

Tear down this wall

Ronald Reagan

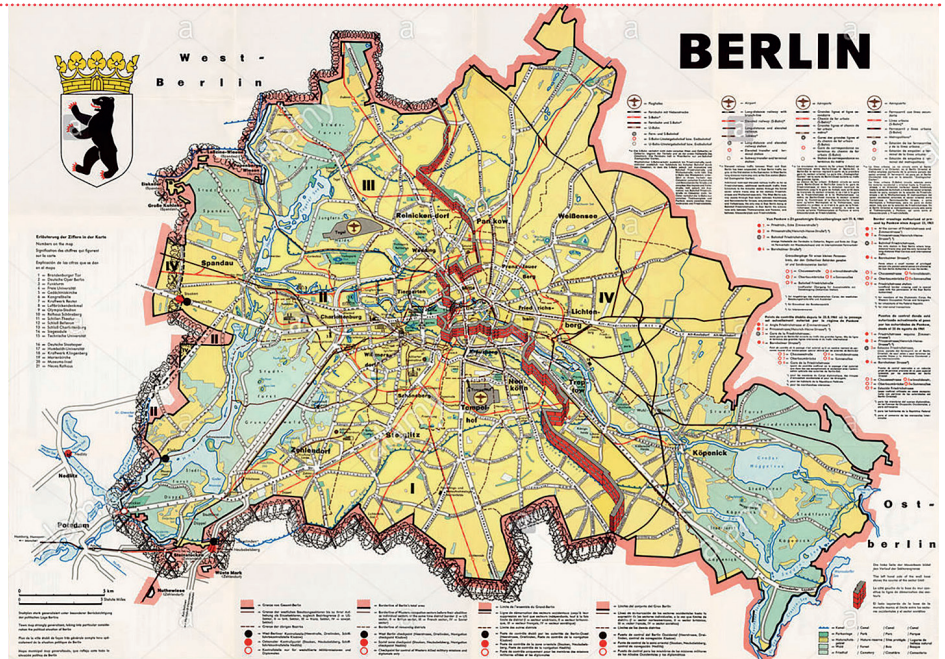
EXPLORE

- **Video:** *The rise and the fall of the Berlin Wall*
- **Speech:** *Tear down this wall*

■ **WARM UP**

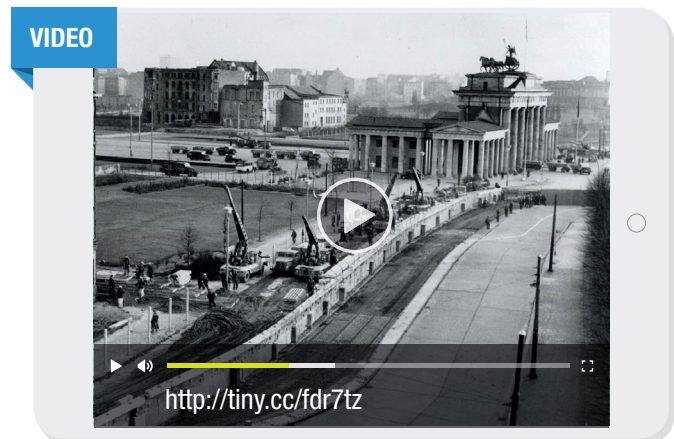
1 Look at the map and answer the questions.

- 1 Which city does the map represent?
- 2 What was the main function of the Berlin Wall?
- 3 What do you know about the city of Berlin after WWII?



2 Watch the video explaining the story of the Berlin Wall and answer the questions.

- 1 Why was the Wall built?
- 2 Why was the Wall considered a symbol of Communist tyranny?



3 The Berlin Wall timeline. Complete the gaps with the words provided.

The Berlin Wall is torn down • John F. Kennedy makes a famous speech in West Berlin •
 After WWII Germany and Berlin are divided into four sectors • Germany is reunited •
 The two States (FDG and GDR) are founded • Ronald Reagan visits Berlin • The Berlin Wall is built

1945

.....

1961

.....

1987

.....

1990

.....

1949

.....

1963

.....

1989

.....



+ FACT FILE

- **WHO?** Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States
- **WHERE?** West Berlin, Brandenburg Gate
- **WHY?** Celebrations for the 750th anniversary of the founding of Berlin
- **WHEN?** 12 June 1987

■ **THE SPEECH**

SPEECH <http://tiny.cc/ser7tz>

[...] We come to Berlin, we American Presidents, because it's our duty to speak in this place of freedom. But I must confess, we're drawn here by other things as well; by the feeling of history in this city – more than 500 years older than our own nation; by the beauty of the Grunewald and the Tiergarten; most of all, by your courage and determination. [...]

Our gathering today is being broadcast throughout Western Europe and North America. I understand that it is being seen and heard as well in the East. To those listening throughout Eastern Europe, I extend my warmest greetings and the good will of the American people. To those listening in East Berlin, a special word: Although I cannot be with you, I address my remarks to you just as surely as to those standing here before me. For I join you, as I join your fellow countrymen in the West, in this firm, this unalterable belief: Es gibt nur ein Berlin. [There is only one Berlin.]

Standing before the Brandenburg Gate, every man is a German separated from his fellow men.

Every man is a Berliner, forced to look upon a scar. [...]

There is one sign the Soviets can make that would be unmistakable, that would advance dramatically the cause of freedom and peace.

General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalisation: Come here to this gate.

Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate.

Mr. Gorbachev – Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!

■ **LET'S WORK ON IT**

4 List the main points of Ronald Reagan's speech and answer the questions.

- 1 What does Reagan say to the people living in East Berlin?
- 2 What does Reagan mean when he says, 'Es gibt nur ein Berlin'?
- 3 What is the message Reagan has for Gorbachev?

■ BEYOND THE WORDS

Escaping over the Berlin Wall

From 1961 to 1989 more than 600 people managed to escape from East Berlin. They used the most creative techniques to avoid police and Stasi officers' checkpoints.

5 Look at the pictures and do the activities below.



- 1 List some of the ways people escaped from East Berlin.
- 2 How would you feel in the same situation? Imagine you had to leave everything to flee your country to look for a better life.

6 The Berlin Wall soon became an open-air museum. Look at the pictures of the so-called East Side Gallery (<http://tiny.cc/iangtz>) and answer the questions.

- 1 Describe the two pictures which impressed you the most.
- 2 List some of the subjects of the paintings.
- 3 Why do you think people painted those subjects on the wall?

