

## Why did the US enter the Korean War?

Key					
Reason 1:		Reason 3:		Reason 5:	
Reason 2:		Reason 4:		Reason 6:	

**Task 1:** Colour code the statements to show how they link together. Name each category to show the six key reasons why the US entered the Korean War.

Americans feared that their security would be compromised if more countries became communist.	Senator Joseph McCarthy was convinced that there were communists in the State Department. This created hysteria within the USA.	Truman commissioned the National Security Council (NSC) to write a report summarising how the USA should act in relation to Communism.
The USA's relationship with Japan was beginning to change after WW2, into a friendlier one.	Truman had seen that the League of Nations and the policy of appeasement had failed to prevent WWII. He thought that decisive action in Korea could prevent further global conflicts.	Other Cold War events like the Berlin Blockade created even more tension between the USA and USSR.
Truman needed to be seen to be being tough on Communism, especially in the light of McCarthyism. Involvement in Korea would show that he was dealing with the issue.	In October 1949 China became communist. This made the USA worry about the balance of world power.	NSC-68 recommended that the USA develop a hydrogen bomb, build up an army, raise taxes, forge alliances and fight some wars abroad in order to defeat Communism.
By 1950 all of Eastern Europe and half of Germany was Communist. This created an 'Iron Curtain' and a communist power bloc.	Japan was only 100 miles away from South Korea. If it fell to Communism then trading with Japan would be in jeopardy.	Americans were worried that communist countries would not trade with them and that their economy would suffer.
In August 1949 the Soviet Union tested their first atomic bomb. This shocked the USA as they no longer had the upper hand in the arms race.	Americans were worried that if communists became too powerful that they would force their ideology on other countries that were close to them.	The 68 <sup>th</sup> paper written by the NSC (hence NSC-68) described a polarised world where communists wanted to dominate Europe and Asia.

## Why did the US enter the Korean War?

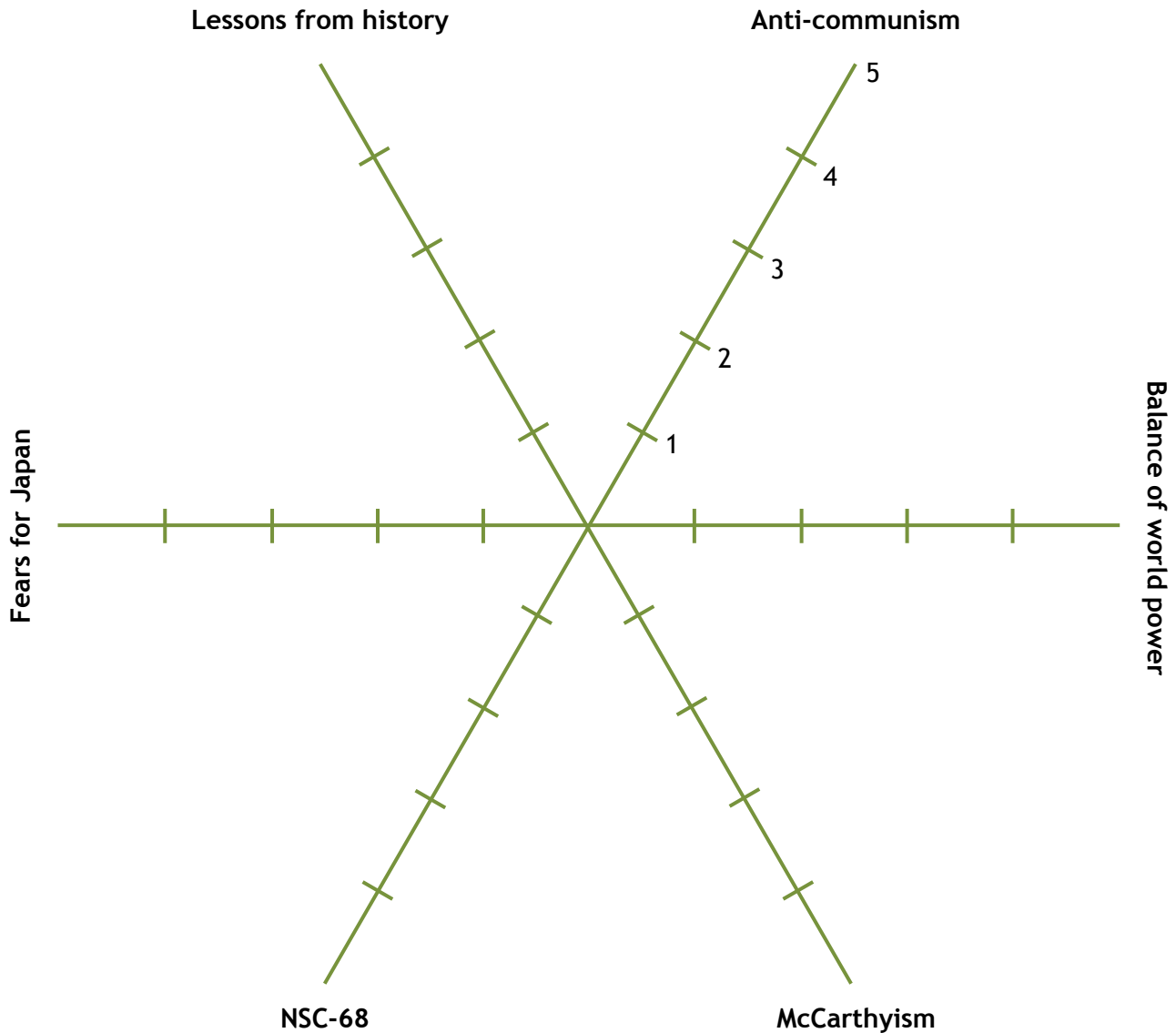
Key					
Anti- Communism		McCarthyism		Fears for Japan	
The balance of word power		NSC-68		Lessons from the past	

