

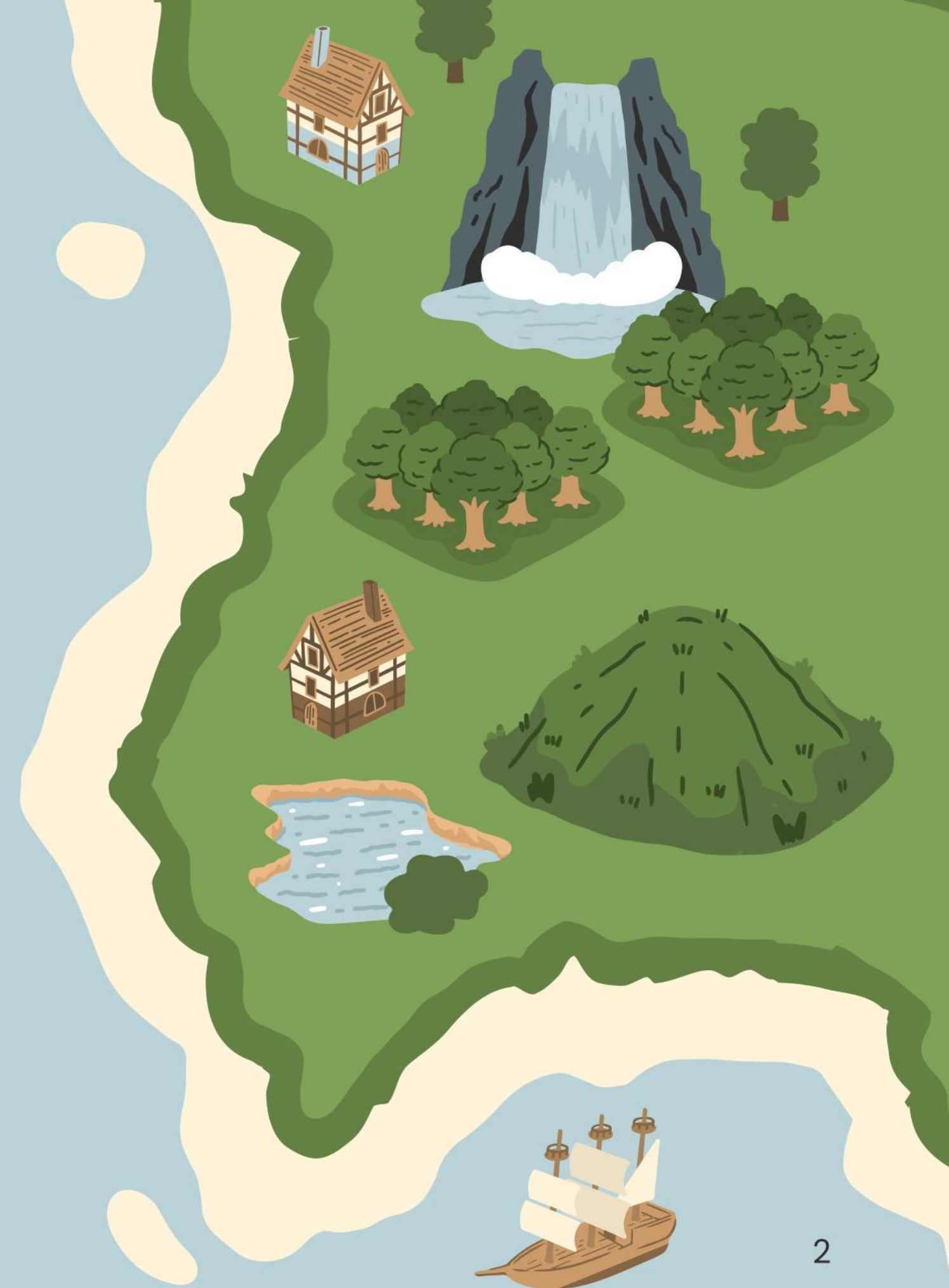
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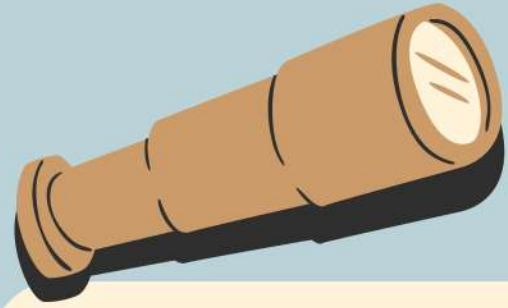
THE BERLIN WALL



INTRODUCTION

The Berlin Wall is one of the most striking symbols of the Cold War. It was built in 1961 by the authorities of the GDR (East Germany) with the support of the USSR and stood for almost 30 years — until 1989. Her goal was to prevent people from East Germany from fleeing to West Germany. The fall of the wall in 1989 was a turning point in history, a symbol of the end of the Cold War and the unification of Europe.





ORIGINS OF THE BERLIN WALL



After World War II, Germany was divided into two countries: • The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) in the West was a democratic country supported by the United States and its allies. • The German Democratic Republic (GDR) in the East was a communist country influenced by the Soviet Union.

