

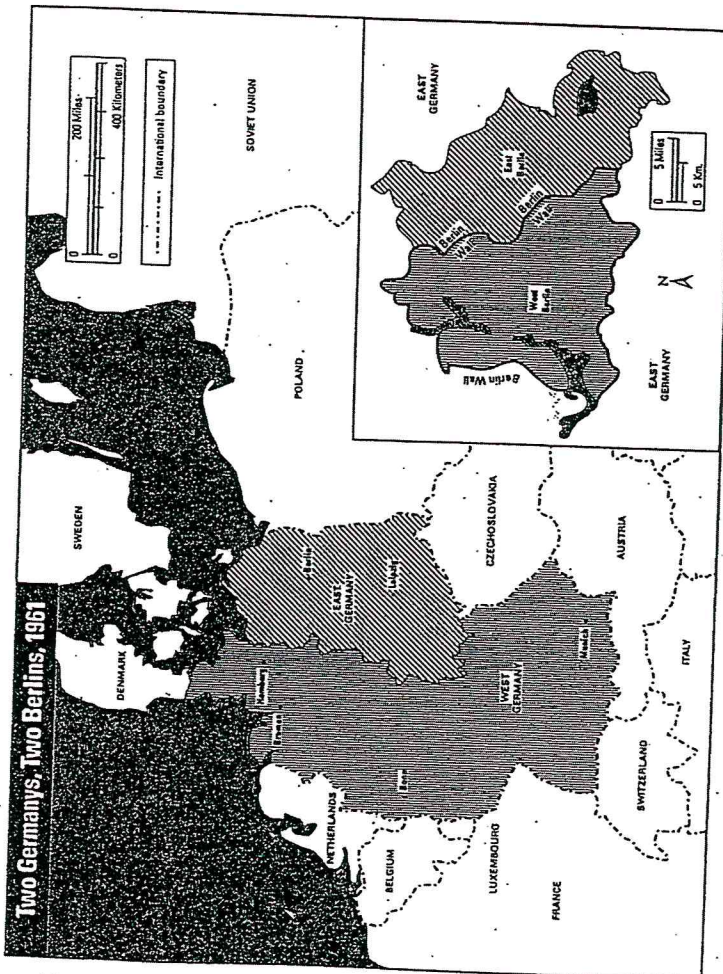
Divided Germany and the Berlin Wall

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the maps carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

After winning World War II, the Allies divided Germany into four separately administered zones. The Soviet Union controlled the eastern part of the country, while the United States, Great Britain, and France controlled the western part, which was soon united into one political division. The same divisions existed within the former German capital of Berlin, and the city became a frequent source of U.S.-Soviet tension in the post-war era. Between 1949 and 1961, about 2.7 million East Germans fled to freedom in West Germany. Hundreds of thousands of them escaped simply by making their way into relatively open West Berlin and then flying to West Germany. In the summer

of 1961, about 1,500 East Germans a day were fleeing into West Berlin. As a result, a wall 13 feet high and about 100 miles long was built around West Berlin that fall. The Hungarian composer György Ligeti described the walled-in region as "a surrealist cage in which those inside are free."

The Berlin Wall created an emotional crisis for the city's residents. The wall cut across 62 city streets and 131 outlying roads. Relatives and friends were separated. Those living in East Berlin and working in West Berlin lost their jobs. During the wall's 28 years of existence, about 80 people were killed trying to climb over it and get inside.



1. Which part of Germany was controlled by the United States, Great Britain, and France after World War II?
2. Who controlled the larger part of postwar Germany—the Soviet Union or the three Western powers?
3. In which part of Germany was Berlin located?
4. Use a ruler and the scale on the main map to determine approximately how far Berlin lay from the closest point in West Germany.
In what way do you think Berlin's location was a problem for the Western powers?
5. Which government—West Germany's or East Germany's—do you think erected the Berlin Wall?
Why was the wall built?
6. Before 1961, what might have been the best way for someone living in Leipzig to escape to Munich?
7. Explain the irony—the opposite of what might be expected—in György Ligeti's characterization of West Berlin.