

AN INQUIRY-BASED INTRODUCTION TO KOREAN GEOGRAPHY

GRADES: 9-12

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SUBJECT: Geography

TIME REQUIRED: One to two class periods

OBJECTIVES:

- Consider geographic characteristics and determine the ideal placement of cities.
- Identify major cities of Korea and consider why they developed in those locations.
- Investigate the role geography plays in human behavior.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Unlabeled map of Korea, with rivers (see Handout 1)
- Directions for the mystery map activity (see Handout 2)
- Three maps featuring geographic characteristics of the Korean Peninsula (See Handout 3)
- Reading on Korean geography (see Handout 4)
- An overhead transparency of Handout 1
- An overhead transparency of a map of Korea (See teacher transparency)

PROCEDURE:

Note to teacher: It is important this lesson be done at the beginning of the unit on Korea. Initially, students should not know the maps they are given (Handouts 1, 2 and 3) are maps of Korea. To ensure students will not know they are maps of Korea, the maps (Handouts 1, 2 and 3) are not set at cardinal directions. The Korean Peninsula has been placed on its side.

1. Ask students to think about the state you live in. How do the climate and other aspects of your state's physical geography affect their daily lives and behavior? Give examples. Ask where your state's capital is located. What are the other major cities in your state? Why might they be located there?

Student answers will vary. For example, students may share that they wear warm clothes during the winter or that major cities developed along rivers and bodies of water to aid in travel, access to fresh water and the transportation of goods.

2. Explain that during the lesson, students will be given a map of a mystery country. In pairs, they are to determine where to place cities considering the physical characteristics and natural resources available. They are also to give justification as to why they placed cities where they did.
3. Divide students into pairs. This may be done randomly or in pre-selected groups. Distribute Handouts 1 and 2 and read the directions as a class.
4. Distribute Handout 3. Allow 20 minutes for pairs to place cities on their map and to answer the questions on Handout 2.
5. Using an overhead transparency of Handout 1, randomly select a few students to place one of their cities on the transparency. Ask them to explain to the class why they put the city in that location.
6. Discuss the following topics as a class:

- What physical factors did you consider when placing cities? Why?
 - What areas on this map seemed better locations for cities? Explain your answer.
 - Where are natural resources located?
 - What physical characteristics aided or inhibited your placement of the cities?
 - Where are other countries located in relation to your cities?
 - What military considerations might you take when placing the cities?
 - What areas can be farmed? What areas are not arable?
 - What industries might develop in this new land?
7. If infrastructure is to develop between cities, how might it most easily develop? Tell students their map is of the Korean Peninsula turned on its side. Have students turn their maps to the correct orientation and show them the teacher transparency. Ask students to compare their maps to the map of Korea.
 8. Discuss the following questions as a class:
 - How does your map compare to the actual map of Korea?
 - What are some similarities and differences between the two maps?
 - What are the capitals of North and South Korea?
 - How did the physical and political landscape of the Korean Peninsula impact the development of major cities?
 9. Distribute Handout 4 and read it aloud.
 10. After students have put their handouts away, ask them to name the capital of South and North Korea and to name at least two other cities on the Korean peninsula.

