

Activity

# Understanding Past and Present Nuclear Threats

## Learning Objectives

Students will evaluate past and present nuclear threats and reflect on why these threats have changed over time.

## Length

40 Minutes

## Materials

[The History of Nuclear Proliferation](#)

[Worksheet: Understanding Nuclear Threats Past and Present](#)

[Nuclear Proliferation: Introduction Guided Reading Handout](#)

## Instructional Plan

1. (20 Minutes) Jigsaw: Break students into four groups. Distribute [Understanding Past and Present Nuclear Threats](#) worksheet and have students preview the handout. Assign each an era from [The History of Nuclear Proliferation](#). (They can optionally use part 3 of the [Nuclear Proliferation: Introduction Guided Reading Handout](#).) When complete, have individuals from each group merge and share notes.
  - Group 1: 1938-62: The Nuclear Age Begins
  - Group 2: 1968–75 Nuclear Nonproliferation Goes Global
  - Group 3: 1986–2000 End of the Cold War Improves Nonproliferation Efforts
  - Group 4: 2003–Present Progress and Threats
2. (10 Minutes) Students will complete the [Understanding Past and Present Nuclear Threats Worksheet](#) in pairs. Have each group discuss their top three threats and be ready to defend.
3. (10 Minutes) Lead a class discussion on any patterns that emerge or disagreements among the groups.