**Task 1:** Colour code the statements to show which ones support the six key reasons why the US entered the Korean War.

Americans feared that their security would be compromised if more countries became communist.	Senator Joseph McCarthy was convinced that there were communists in the State Department. This created hysteria within the USA.	Truman commissioned the National Security Council (NSC) to write a report summarising how the USA should act in relation to Communism.
The USA's relationship with Japan was beginning to change after WW2, into a friendlier one.	Truman had seen that the League of Nations and the policy of appeasement had failed to prevent WWII. He thought that decisive action in Korea could prevent further global conflicts.	Other Cold War events like the Berlin Blockade created even more tension between the USA and USSR.
Truman needed to be seen to be being tough on Communism, especially in the light of McCarthyism. Involvement in Korea would show that he was dealing with the issue.	In October 1949 China became communist. This made the USA worry about the balance of world power.	NSC-68 recommended that the USA develop a hydrogen bomb, build up an army, raise taxes, forge alliances and fight some wars abroad in order to defeat Communism.
By 1950 all of Eastern Europe and half of Germany was Communist. This created an 'Iron Curtain' and a communist power bloc.	Japan was only 100 miles away from South Korea. If it fell to Communism then trading with Japan would be in jeopardy.	Americans were worried that communist countries would not trade with them and that their economy would suffer.
In August 1949 the Soviet Union tested their first atomic bomb. This shocked the USA as they no longer had the upper hand in the arms race.	Americans were worried that if communists became too powerful that they would force their ideology on other countries that were close to them.	The 68 <sup>th</sup> paper written by the NSC (hence NSC-68) described a polarised world where communists wanted to dominate Europe and Asia.

## Why did the US enter the Korean War?

**Task 2:** Give each of the six key reasons a score out of five to show how important it was in making the US enter the Korean War (5 being the most important, 1 being the least important). Mark the score on the diagram and join the dots to form a causation chart.



**Task 3:** Write a short paragraph explaining the shape of the diagram and justifying your ideas.

### Teaching notes

There are two versions of this resource so that it can be tailored to suit the needs of a range of students.

**Further development:** Arrows could be drawn around the causation diagram to show the links between factors and to stimulate a class discussion.

A similar diagram could be drawn when US entry into the Vietnam War has been studied later in the course so that reasons can be compared and contrasted.