**PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY****Biography**

Dr. Oscar Arias Sánchez was President of Costa Rica from 1986 to 1990. He studied law and economics at the University of Costa Rica and earned a doctoral degree in political science. Arias was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for leading a regional peace conference that called for a cease-fire, the granting of amnesty to political prisoners, and the holding of free and democratic elections in each of the Central American countries. Arias also promoted integration of Central American countries, particularly in support of the Central American Parliament.

What is Dr. Arias' profession? (circle your answer or answers)

- A. Politician
- B. Humanitarian
- C. Surgeon
- D. Electrician

Answers:

A & B. Dr. Arias is a Politician and Humanitarian.

Vocabulary

Humanitarian: One who promotes human welfare.

Amnesty: The act of an authority by which pardon is granted to a person or group restoring them to the status of innocent persons

Name two people (aside from Arias) who you think are **Humanitarians**:



1.



2.



3.



4.

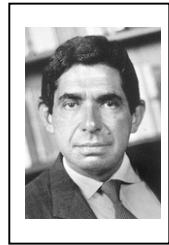
Can you identify the images above?

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

Answers:

1. World Map 2. Central America 3. Costa Rica 4. Costa Rican Flag

**POST-VISIT ACTIVITY**

Tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union (the country today known as Russia) often resulted in turmoil in Central America. During the Cold War, an open yet restricted rivalry between groups of nations practicing different political systems that began after World War II and lasted until the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the U.S. and Russia often intervened in Central American politics to further their own aims. The Cold War earned its name because widespread armed conflict between the superpowers never occurred. Instead, the opposed groups often armed and funded developing nations that adopted the same political philosophy. United States accused the Soviet Union of trying to spread its version of communism while the Soviet Union accused the United States of imperialism.



Mutual distrust between the two superpowers led them to intervene in the political upheavals in developing countries. In Central and South America revolutionaries and nationalists often adopted left-leaning or communist ideas in their rebellions against frequently corrupt or inefficient

governments. U.S. involvement in rebellions against the communist Sandinista government in Nicaragua created violent tensions throughout the region.

New Vocabulary

Communism: An egalitarian social and political system that has no state, no social classes, and denies rights to private property

Imperialism: The policy of extending control over foreign states as a method of acquiring or maintaining an empire

Developing country: A country with a low average income compared to the world average

Do you know of any American history events that relate to the Cold War? Can you name some of the Presidents during this period?

Can you name a way in which democracy is different than communism?
