

# KOREAN WAR PERSPECTIVES

**GRADES:** 9-12

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**SUBJECT:** AP US History

## OBJECTIVES:

The goal of this activity is to view the same event—The Korean War—through the viewpoint of two different participants. You will read about the Korean War in the text *The American Pageant*, the most commonly used textbook in teaching AP US History in the United States. You will also read about the conflict in *Korea through the Ages*, produced by the Association of Korean History Teachers and considered “the most comprehensive survey history of Korea available in English.”

## MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- David M. Kennedy, Lizabeth Cohen, Thomas Bailey. *The American Pageant: A History of the Republic*, 13th ed. Houghton Mifflin Company: Boston, 2006.
- *Korea through the Ages, Volume II*. Association of Korean History Teachers. Ed. Lee Gil-Sang. Yoon Deok-hong (AKS): Seoul, Korea, 2005.

## PROCEDURE:

1. Have students read pp. 856, 877-879, 887-88 from *The American Pageant*. (Or other pages pertaining to The Korean War depending on which edition of American Pageant).
2. Have students read pp. 166-181 from *Korea Through the Ages, Volume II*.
3. Students will answer the following questions after reading both selections:
  - After reading the two accounts, how would you relate the relative importance of Korean War to American history? How important is the same event in Korean history? Use quotes from the texts to support your answer.
  - What facts and events are stressed in the *American Pageant* regarding the lead up to the Korean War? What is stressed in the Korean textbook? Who is blamed for causing the war in each text? How are the perspectives in the two texts different?
  - How are the two textual accounts of the events of the war between June 25, 1950, and the truce on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1953, similar? How were the two accounts different?
  - What does the Korean text say are the consequences of the war for Korea? What does the US text say are the consequences for the US for its involvement in the Korean War? What differences do you note?
  - How did North and South Korea develop differently after the Korean War ended? What was the role of the US in the development of each half of Korea following the war? What does the US text say about this?

- What information about the impact of the US on Korean history is not presented in the US text? Does this information reflect favorably or unfavorably on the US?
- What did this activity teach you about the relationship between the US and South Korea? Between the US and North Korea? Between the two Koreas?