- By 1961, more than 2 million East Germans had fled through Berlin to West Germany. This threatened to cause an economic and political crisis in East Germany.

The authorities have decided to build a wall to stop the flow of refugees.



STRUCTURE AND FEATURES OF THE WALL

The wall was 155 km long and surrounded the whole of West Berlin. It consisted of concrete slabs, barbed wire, and minefields. Between the walls there was a so-called "death strip" with towers and guards. Attempts to cross the wall were severely punished, hundreds of people died trying to escape.



LIFE DIVIDED BY THE WALL



FOR THE EAST:

- LOSS OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT;
- CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE BY THE SECRET POLICE (STASI);
- RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICS AND THE ECONOMY.

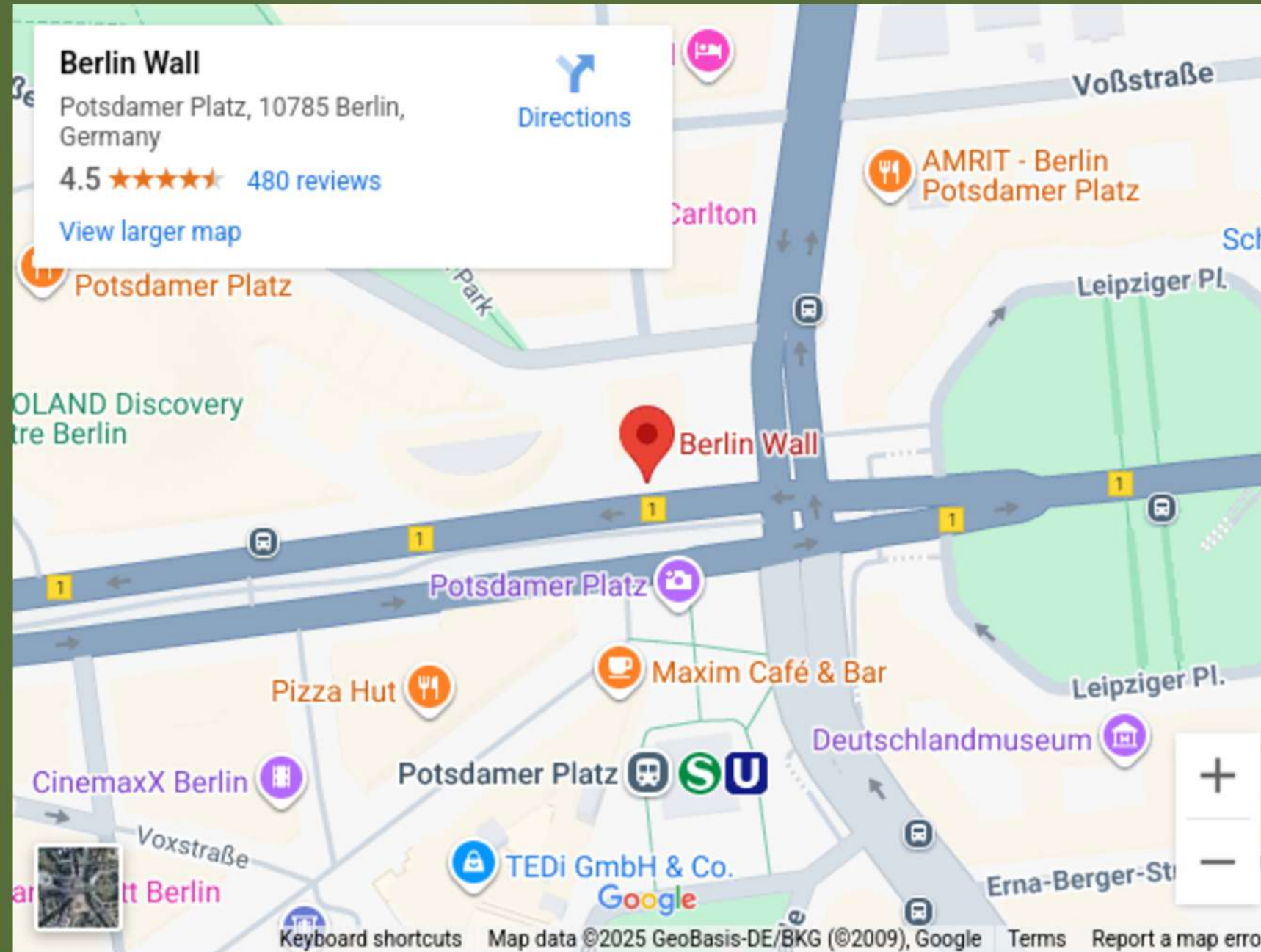
FOR THE WEST:

- LIFE IN A DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY;
- THE WALL WAS A REMINDER OF THE THREAT POSED BY THE USSR AND COMMUNISM.
- MANY FAMILIES WERE SEPARATED OVERNIGHT.

INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

- Speech by US President John F. Kennedy (1963): "Ich bin ein Berliner" ("I am a Berliner"), an expression of solidarity with the residents of West Berlin.

Speech by Ronald Reagan (1987): "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" ("Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!").



The wall has become the main symbol of a divided world — the communist East and the democratic West.