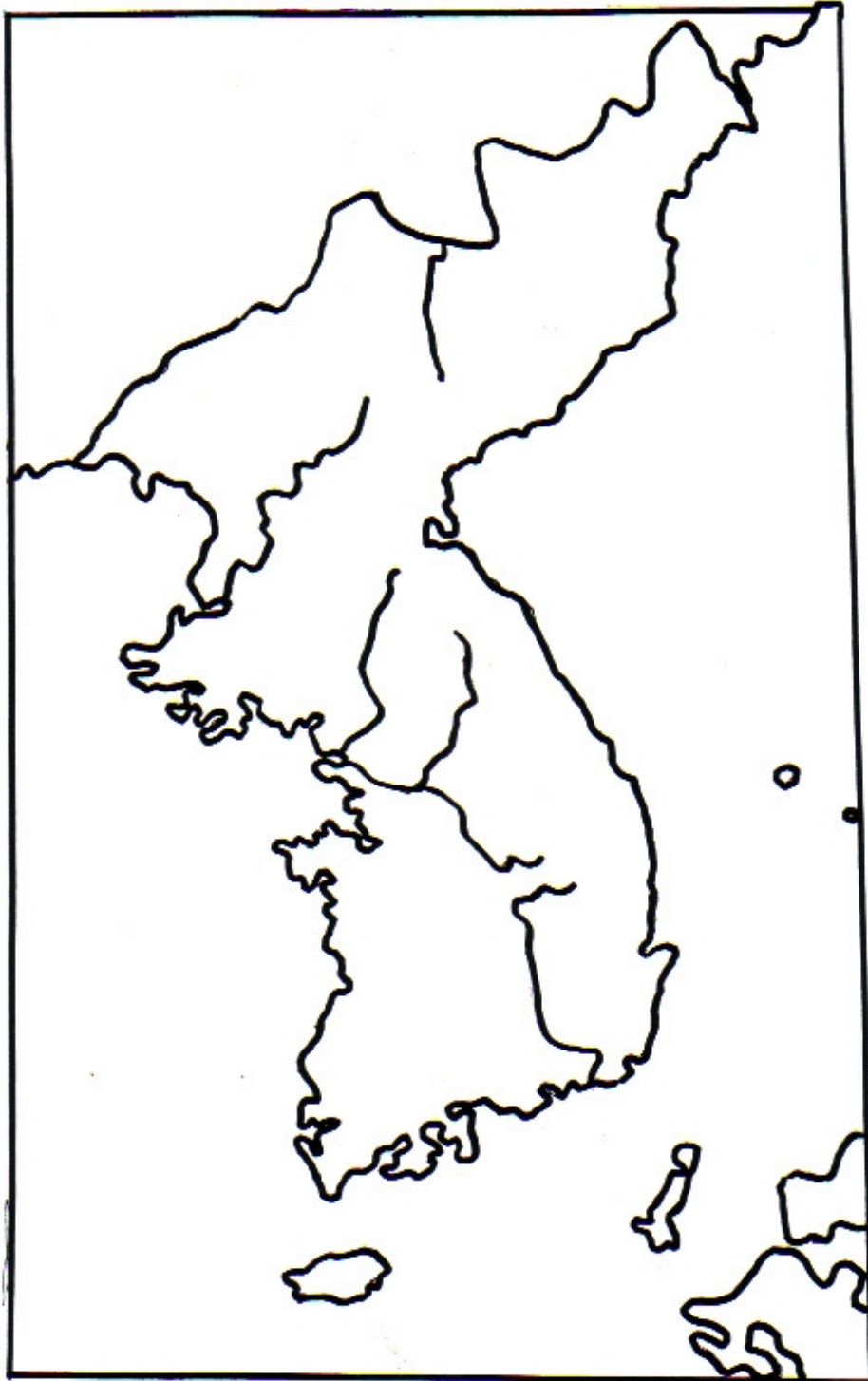
EVALUATION:

- Assess answers from Handouts 1 and 2
- Assess student comprehension through class discussion.

HANDOUT 1

Names _____

Student Handout 1



HANDOUT 2: Mystery Map Activity

Names _____

DIRECTIONS: Your team has been given Handout 1—a blank map of a mystery place. Your goal is to place at least five different cities on this blank map.

But wait, there's more!

You have three additional maps of the same mystery place (Handout 3). Each map contains physical characteristics or resources in this mystery place. Use these extra maps to decide the best places to put your five cities.

Be sure to justify why you placed each city where you did. You will be graded on how well your group used the maps to determine placement of cities and how well you explained the placement of each city. Refer to the scoring guide to see how points will be awarded. Good luck!

FIRST: Review each map.

You will note that Map A is a map of physical characteristics of this country. This country is bordered by water on three sides and by two countries on the fourth side. Additionally, Country B is a little over 20 miles away from your mystery land. Two-thirds of this country is mountainous and it has many rivers.

