

# **KOREA: NORTH AND SOUTH**

**GRADES:** 11-12

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**SUBJECT:** Global Studies

**TIME REQUIRED:** Three to four class periods

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Understand the division of Korea and the establishment of the DMZ following the Korean War.
2. Compare and contrast the contemporary states of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).
3. Analyze the relationship between the two nations and explore the possibility of reunification.
4. Appreciate the global implications of developments in Korea.

## **MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

- Handout 1: Korea: Past and Present (attached PowerPoint presentation taken from the Good Neighbor Program of the United States Forces Korea and the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission – July 2009)
- Access to the computer lab for research purposes
- Large pieces of paper and magic markers for making posters

## **BACKGROUND:**

Following World War II the nation of Korea was divided at the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. The subsequent Korean War from 1950-53, ending with an armistice and the creation of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between the two nations, solidified the division between North and South. In the decades since the armistice, North and South Korea have developed along two distinct trajectories, resulting in two very different countries who also share the Korean peninsula as well as a common history. Since WWII, the relationship between North and South Korea has drawn the attention and intervention of the United States and other nations throughout the world. As we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Korea's division and the prospect of reunification remains a pressing global issue.

## **PROCEDURE:**

### **Day 1**

1. Distribute Handout 1: Korea Past and Present and review as a class.
2. Discuss the reasons as well as any potential pros and cons for the division of North and South.
3. Highlight the roles of the United States and other key nations involved.

### **Days 2-3**

1. Assign each student to either North or South Korea.

2. Students will then use the internet to research their assigned nation. They should consult a minimum of 4-5 authoritative websites or online databases, which should be listed in a bibliography. They should gather information in the following categories: geography, government, economy, military, religion and/or current events.
3. They should also collect (or draw on their own) visuals to represent their nation, such as a map, flag, etc.
4. Students will use the information gathered to create a poster on either North or South Korea. The posters should include information from all of the above assigned categories as well as at least two pictures and at least one graph. (Alternatively, if computer resources are available, students can create PowerPoint presentations instead of posters.)

### **Days 3-4**

1. When finished with their posters, students should partner with another student who researched the other country.
2. Students should take a few moments to study each others' posters.
3. Working with their partners, students should refer to the two posters in answering the following questions:
  - a. What do you think is the greatest strength of each nation and why?
  - b. What do you see as each nation's greatest weakness and why?
  - c. What similarities do you see between the two nations?
  - d. What do you think is the most notable difference between the two and why?
  - e. Which aspect of each country do you think should be of greatest concern to the rest of the world and why?
4. Next, ask each group to consider the possibility of reunification. Students should work with their partners to list the potential benefits and complications of unification.
5. Conclude the lesson with a class discussion on the two Koreas and their impact on the rest of world. Have students share their analyses of the posters and their thoughts on reunification with the entire class.

### **EVALUATION:**

Students can be evaluated on their participation in the class discussion, as well on their written work. They can be assessed individually for their contribution to both the poster and presentation. Each student could be given a list of questions to answer using his/her partner's poster, such as: What is the current population? What is the predominant religion? What type of government do they have? What is the capital? Who is the nation's leader? What is their largest industry? Etc. In addition each group of partners can hand in one copy of their analyses of the posters and brainstorming on reunification.

### **ENRICHMENT:**

A possible homework assignment could be having students bring in a current news article on North and/or South Korea. Students could further explore the viewpoints of North and South Koreans by creating a dialogue or scene between representatives of the two nations and acting it out for the class. Students could further pursue the issue of reunification by writing a persuasive essay either in favor of or opposed to the reunification of Korea.

**RESOURCES:**

*Facts About Korea*. Seoul: Korean Culture and Information Service, 2008.

Central Intelligence Agency: World Fact Book

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

Korea.net: The Official Website of the Republic of Korea

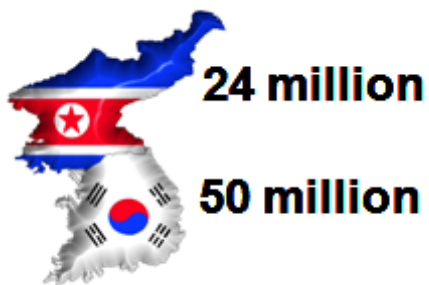
[www.korea.net](http://www.korea.net)

United States Forces Korea: Good Neighbor Home Page

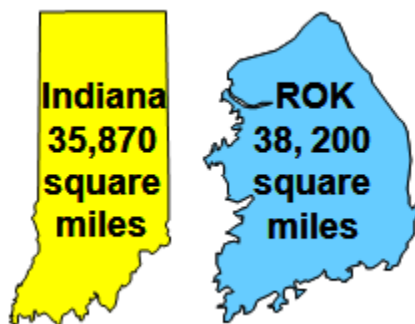
[www.goodneighbor.or.kr](http://www.goodneighbor.or.kr)

