PBS The Berlin Airlift--Viewing Guide

1. Since 1945, Berlin had been surrounded by the _________________ controlled zone of occupied Germany. A road and a _______________ line were all that connected it with the rest of Europe.

2. Name the 4 powers that each controlled a sector of the city, home to more than two million people.
   A. ___________________________ C. ___________________________
   B. _________________________ D. ___________________________

3. Berlin was strewn with rubble. How was it cleared?

4. Soviet leader ___________________________ wanted full control of his half of Germany. The presence of the Western allies in Berlin was a thorn in his side.

5. On June 16, 1948, the Soviets pulled out of the _________________, the joint council. Just days later the Allies issued a new currency for Western Germany -- the _________________,. Then, the Soviets announced that they would do the same for their zone -- and throughout Berlin.

6. On _________________ Soviets ordered highways and railway lines to be closed. No coal, no food could get through to the city.

7. What was the Allied troop situation in regard to a possible Soviet attack?

8. What was the situation in Berlin regarding food and coal?

9. What idea did Truman consider instead of a direct confrontation with the Soviets?

10. How would this make the Soviets responsible for an further military action?

11. According to the British calculations, it would take __________ hundred calories a day per person. That meant __________ tons of food, and another __________ tons of coal and gasoline would have to be flown in -- a total of four thousand tons per day.

12. When did the airlift begin?

13. What was Ernst Reuter reply to General Clays concerns about whether an airlift could be accomplished?

14. For Berliners the sounds of allied airplanes overhead brought back

15. Gale Halverson’s cargo plane made is first landing in Berlin carrying
16. In Moscow Joseph Stalin was highly confident that the airlift would

17. To reinforce the allied commitment for staying in Berlin President Truman sent ______________ as a show of force to England airfields.

18. Two weeks into the airlift the supply tonnage was increasing up to__________ tons a day, but much more was needed and airlift operations were still…. 

19. Who arrived in Berlin in July 1948 to take charge and organize the Berlin airlift? ______________

What was his experience for taking this command? ____________________________________________________________________________________

20. The general’s plan was to take the ___________________ corridors into Berlin and make them

________________ corridors, ___________ going in and ___________ coming out of Berlin.

Planes would fly __________ apart, simultaneously, at______________ different levels/altitudes

21. Soon the pilots were meeting the objectives of the airlift more than__________ flights and delivering

more than __________ tons of cargo each day.

22. True or False. Planes spent little time unloading usually between one to two hours on the ground.

23. True or False. Pilots had only one chance for a landing otherwise they returned to their airbase fully loaded.

24. True or False. The soviets did not interfere directly with the airlift flights.

25. The battle for Berlin moved from the skies to the airwaves as ________________ soon filled the radio stations.

26. On September 6th 1948 a large crowd of ________________ occupied Berlins Civilian Council House to block new city elections. In response, three days later the RUHE radio station urged

______________________ to protest this occupation.

27. Tensions mounted and fear was widespread that the allies would abandon West Berlin to

28. To help ease mounting fears and tension Ernst Reuter addressed ____________ people who had

gathered at the Brandenburg Gate, one fourth the cities population, and asked the peoples of the world

__________________.

29. What did Gale Halverson start that turned into one of the biggest public relations coups of the airlift?
30. To increase the airlift efficiencies the Allies built ___________ in Berlin in just two months, employing more than _____________________ Berliners including many women.

31. As winter approached the airlift continued but it desperately needed

32. True or False. Pilots forced down in soviet occupied Germany faced imprisonment or worse.

33. Winter weather conditions often forced curtailment of airlift flights and rations grew shorter in the city. What did the soviets do to try and win over the West Berliners?

34. In _____________ Berliners prepared for new municipal elections. East Berlin authorities once again _____________ against the elections. The communists _________________ the municipal elections and appointed _____________ as mayor of the soviet sector. He would rule East Berlin for ________ years.

In the western sectors the vote went ahead and _____________________ was elected mayor of the Western Zone.

35. In January 1949 what new directive came from the British authorities concerning the airlift?

36. In the spring of 1949 the air transport command began using larger aircraft, which included the C-74 _________________ and the C-97 _____________________ both capable of carrying about ___________ of freight or about ____________ times the carrying capacity of the older C-47.

37. What occurred on Easter Sunday 1949?

38. On May 12 1949 the Soviets lifted the Berlin Blockade which had lasted ________________________

39. When was the last flight of Operation Vittles?

40. In October 1949 Germany was split into____________________ and ____________________-

41. True or False. Berlin was where the Cold War began and where it ended. EXPLAIN

42. The Berlin Airlift lasted ____________ months and delivered ____________ millions tons of supplies.

43. What was the point of it all…? Complete sentences…answer fully.