

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Key Ideas: Preparing to Write

**Directions:** You are a journalist covering the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Your assignment is to write an article explaining what the Berlin Wall was and why it's important to remember it. Use this graphic organizer to take notes for your article. Use details from the article "Escape to Freedom" and the Behind the Scenes video.

**Dates**

What are the important dates to report? List them and briefly note why each is important.

**Physical Description of the Wall**

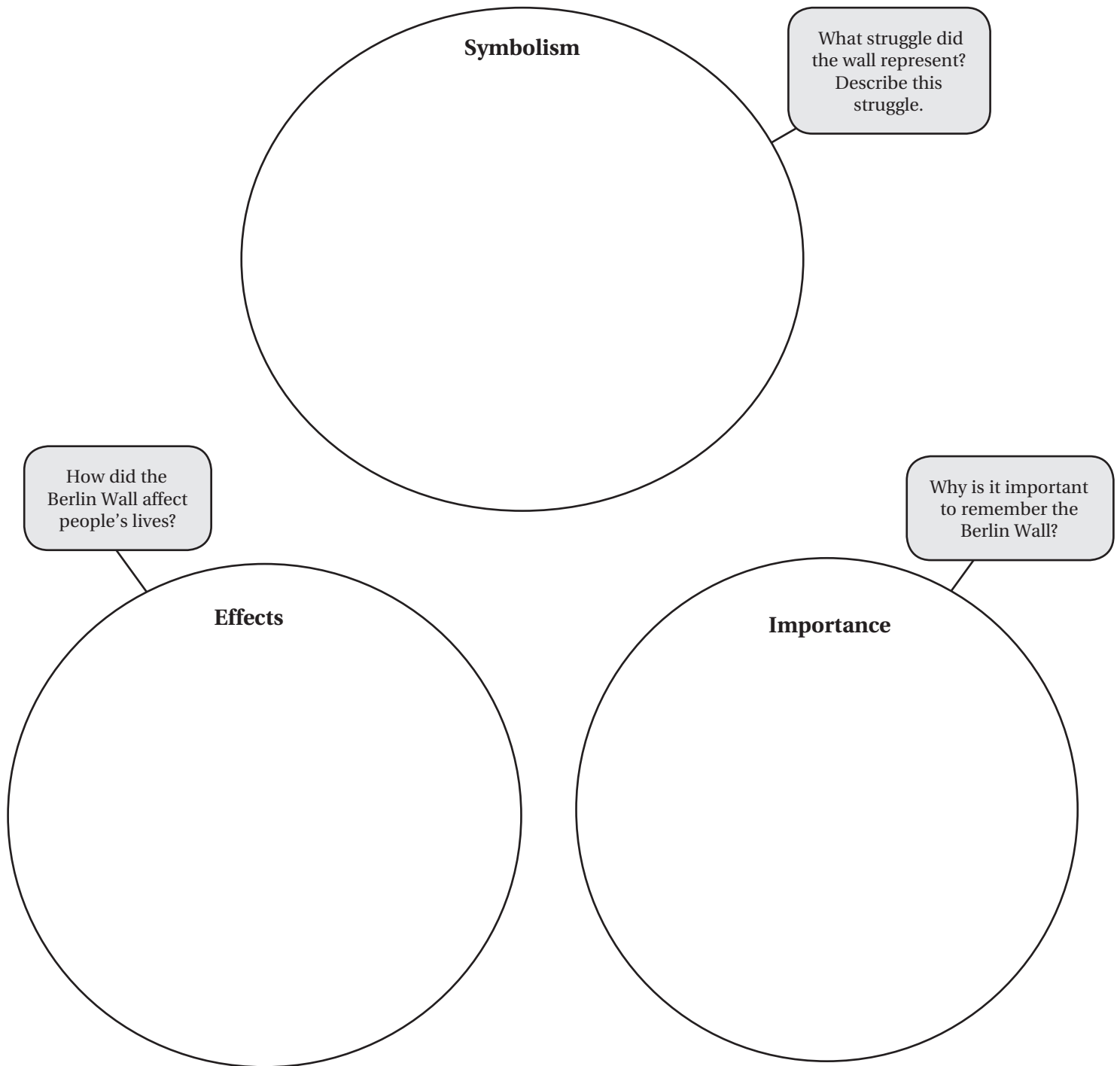
Note some physical details about the Berlin Wall, like where it was located, its size, and what it looked like.

**Background**

Complete the following sentence:  
*Germany was divided because . . .*

**Purpose**

Complete the following sentence:  
*The Berlin Wall was built because . . .*



**Turn to the next page for some tips on putting it all together.**

## Feature Story Outline

Now that you've gathered your information, it's time to start crafting your article. Here's an idea of how you might organize your article.

**1**

### HEADLINE/TITLE

This should tell your readers in just a few words what your article is about.

**2**

### BYLINE

This is the name of the journalist or journalists reporting the story.  
In this case, that's you!

**3**

### LEAD

Your first paragraph should give a preview of the whole story. In other words, it should be a brief summary of everything you are going to write about in this article. From just this paragraph, a reader should know all of the most important information: What happened, why it happened, when it happened, where it happened, and who was involved.

**4**

### BODY PARAGRAPHS

Here's where you go into detail. Give some background information (What was life like in Germany after World War II? What was the Cold War? How did the Berlin Wall affect people's lives?) and more information on what you said in your lead.

**5**

### CONCLUSION

Find a way to sum it all up. One idea is to express why it is important to learn about the past.

**6**

### TEXT FEATURES

Consider including text features such as photos, maps, or timelines to help your readers understand the fall of the Berlin Wall.