

READ A HISTORY MAP

THE SOVIET UNION

Throughout the Cold War years, fear and mistrust between the world's two great superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, ran high. During the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 (*see pp. 12-13*), those tensions came dangerously close to erupting into a true war.

The Soviet Union, which no longer exists, was a

massive and powerful country that spanned 11 time zones across Europe and Asia. Also known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.), it was made up of 15 republics, dominated by Russia.

Study this map, then use it to answer the questions that follow.



DIRECTIONS: Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. How long did the Soviet Union exist as a country?
2. What was the Soviet Union's capital?
3. Which was the largest republic?
4. Which was the second-largest?
5. Which republics bordered Afghanistan?
6. How many republics bordered the Caspian Sea?
7. Most of the eastern Soviet Union was a vast region known for its harsh winters. What is it called?
8. When did the Soviet Union break up into 15 separate, independent countries?
9. The Soviet Union had the world's longest coastline, most of which was along which body of water?
10. The hammer and sickle was a common symbol of Communism. What does its use (along with the Soviet star) next to the republics' names tell you about those places?