Entry # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1991: FALL OF THE SOVIET UNION COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

*Directions: After reading the Upfront article, complete the comprehension questions in the spaces below.*

1. According to the article, what is the definition of communism?
2. Why was Eastern Europe vulnerable to Soviet expansion after World War II?
3. What events happened in the 1970s that made many Americans believe the Soviets could win the Cold War?
4. Why were many Soviets unhappy with the Soviet system by the 1980s?
5. Explain why the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 is known as the Soviet Union’s “Vietnam”.
6. What challenges did Mikhail Gorbachev face when he became the Soviet leader in 1985? What steps did he take to reform the system?
7. What wars did the U.S. fight to try to stop the spread of communism? Were those wars necessary? Explain.
8. What began to happen in 1989 that showed the Soviet Union was started to crumble?
9. In what year did the Soviet Union officially collapse? What event symbolized its collapse and return to Russia?
10. Why has Russia had a hard time embracing democracy?