

Warm-Up: Sputnik and Space Race

And We Wonder Why We Can't Keep Pace



As you would expect, Americans had many reactions to the launching of the Soviet Satellite. Fear was by far the most important effect of Sputnik and this fear made Americans do many things. The construction of fallout shelters multiplied during this time and some people even refused to send their kids to school. The American public thought that the Soviets now had the ability to look into their houses at night and launch nuclear missiles from space. In reality, Sputnik was nothing more than a radio controlled satellite that did not have the ability to do anything but fly.

1. What two things is the cartoonist blaming for U.S. Science "Not Keeping Pace" with Russian Science?
2. Why do you think he blamed Education?
3. Why did Americans fear Sputnik?
4. How did Americans show their fear of Sputnik?