

History 12
Block: _____

Name: _____

Cuban Missile Crisis Background: Why Were the Missiles Put There?

Possible Reasons Khrushchev Put Nuclear Weapons in Cuba (With Castro's Blessing)

1. Khrushchev wants to boost his strength at home with a success against the USA.
2. Since the Bay of Pigs invasion attempt, Castro considers Kennedy an enemy.
3. Khrushchev wants to protect Cuba, his communist ally, from any US invasion.
4. The US already has nuclear missiles in Italy and Turkey, so Khrushchev wants to restore the balance of power.
5. Castro believes that Soviet weapons will stop the USA from invading Cuba.
6. Khrushchev thinks Kennedy won't risk military action and possible nuclear war.
7. Castro thinks Cuba should take a stand against the imperialist enemy.
8. Khrushchev doesn't want a fight with the US involving firing of nuclear weapons.
9. Khrushchev hopes the missiles in Cuba will put him in a stronger bargaining position on other issues (like getting the USA out of Berlin).

Activity: Of these reasons, determine which four reason(s) are the most plausible reasons that explain why Khrushchev and Castro decided to install nuclear weapons in Cuba?

Create criteria for most plausible:

Top Four Reasons Why the Missiles were Placed in Cuba? You must explain why these reasons were most plausible and how they met your criteria.