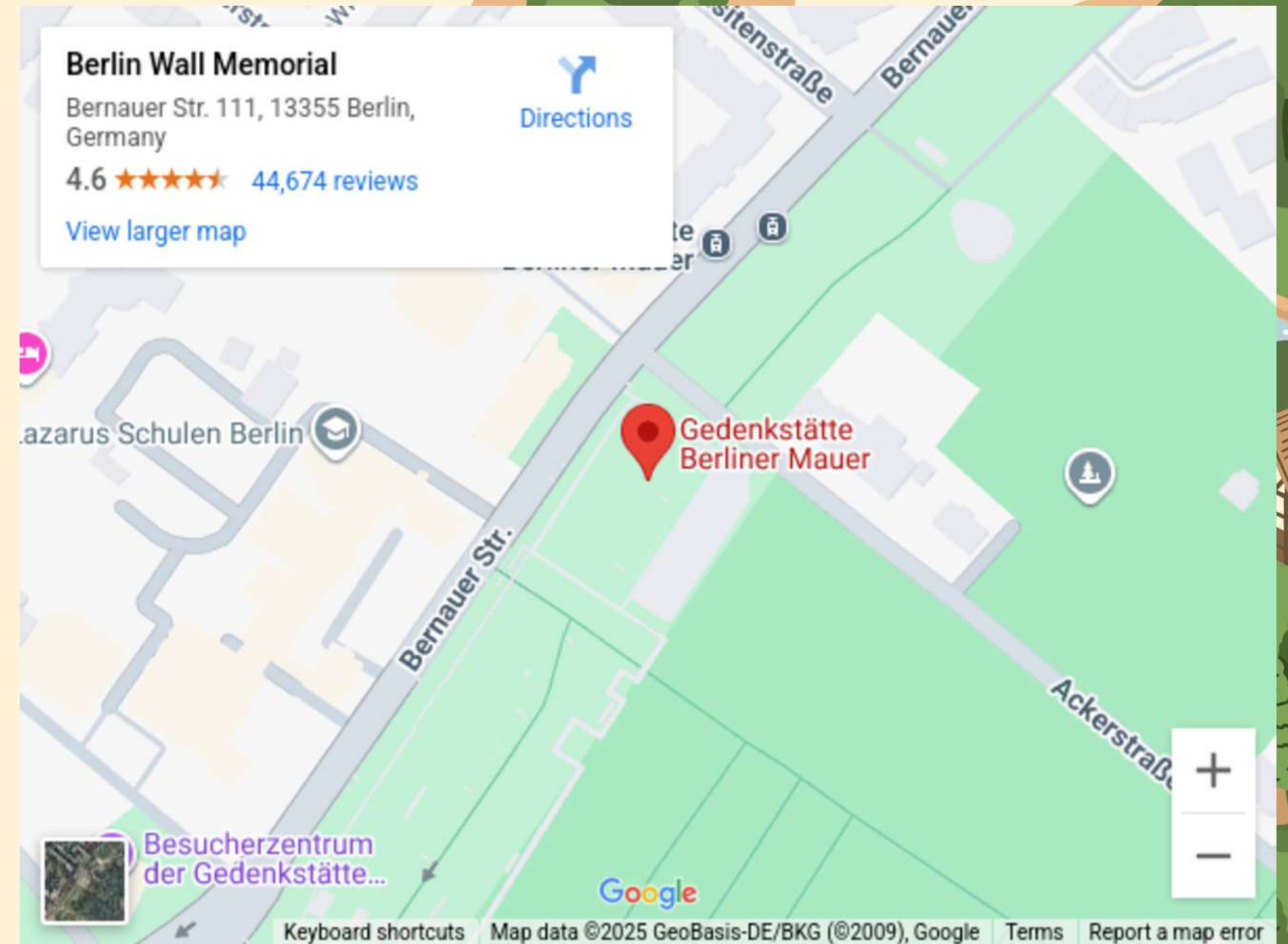
THE FALL OF THE WALL

- In the 1980s, changes began: Gorbachev's reforms (perestroika and glasnost) in the USSR.
- In Eastern Europe, protests against communist regimes grew.
- In November 1989, East German authorities allowed free exit under pressure of protests.
- On November 9, 1989, crowds of people began to destroy the wall.
- In 1990, Germany was united.



LEGACY AND MEMORY

- The fall of the wall symbolized the end of the Cold War.
 - Germany became a unified country again.
 - A new era of cooperation began in Europe.
 - Today, parts of the wall have been preserved as a historical monument, with memorials and a museum in Berlin.
 - It serves as a reminder of the consequences of division and dictatorship, and the value of freedom.





CONCLUSION

The Berlin Wall was not just a physical barrier, but a symbol of global confrontation.

It divided not only the city and the country, but the entire world into two camps.

Its fall marked the beginning of a new era of a united Germany and Europe, a step towards peace and democracy.

Resources

<https://www.stiftung-berliner-mauer.de/en/berlin-wall-memorial/historical-site/memorial>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zyjv4wx/revision/6>

<https://www.history.com/articles/berlin-wall>

<https://www.visitberlin.de/en/berlin-wall>

