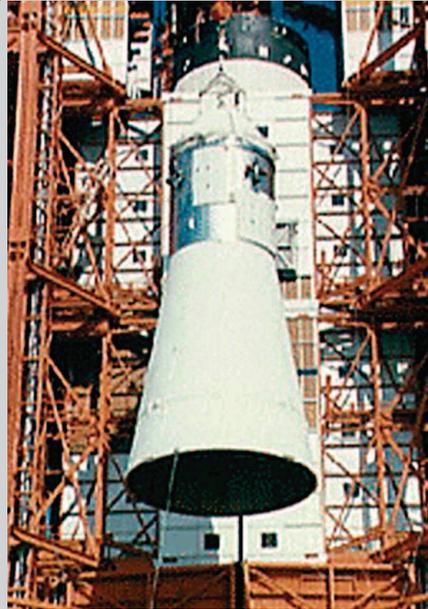
1. Would you have dropped the bomb?
2. What kind of impact do you think Hess's Department Store had on society and on the economy? Would you characterize it as good or bad?

Activities

1. Write a diary entry, putting yourself in the place of someone continually living in fear of the bomb.
2. Make a dance to a popular song in groups.

Spotlight: The Space Race

Space was the new frontier, and during the Cold War the space race grew between the two most powerful nations: the United States and the Soviet Union. They competed in a global struggle that pitted a democratic society against totalitarian communism. Before a watchful world, each side wanted to show its superiority through impressive feats in rocketry and spaceflight. "I believe this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth. No single space project...will be more exciting, or more impressive to mankind, or more important. . .and none will be so difficult or expensive to accomplish. . ." (President John F. Kennedy, 1961). By the end of the Cold War, both governments agreed to build a space station and to pursue other joint ventures in space. The contest that began with hostility, ended in partnership.



More information

http://encarta.msn.com/related_761595158_6.2/1950s.html#

Academic Standards

Living History: The 1950s is specifically designed to address the Academic Standards for History as set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This program supports the successful achievement of standards 8.3 United States History and 8.4 World History, as defined under grade 12 measurement criteria. 8.3.12

- A. Identify and evaluate the political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups to United States history from 1890 to Present
- D. Identify and evaluate conflict and cooperation among social groups and organizations in United States history from 1890 to the Present

