

TOPIC 4 – MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM

Topic Overview

Topic 4 highlights North Dakota’s role in the defense of the United States during the Cold War. It includes primary sources that will help you understand the significance of the Air Force bases and missile sites located in North Dakota.

Topic Objectives

- As a result of the study of Topic 4, you will be able to
 - Analyze and interpret primary documents.
 - Understand the role North Dakota played in the defense of the United States during the Cold War.

ND Content Standards

- 8.1.1
- 8.1.2
- 8.6.1

Common Core Standards

- RH 2
- RH 7
- WHST 2
- WHST 7
- WHST 9

Topic Activities

- Learning from Historical Documents
- Debate/Discussion



Learning from Historical Documents

To access a photo/document/map, refer to the topic reading assignment or use the SEARCH feature to enter its name or number.

Watch the Cold War era video – **Image 1. Video Duck & Cover**, which showed what children should do in case of an atomic bomb attack. Using the Internet or other sources, research information on the atomic bomb. Answer the following questions; then, discuss your responses with a partner, in a small group, or with the entire class.

- Do you think “Duck and Cover” would have been an effective response in an atomic blast? Explain.
- Do you think officials who promoted “Duck and Cover” were knowledgeable about the effects of an atomic bomb blast? Explain.
- If you had been a student during the Cold War era, do you think you would have been reassured by the “Duck and Cover” drills, or would they have given you something to worry about? Explain.
- Think of safety drills that are conducted in schools today. Do you think that these drills are more practical than the “Duck and Cover” drills of the Cold War era? Explain.

Debate/Discussion

To access a photo/document/map, refer to the topic reading assignment or use the SEARCH feature to enter its name or number.

Missile sites were erected in North Dakota during the Cold War era to protect the United States against Soviet bombs. Watch the video **Image 9. Spin 201 video** from the 1970s of the Nekoma missile site several years after it was deactivated, particularly noting details of the interior of the pyramid. Then look at photos on the site below that were taken about 40 years after the video was filmed. Complete the chart below, noting what you saw on the first video and what you noticed on the photos of 40 years later. Discuss.

http://coldwartourist.com/stanley_r_mickelson_safeguard_abm_complex/missile_site_radar_msr_complex. Missile site in Nekoma, North Dakota.

Image 9. Spin 201 video

Online Photos

How Alike?

How Different?