Points to Consider:

- Where are natural resources located?
- What physical characteristics will either aid or inhibit the development of cities?
- Where are other countries located? What military considerations might you take?

Map B is a map of cultivated and uncultivated land. Consider this when placing your cities.

Points to Consider:

- What areas are arable? What areas are not arable?
- What other resources can supplement people's diet?

Map C consists of resources available in your new land.

Points to Consider:

- What industries might develop in this land?
- If infrastructure is to develop between cities, how might it most easily develop? (Remember, infrastructure includes waterways, roads and rail lines).
- Remember, the resources listed are often used in heavy industry. Magnesite is used in the construction of materials such as insulation. Zinc is used for galvanizing steel and in preparing certain alloys. Tin is a soft metal. Tungsten is used in the production of steel and in light bulbs. Copper is used in electrical equipment and in construction. Iron ore is also used in metals—especially steel. Graphite is used to build autos and aircraft. Coal is used for fuel.

Now, study each map carefully and place at least five cities on the blank map (Handout 1). Use the rest of this handout to justify why you placed each city where you did. Remember to give each of your cities a name!

City #1: _____
(name)

We put this city here because:

City #2: _____
(name)

We put this city here because:

City #3: _____
(name)

We put this city here because:

City #4: _____
(name)

We put this city here because:

City #5: _____
(name)

We put this city here because:

Mystery Map Scoring Guide

Use of Resources

Your group used all three maps and considered the characteristics of those maps when placing the cities.

1 2 3 4 5

Teacher Comments:

Clarity of Thought

The justification you gave for each city placement was logical and clear. It is easy to see why your group decided to place each city where you did.

1 2 3 4 5

Teacher Comments:

Effort

It is obvious you took this assignment seriously and worked diligently on it.

1 2 3 4 5

Teacher Comments:

Group Score

During the activity, it was clear to the teacher that all members of your group contributed equally.

