

China and Russia lead race to make hypersonic missiles

29th March, 2018



The U.S. military is worried about China and Russia developing hypersonic missiles. These are missiles that can travel between five and twenty times the speed of sound. Both Russia and China are developing the

missile a lot faster than the United States. A senior U.S. military official said this could be a security problem for the USA. General John Hyten warned that the USA has no defense that could stop the use of such weapons against it. He said the USA needed small nuclear weapons to stop Russia attacking the USA. President Donald Trump said he has "plans to get together in the not-too-distant future" with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss the arms race.

Russia says it successfully tested a hypersonic missile earlier this month. China tested its missiles last year and will soon have the weapons ready for use. President Putin explained that Russia needs the weapons because of actions other countries have taken against it. He said "unlawful sanctions" by the USA and European countries have hurt Russia's development. He added: "You have failed to contain Russia." Mr Putin says the missiles will be able to fly anywhere in the world and will "strike like a fireball". Tensions increased this week after the USA and many European countries expelled Russian diplomats after the reported poisoning of a Russian spy in England.

Sources: cnbc.com / livescience.com / thehill.com

Writing

Why do countries need such powerful weapons?
How can we stop another arms race?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

military / missiles / the speed of sound / faster / defense / weapons / plans / arms / successfully / actions / sanctions / development / fireball / tensions / poisoning / spy

True / False

- a) The article said China is worried about Russia's hypersonic missiles. T / F
- b) The missiles can travel up to 20 times the speed of sound. T / F
- c) A U.S. General said the USA can defend itself against the missiles. T / F
- d) Presidents Putin and Trump will meet soon to discuss the arms race. T / F
- e) China tested hypersonic missiles in 2017. T / F
- f) President Putin said sanctions against Russia were illegal. T / F
- g) Hypersonic missiles cannot fly anywhere in the world. T / F
- h) Russia said it poisoned a British spy in England. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. worried | a. operation |
| 2. faster | b. weapons |
| 3. needed | c. hit |
| 4. discuss | d. required |
| 5. arms | e. concerned |
| 6. tested | f. threw out |
| 7. use | g. trialed |
| 8. unlawful | h. talk about |
| 9. strike | i. illegal |
| 10. expelled | j. quicker |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about hypersonic missiles?
- b) Why is the USA worried about Russia having hypersonic missiles?
- c) Which country is more dangerous - the USA, China or Russia?
- d) Which president do you like better - Putin or Trump?
- e) What are the chances of a war between the USA and Russia?
- f) Why are there sanctions against Russia?
- g) What are the problems between the USA and Russia?
- h) What will Presidents Trump and Putin discuss?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. twenty times the speed | a. the use of such weapons |
| 2. this could be a security | b. race |
| 3. the USA has no defense that could stop | c. fireball |
| 4. plans to get together in the not- | d. of sound |
| 5. discuss the arms | e. of a Russian spy |
| 6. unlawful | f. Russian diplomats |
| 7. hurt Russia's | g. sanctions |
| 8. strike like a | h. too-distant future |
| 9. European countries expelled | i. development |
| 10. the reported poisoning | j. problem for the USA |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How dangerous might hypersonic missiles be?
- Why is Russia faster than the USA in developing the missiles?
- Why are US-Russian relations so difficult?
- What do you know about the poisoning incident?
- How dangerous is an arms race?
- How can we stop an arms race from happening?
- What questions would you like to ask the U.S. military?

Spelling

- The U.S. ytimliar is worried
- twenty times the speed of undos
- this could be a tuiyscre problem
- stop the use of such naewpso
- in the not-too-ntdtisa future
- sdcsius the arms race
- it uuefcsllssyc tested a hypersonic missile
- taken snaagti it
- unlawful connissat
- iketrs like a fireball
- countries expelled Russian dpilamtos
- oipsgnion of a Russian spy

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. j	3. d	4. h	5. b
6. g	7. a	8. i	9. c	10. f

Role Play

Role A – The Arms Race

You think the arms race should be top of the list of things Presidents Trump and Putin should talk about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): Syria, space travel or the world economy.

Role B – Syria

You think Syria should be top of the list of things Presidents Trump and Putin should talk about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the arms race, space travel or the world economy.

Role C – Space Travel

You think space travel should be top of the list of things Presidents Trump and Putin should talk about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): Syria, the arms race or the world economy.

Role D – The World Economy

You think the world economy should be top of the list of things Presidents Trump and Putin should talk about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): Syria, space travel or the arms race.

Speaking – Talks

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things Presidents Putin and Trump need to talk about at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| • the war on terror | • the arms race |
| • climate change | • space travel |
| • the Russia World Cup | • the world economy |
| • being President | • Syria |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.