

COMPARING KOREA TO WHERE I LIVE

GRADES: 4-7

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SUBJECT: Social Studies, Geography

TIME REQUIRED: One class period

OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify the location of Korea in relation to the United States.
2. Describe the major geographic features of Korea.
3. Explain the importance of natural resources in Korea.
4. Identify the location of Korea relative to the rest of Northeast Asia.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- World Map
- Reference books such as atlases and encyclopedias
- Handout 1: Geographic Fact Sheet (attached)
- Handout 2: Physical Map of Korea (attached)

BACKGROUND:

Korea was an independent, unified kingdom for most of the past millennium. Following its victory in the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, Japan occupied Korea. Five years later, Japan formally annexed the entire Korean Peninsula. After World War II, a republic was set up in the southern half of the Korean Peninsula while a Communist government was installed in the north. During the Korean War (1950-1953), U.S. and other UN forces intervened to defend South Korea from North Korean attacks supported by the Chinese. An armistice was signed in 1953, splitting the Peninsula along a demilitarized zone at the 38th parallel. Thereafter, South Korea achieved rapid economic growth with per capita income rising to roughly 14 times the level of North Korea. In 1987, South Korean voters elected Roh Tae-woo to the presidency, ending 26 years of military dictatorships. South Korea today is a fully functioning modern democracy. In June 2000, a historic first North-South summit took place between the South's President Kim Dae Jung and the North's leader Kim Jong Il.

PROCEDURE:

1. Allow students time to explore Korea's location on the world map. Periodically ask them questions such as: What ocean must be crossed to get to Korea? At what latitude is Korea located? How does this latitude compare with that of our state? What other nations surround the Korean Peninsula? What bodies of water surround Korea?
2. Give students Handout 2 so that they may complete Handout 1. Start a discussion concerning the DMZ and the division between North and South Korea at approximately the 38th parallel to help students understand the cultural geography of the Peninsula.

EVALUATION:

- Have students share their findings with the class and check for accuracy of information.

- Ask students to generate three questions they have about the information they have collected on Korea.

ENRICHMENT:





1. Have students research the division of North and South Korea to discover the reasons behind the division of the country. How has the split divided families? Will there be a reunification between the two countries?
2. After dividing students into smaller groups, instruct them to make an illustration or poster that shows the differences and similarities between Korea and their own state.
3. Compare the natural resources of North and South Korea. How might these differences influence their economies? What information can students gather about the current economic situation of each country?

RESOURCES:

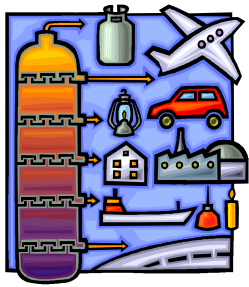
About Korea: <http://www.koreanculture.org/index.php>

CIA Fact book <http://www.webconcourse.com/almanac/ciafactbook.htm>

HANDOUT 1: GEOGRAPHIC FACT SHEET

Geographic Feature	North Korea	South Korea	My State
<p>Location:</p> 	<p>Absolute:</p> <p>Relative:</p>	<p>Absolute:</p> <p>Relative:</p>	<p>Absolute:</p> <p>Relative:</p>
 <p>Landforms:</p> <p>Rivers</p> <p>Mountains</p> <p>Major bodies of water</p>			
<p>Climate</p> 			
<p>Terrain</p> 			

Natural Resources



Korean Peninsula