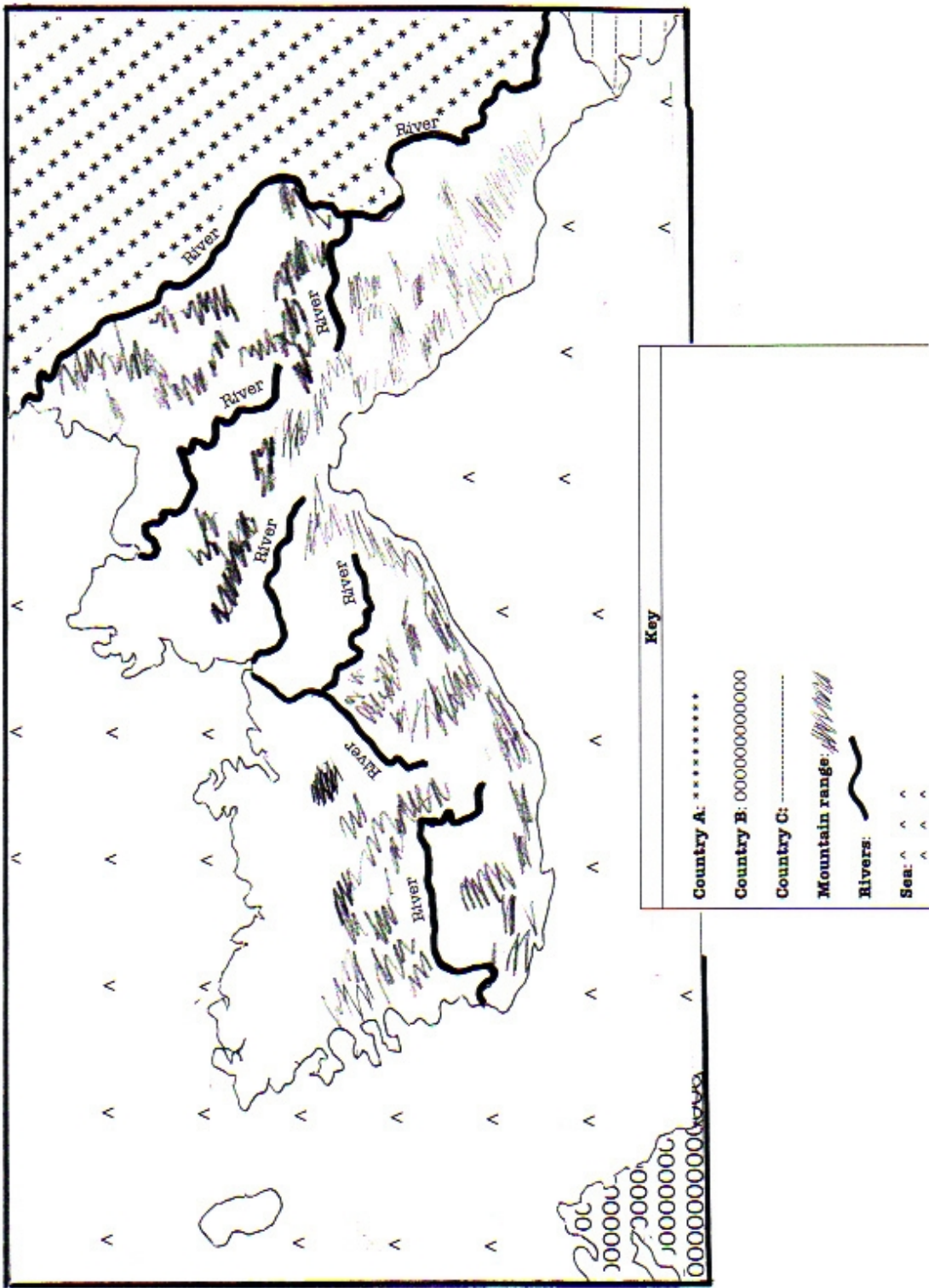
1 2 3 4 5

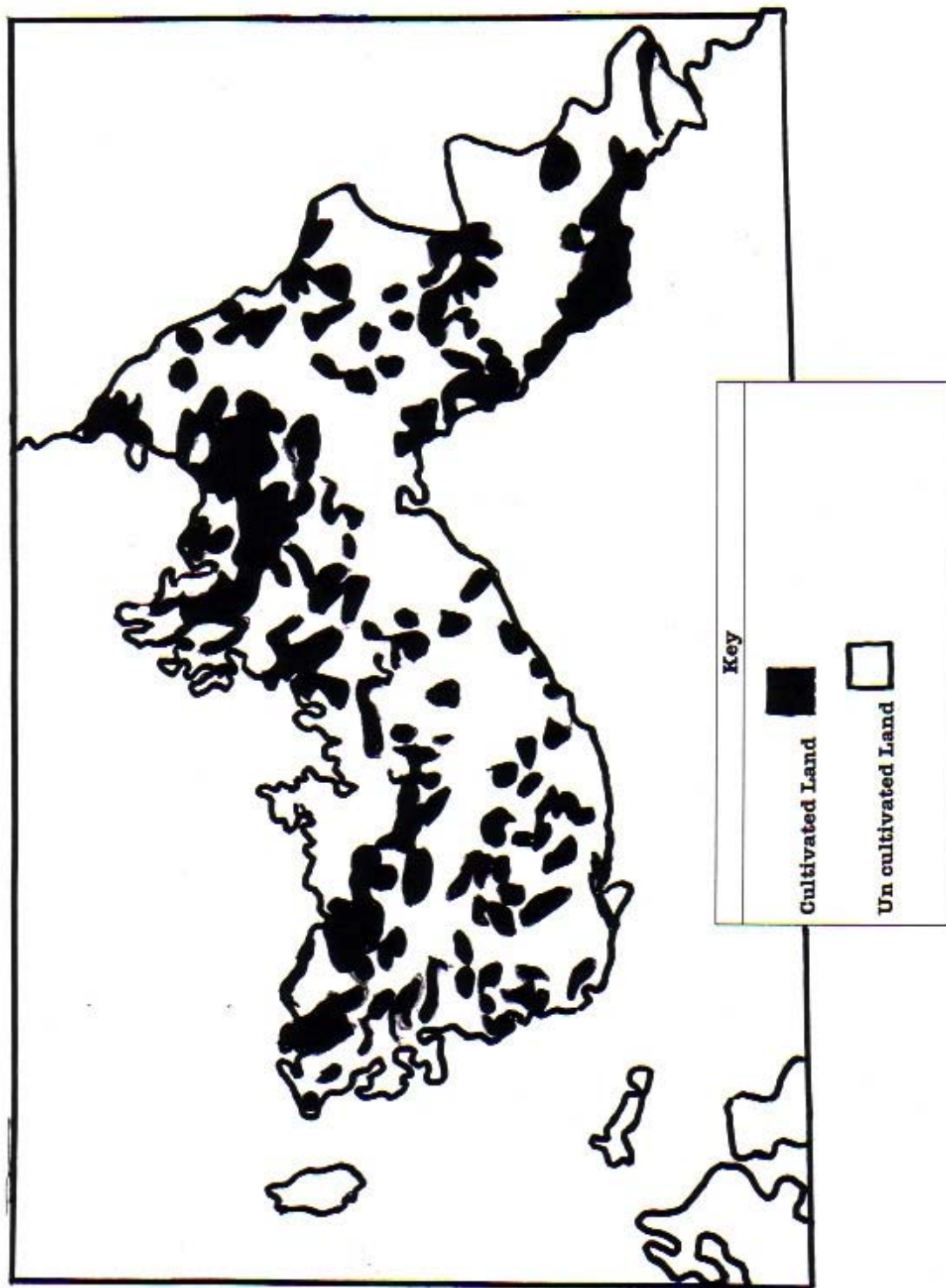
Teacher Comments:

