

**GDP, ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND MARKET SYSTEMS:
COMPARING THE ECONOMIES OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA**

GRADES: 9-12

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SUBJECT: Economics

TIME REQUIRED: One class period

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will be able to analyze, compare and contrast a nation's standard of living based on comparative economic data.
- Students will understand what leads a nation to experience economic growth, or a higher standard of living.
- Students will develop real world applications of economic terms and measurements.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Internet access
- Computer projector.
- Summary of North and South Korea's economic data
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

BACKGROUND:

In order to compare countries' economies and economic systems, students will research and gather economic and other data including real GDP, literacy, exports and imports (including types of products), and infant mortality rates. If students are not already familiar with these terms, the teacher will need to provide a brief explanation for each. Students should also be familiar with the major characteristics of command and market economic systems.

CURRICULUM CONNECTION:

During a unit on globalization, economic systems or economic growth, the teacher could use this lesson to have students research and compare comparative economic data about North Korea and South Korea.

CONNECTION TO STUDENTS' LIVES:

In this age of globalization, it is important for students to be aware of economic systems outside of the United States. This is an important lesson for understanding that nations choose how to develop economically and the economic system chosen will have effects on its citizens, trade, and foreign relations.

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will be able to research the economic systems of North Korea and South Korea in order to compare and contrast differing economic systems.

STANDARDS:

- Minnesota State Economics Standards, Grade 12, strand VI
- Common Core Standards
 - SL 1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions
 - SL 2 Interpret information presented in diverse media
 - WHST 1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content
 - WHST 4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, audience

INTRODUCTION and EXPLORATION

- Begin by asking students what evidence they would look for to say a country has a high standard of living [food, shelter, clothing, medical care, transportation, infrastructure]
- Display photographs from North Korea and South Korea (but do not reveal the countries names) and ask students to identify which photos demonstrate a high or low standard of living. Many photos can be found on the internet. A good source for North Korea photos is http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2009/04/peering_into_north_korea.html. South Korea photos can be found at <http://www.globalphotos.org/seoul.htm>
- Ask guiding questions to facilitate student awareness: What are similarities/differences among these images? Do any of these images represent economic activity? In which country would you rather live?
- Explain that economists are able to, using economic data, develop a conclusion about a nation's standard of living and compare it to other nations, both regionally and globally.

PROCEDURE:

1. Pair students together and give one student current economic data from North Korea and the other student current economic and other data from South Korea. Again, do not reveal the countries at this time. Economic data should be accessed by the teacher at <http://www.cia.gov/library/publication/the-world-facebook/index.html> and organized in sheets to hand out to the students. Data included should be real GDP per capita, major industries, literacy, infant mortality rate, exports and imports (including types of products).
2. Students should be able to give, when called upon, a summary of economic data for their assigned country. Ask each pair of students to compare their data and try to explain the disparities.

APPLICATION OF THE CONTENT:

1. Ask students guiding questions regarding the two economies. What part of the world do you think the countries are located? What if I told you these countries were neighboring countries? What kind of economic system do you think each of the countries has?
2. Reveal the names of the countries. Go to <http://gapminder.org/world> and click on both North and South Korea in the right country column, then press play. Pay special attention to the disparity between the GDP differences since World War II. Discuss the results of the Gapminder chart.
3. Ask students guiding questions regarding the two countries. What do you know about the history of North and South Korea? What do you know about the governments of these countries? Why do you think some economic data is unavailable for North Korea? Why has there been such a divergence in the economic performance between North and South Korea since World War II? List and describe for the class the following factors that can determine a country's economic growth rate and standard of living:
 - Education levels and human capital
 - Amount of capital goods
 - Technology
 - International trade

Point out statistics from the CIA Factbook website that fit into these categories, pointing out the differences between North and South Korea. A good article to show summarize to the class, or to copy for the class to read is on the outstanding educational performance of Korea, found here: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/4240668.stm Connections can be made between economic growth rates and education in South Korea with this article.

ASSESSMENT:

One page essay for students. Prompt: *You have been hired as an advisor from the United States to document the standard of living in each of these two countries. Based on your research and class discussion summarize current economic conditions and then suggest a plan for economic growth for each nation.*

RESOURCES:

- Gapminder Interactive Graph - <http://gapminder.org/world>
- Photos of North Korea - http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2009/04/peering_into_north_korea.html.
- CIA World Factbook - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>
- Photos of South Korea - <http://www.globalphotos.org/seoul.htm>
- Education in South Korea - http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/4240668.stm