

# NEWS BREAK

**Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Tuesday, March 22 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

**Meeting in Cuba warm but wary (Main, page A1).**

## Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. What does it mean to be “wary” of something? Have you ever been wary of meeting someone? If so, why?
2. What do you know about the country of Cuba? Locate Cuba on a map of the world or a globe. What part of the United States is Cuba near?

## 3. Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.

A. <b>Cold War</b>	1. a government order that limits trade in some way
B. <b>dissidents</b>	2. something that makes it difficult to do or complete something; something that interferes with movement or progress
C. <b>dictating</b>	3. a question or a request for information about something
D. <b>embargo</b>	4. to give orders to (someone)
E. <b>frank</b>	5. to persuade or try to persuade (someone) to do something
F. <b>grievance</b>	6. a basic right that many societies believe every person should have, such as the freedom of speech
G. <b>human rights</b>	7. to ruin the beauty or perfection of (something)
H. <b>impediment</b>	8. intense economic, political, military, and ideological rivalry between nations, short of military conflict; the nonviolent conflict between the U.S. and the former U.S.S.R. after 1945
I. <b>lectern</b>	9. a list of persons or groups; any list, roll or register
J. <b>marred</b>	10. used to say that someone is speaking or writing in a very direct and honest way
K. <b>penchant</b>	11. a stand that holds a book, notes, etc., for someone who is reading, speaking or teaching
L. <b>prodged</b>	12. having independent authority and the right to govern itself
M. <b>roster</b>	13. someone who strongly and publicly disagrees with and criticizes the government
N. <b>sovereign</b>	14. a strong liking for something or a strong tendency to behave in a certain way
O. <b>query</b>	15. a reason for complaining or being unhappy with a situation

## Comprehension

1. The meeting between President Obama and Cuba's President Raul Castro was the first such meeting between the two governments in over a half-century (over 50 years) – **true or false?**
2. Old grievances and disputes over \_\_\_\_\_ marred the groundbreaking meeting between the two presidents. **(Fill in the blanks)**
3. Obama said he had pressed the Cuban president in their meeting over Cuba's treatment of whom?
4. When Castro was asked by a reporter about political prisoners arrested by the government, what was his response?
5. What did Cuba's President Raul Castro say that the United States had no right to lecture Cuba about and why did he say the United States was in no position to lecture Cuba?
6. What did President Obama say he expected to see lifted that Castro called "the most" important obstacle to our economic development and the well-being of the Cuban people"?
7. During the news conference, what did President Obama prod President Raul Castro to do?
8. According to the article, who does Obama not plan to meet with during his visit to Cuba?
9. What did many Cubans still seem uncertain about in Havana on Monday?

## Additional Activities

1. Have students read about the Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis at: <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cuban-missile-crisis> and watch the video story of the Cuban Missile Crisis as told by musician and artist Jeffrey Lewis.
2. Individually or in small groups have students research the U.S. embargo on Cuba including when the embargo was imposed and by which U.S. president, what the conditions of the embargo were, and what if any of the conditions has Cuba met in order to have the embargo lifted.

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### **Answer Key to Vocabulary**

- A. 8
- B. 13
- C. 4
- D. 1
- E. 10
- F. 15
- G. 6
- H. 2
- I. 11
- J. 7
- K. 14
- L. 5
- M. 9
- N. 12
- O.

### **Answer Key to Comprehension Questions**

- 1. True
- 2. human rights
- 3. Cuba's treatment of dissidents.
- 4. He said to give him a list of political prisoners and he would release them immediately.
- 5. Human rights. He said that countries that do not provide universal health care, education and equal pay are in no position to lecture Cuba.
- 6. President Obama said the expected to see the embargo on Cuba lifted.
- 7. He prodded President Raul Castro to answer (submit) to journalists' questions.
- 8. Former Cuban President Fidel Castro – Raul's brother.
- 9. They were uncertain about whether they had permission to try to see Obama.