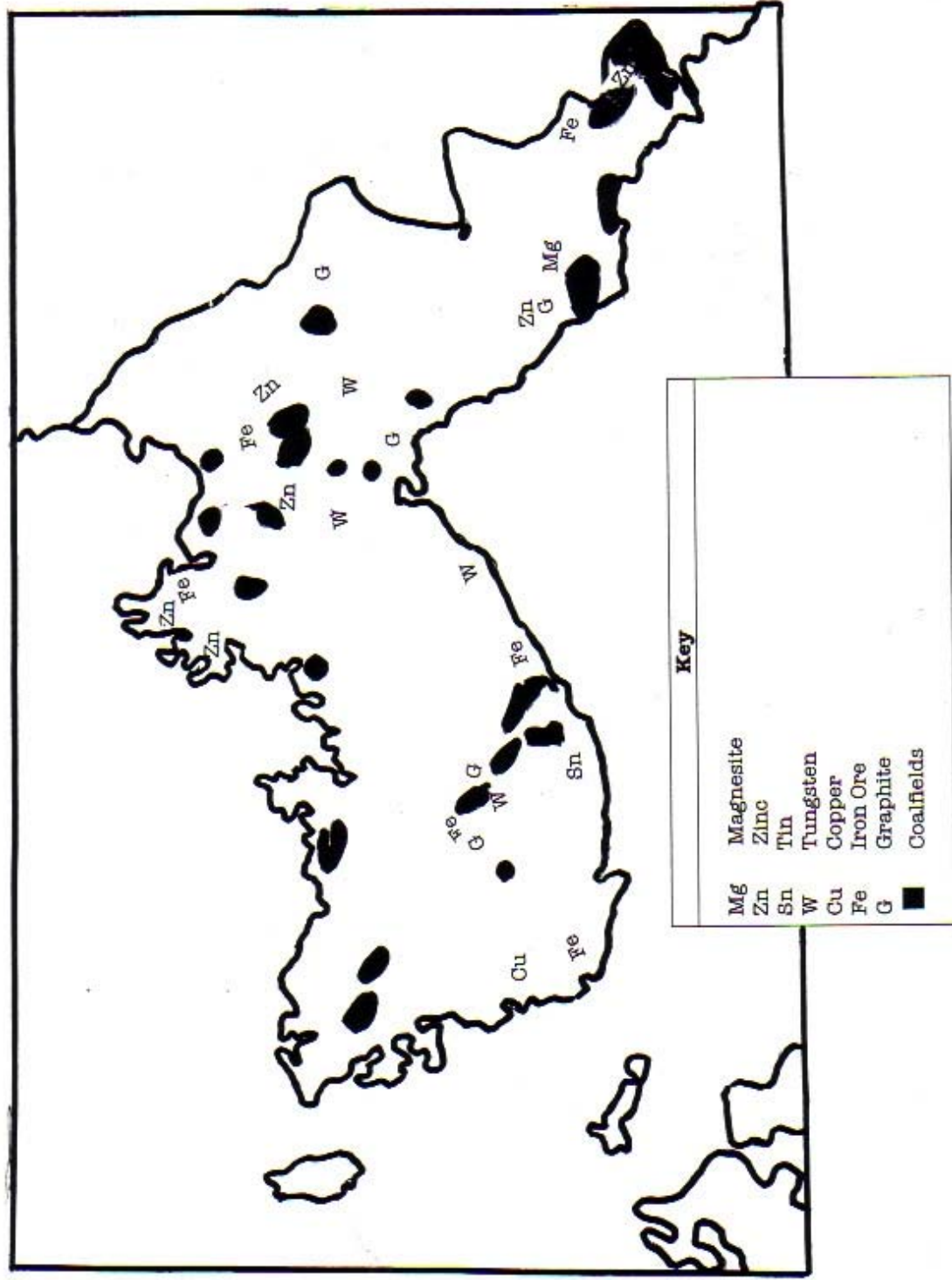
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