Prelude to the US invasion of Afghanistan – Soviet Union ‘invade’ Afghanistan

Name: _____________

Figure 1: Map of former USSR

The following websites may be useful in completing this task.
https://www.slideshare.net/kni_205/soviet-afghan-war-final
1. Use the internet to research a description of two different political/economic ideologies;

Communism
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Capitalism
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Go to the website of the Encyclopaedia Britannica > Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan.

2. Name the President of Afghanistan who was overthrown in 1978.
_________________________________________________________________

3. Name the leader of this military coup.
_________________________________________________________________

After power was taken in a **Coup d'état** there was very little support for the new communist leaders. The mainly Muslim population began to organise raids against the new government. Fighting between guerrilla rebel groups and the new leaders continued to de-stabilise Afghanistan. Guerrilla style tactics were used by the Muslim Afghan tribes. During this period the Afghanistan leaders looked to the USSR for military and political support.

4. What is a Coup de tat? (use the internet to define this term).
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

5. The people of Afghanistan were largely resistant to the communist policies of Nur Mohammed Taraki. What and who are the Mujahedeen?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

6. The Soviet Army invaded Afghanistan on ____________________________
   with a total of _________ troops. The aim of the Soviet Army was to
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________. The Mujahedeen was supported by
Soon after their invasion, Soviet Troop numbers grew to ____________. Generally speaking the Soviet Army controlled the cities and larger towns, whereas the Mujahedeen controlled ________________________________________________________________________.

Soviet tactics including bombing and ______________ the ____________ areas. These tactics caused many Afghans to flee Afghanistan and seek asylum in nearby counties including ______________ and ______________. The Mujahedeen were able to fight back against the Soviet Army bombing tactics with the help of the Soviet Union’s cold war adversary, ______________.

7. Refer to Figures 2 & 3. Explain how the topography of Afghanistan was used to advantage by the Afghan Mujahideen and how this these conditions were challenging for the Soviet Army.

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________  

8. Explain how the Mujahedeen were able to gain in strength. (Your answer must include details of support from other countries).

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________  

9. By the late 1980’s, the Soviet Union realised that the invasion of Afghanistan was largely unsuccessful. Their presence in Afghanistan was unpopular with Afghanistan nationals and the international community. Heavy losses of troops and equipment by the Afghan Mujahideen made the war difficult to justify. Then leader of the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev with troops from Afghanistan on ______________.

10. Use the internet to research the following:

Soviet Fatalities during Soviet-Afghan War ____________________
Soviet Casualties during Soviet-Afghan War ___________________
Afghan Fatalities during Soviet-Afghan War __________________
Afghan Casualties during Soviet-Afghan War _________________
Figure 2: Map showing mountainous terrain of Afghanistan.

Figure 3: Rugged and remote terrain of Afghanistan countryside