

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO:** SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSES

**FROM:** GEORGE C. MARSHALL

**SUBJECT:** THE MARSHALL PLAN

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 21, 1947

**CC:**



Dear reader,

Europe has been devastated by years of conflict during World War II. Millions of people have been killed or wounded. Industrial and residential centers in England, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Belgium and elsewhere lay in ruins. Much of Europe is on the brink of famine as agricultural production was disrupted by war. Transportation infrastructure is in shambles. The only major power in the world that is not significantly damaged is the United States.

From 1945 through 1947, the United States was already assisting European economic recovery with direct financial aid. Military assistance to Greece and Turkey was being given. The newly formed United Nations was providing humanitarian assistance. In January 1947, U. S. President Harry Truman appointed me, George Marshall, to be Secretary of State. In just a few months, with my leadership of the State Department, with expertise provided by George Kennan and others, we have crafted the Marshall Plan concept, which I will share with the world in a speech on June 5, 1947 at Harvard.

Officially known as the European Recovery Program (ERP), the Marshall Plan is intended to rebuild the economies and spirits of Western Europe in order to limit the appeal of communism by giving funds to countries in need. I am convinced the key to repair of political stability is in the recovery of national economies. Democracy shall be spread if we limit the appeal of communism by giving economic aid.. I see political stability and democracy in Western Europe as a key to reducing the advances of communism in the region.

Sincerely,

George C. Marshall

*George C. Marshall*

**Read the following document and answer the questions. Record your answers on the graphic organizer.**

**Who:** Who is George C. Marshall?

**What:** What is the Marshall Plan?

**Where:** Where did the Plan come from?

**When:** When was the plan created?

**Why:** Why was the Marshall Plan created? What was its main purpose/ goal?