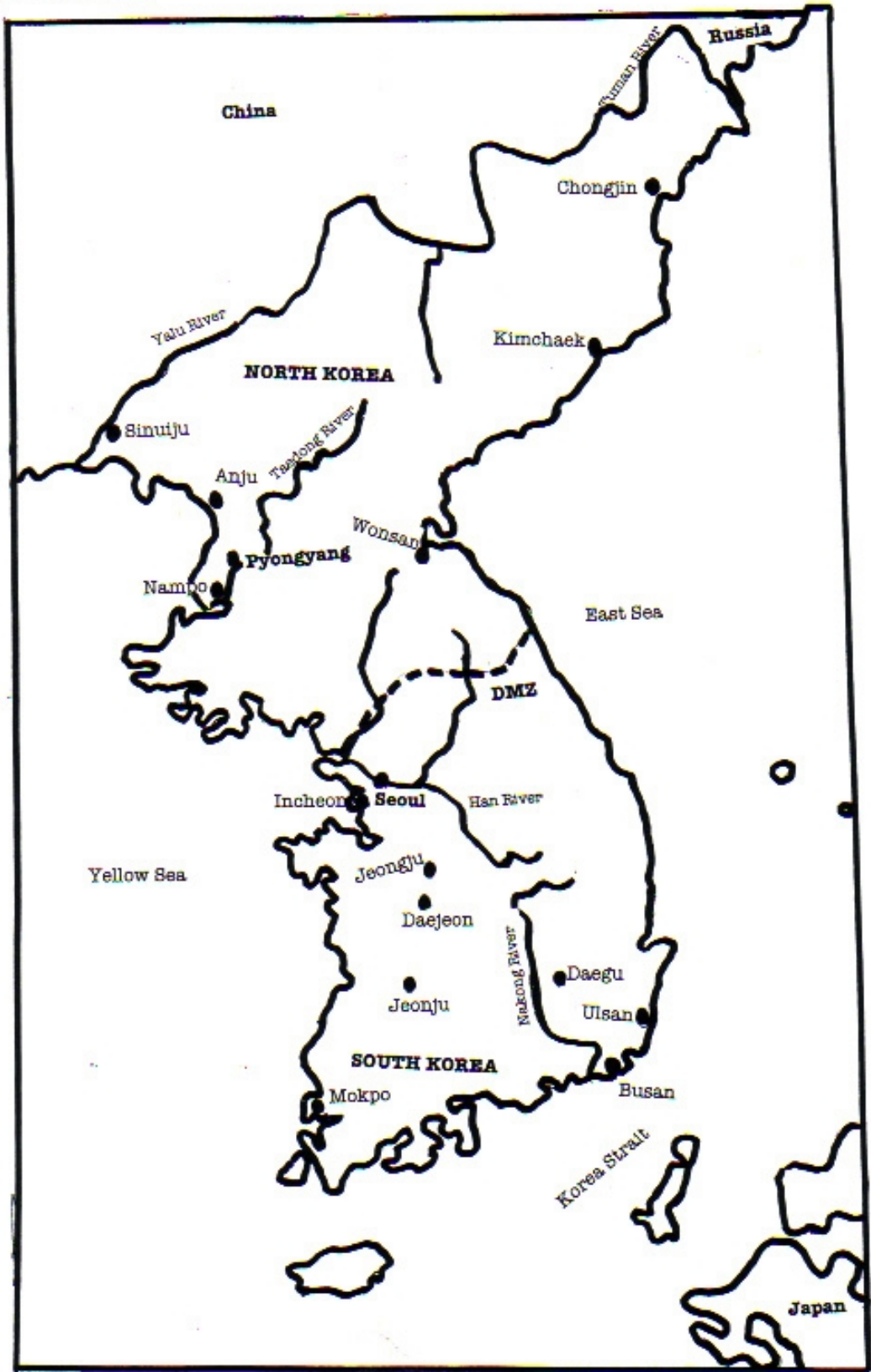
**HANDOUT 3: MAP A, MAP B, MAP C AND TEACHER
TRANSPARENCY**

