



# CHALKE VALLEY HISTORY FESTIVAL FOR SCHOOLS TEACHER NOTES



## VIDEO 3: BERLIN AND THE COLD WAR

Age Group: Key Stages 2 and 3



### Video notes...

In this video, recorded at the Festival in June 2023, the History re-enactor Kate Vigurs – ‘History’s Maid’ – takes on the character of a German girl called Renate, born in 1942 and living in the east of Berlin. She tells the story of the Cold War from 1945 to 1989 particularly from the point of view of how it affected Berlin.



### KEY FACTS ABOUT BERLIN AND THE COLD WAR:

- In **July 1945** the leaders of the victorious allies, USA, the USSR and Britain met at Potsdam, in Berlin to decide. Following the defeat and collapse of Nazi Germany, the map (←) shows the divisions of Germany and of Berlin decided by the leaders of the victorious allies, USA, USSR and Britain, at the Potsdam Conference in July 1945. The flags show which power controlled each area. USA and Britain agreed to create a French zone.
- In **1949** US, British and French zones merged to form the Federal Republic of Germany (FDR or ‘West Germany’). Russian zone becomes the German Democratic Republic (DDR or East Germany).



### KEY DATES REFERRED TO BY KATE VIGURS:

- 1945.....End of Second World War. Potsdam Conference
- 1948.....Berlin airlift
- 1949.....North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)
- 1950-1953 .....Korean War
- 1955.....Warsaw Pact
- 1957-1975 .....“Space Race”
- 1961.....Berlin Wall built
- 1962.....Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1989.....Berlin Wall falls
- 1991.....Germany re-united.



### GERMAN WORDS USED BY KATE VIGURS:

**Trümmerfrauen:**  
“Rubble women”. Women remove the rubble from their bombed cities

**Stasi:**  
Secret police in the DDR (East Germany) 1950-1990