

Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev [Soviet leader] was almost desperate to beat the Americans at something. *Anything*. He boasted that communism would bury capitalism, later claiming he meant only by becoming richer and more productive, not by engaging in war. But how long might that take? Fifty years? A hundred? He needed something now. And in the summer of 1955, at about the time he returned from the Geneva conference, where [President Dwight] Eisenhower had urged the Open Skies proposal on him, some of Khrushchev's scientific advisers informed him of an interesting development.

In the course of reading American science journals, they had learned that the United States had begun a project to put an artificial satellite into orbit in 1958, as part of its contribution to the International Geophysical Year. An orbiting satellite had obvious military possibilities, but the foolish Americans had decided not to make it a military project—they wanted it to be peaceful and scientific. We can beat them to it, the scientists told Khrushchev, because we're already developing the rocket.

The Soviet Union's hydrogen bomb was enormous, and in 1955 its engineers and technicians were working on the design of a huge liquid-fueled rocket powerful enough to carry it five thousand miles. With some modifications, said the scientists, we can use the rocket to put a small satellite into orbit long before it will be ready to carry an H-bomb. Khrushchev saw a possibility here that nobody in Washington had seen—the chance to score the propaganda coup of the century. The Soviet satellite, code-named *Sputnik* ("Follow Traveler"), got his enthusiastic "Da!" [Yes]...

Source: Geoffrey Perret, *Eisenhower*, Random House, 1999 (adapted)

According to Geoffrey Perret, what was one reason the Soviet Union was interested in putting a satellite into orbit? [1]

Document 8

On September 2, 1958, less than a year after the launching of *Sputnik*, President Dwight Eisenhower signed into law the National Defense Education Act (NDEA).

... Between 1958 and 1968, NDEA also provided loan money for more than 1.5 million individual college students—fellowships directly responsible for producing 15,000 Ph.D.s a year. NDEA allocated approximately \$1 billion to support research and education in the sciences over four years; federal support for science-related research and education increased between 21 and 33 percent per year through 1964, representing a tripling of science research and education expenditures over five years. States were given money to strengthen schools on a fifty-fifty matching basis, thousands of teachers were sent to NDEA-sponsored summer schools, and the National Science Foundation sponsored no fewer than fifty-three curriculum development projects. By the time of the lunar landing in 1969, NDEA alone had pumped \$3 billion into American education....

Source: Paul Dickson, *Sputnik: The Shock of the Century*, Walker Publishing Company, 2001

8 According to Paul Dickson, what were two effects of the launching of *Sputnik* on education in the United States? [2]

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____