Student Handout 3
Map A









HANDOUT 4: AN OVERVIEW OF KOREA

Korea is often referred to as the “land of the morning calm” and the Korean Peninsula extends southward from mainland Asia. Korea is over 600 miles long and over 100 miles wide. On its northern end, Korea is bordered by both China and Russia. Its western border is the Yellow Sea and eastern border is the East Sea (also known as the Sea of Japan). At certain points along the Peninsula’s coast Japan is just 20 miles away.

Despite many foreign invasions, Korea remained unified under a single government from 668 AD until the end of World War II. At that time, Korea was divided at the 38th parallel into two separate countries—the democratic Republic of Korea (South Korea) and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea). After the division, civil war broke out as both sides vied for control of the Peninsula. The conflict intensified when North Korea launched an invasion into the south. North Korea was primarily supported by the People’s Republic of China and South Korea was backed by the United States. The two sides waged war from 1950 to 1953 and the conflict ended in a stalemate. Currently, the Demilitarized Zone, a two-and-a-half mile area operated by the Joint Security Administration, monitors the border. Travel between the two countries is restricted.

Almost half of the Korean Peninsula is arable. Over two-thirds of Korea is mountainous with the Mount Taebaeksan range extending along the east coast. The varied topography, dotted by mountains, rivers and inlets makes the Korean landscape breathtaking. Many consider hiking the national pastime of South Korea!

There are four distinct seasons in Korea: spring, fall, summer and winter. Temperatures vary around the Peninsula with the hottest weather occurring in August and the coldest weather in January.

There are many natural resources available in Korea. Both anthracite and bituminous coal are found in North Korea and anthracite coal in South Korea. There is much industry in Korea including iron and steel manufacturing, shipbuilding, electronics, automotive assembly, petroleum refining, thermal electric power, hydroelectric power, textile and machine manufacturing. Hyundai Heavy Industries, located in Ulsan, South Korea, is the best example of Korean industrial ingenuity. In 1972, Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) built the world’s largest shipyard. Today, HHI is the world’s leader in shipbuilding. Hyundai plants are located all over the globe including many parts of the United States.