

Name _____ Period _____

Atomic Café Viewing Guide

What is a “primary source” in history? _____

The *Atomic Café* combines authentic primary sources: newsreels, military training films, advertisements, speeches, radio broadcasts and music from the Cold War era, presented in such a way as to convey a specific political and social message.

1. Describe the Trinity test
2. What is the attitude of President Truman and the pilots who dropped the atomic bombs on Japan?
3. What happened at the Bikini atoll?
4. When the Soviet Union gets the bomb, how did fear affect ordinary American’s lives? (Give examples)
5. What was the connection between the atom bomb and the Korean War?
6. Who were Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and what happened to them?
7. What was life in the 1950s like?
8. What’s the difference between the atom bomb and the H-bomb?

9. Describe the above-ground testing of atomic weapons

10. What is “duck and cover”? How successful would it be?

11. Who was Nikita Khrushchev? Richard Nixon?

12. What is a nuclear explosion really like?

After the Film Discussion Questions:

1. What was surprising to you in this film?

2. How was communism depicted in primary sources from the 1950s? How accurate do you think it was?

3. What is the bias of the film-makers who made *Atomic Café*? How fair (even-handed) you think they were?

4. Do you think efforts to prepare and protect people from the atomic bomb did them more harm or more good?