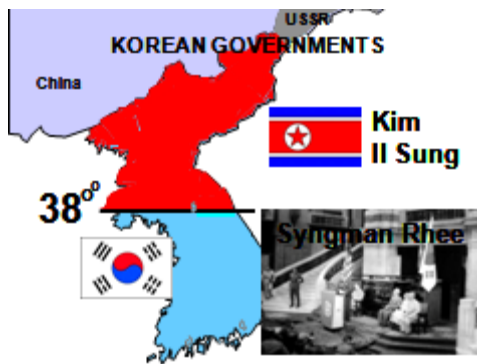
## HANDOUT 1: KOREA PAST AND PRESENT

### KOREA: PAST AND PRESENT



### CROSSROADS OF CONFLICT





## UN NATION SUPPORT

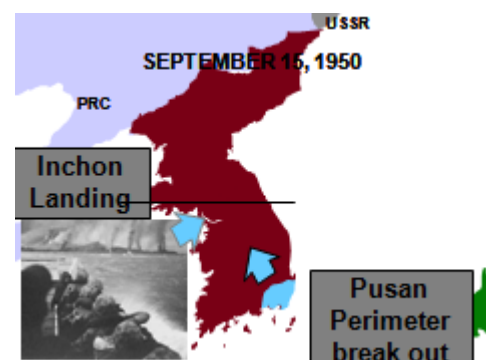
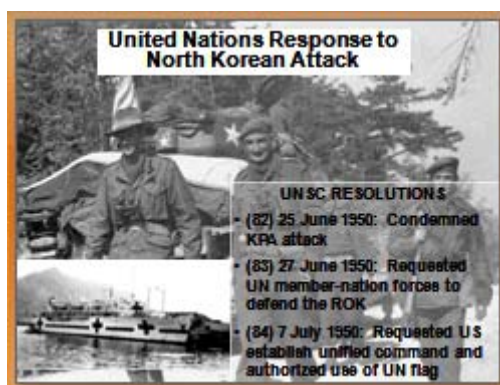
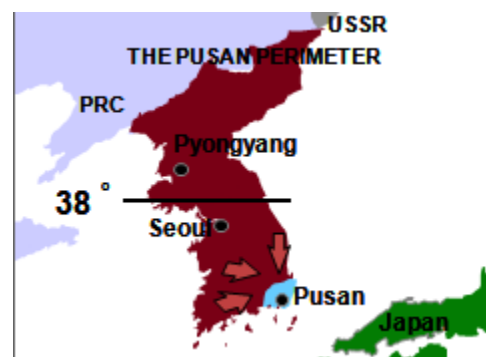
Type Support	#Nations
Combat troops	16
Medical assistance	5
Other support	32
Total	53

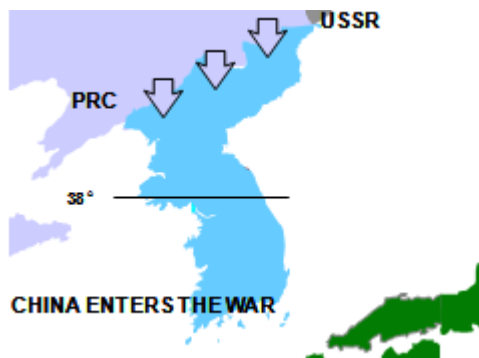
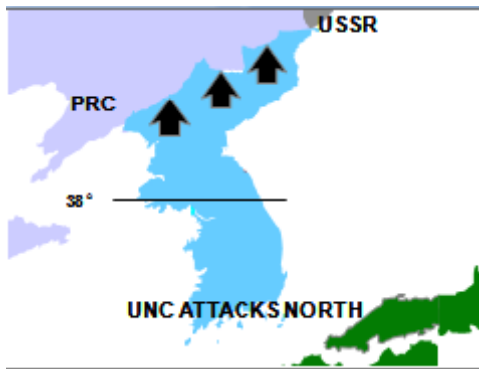
## WAR BEGINS



## UNC FORCES

Combat Forces:		
Australia	Belgium	Canada
Colombia	Ethiopia	France
Greece	Luxembourg	New Zealand
Netherlands	Philippines	South Africa
Thailand	Turkey	United Kingdom
United States		
Medical Forces:		
Denmark	India	Italy
Norway	Sweden	





JULY 27, 1953



Dead	
US: 54,246	UN: 628,833
Wounded	
US: 103,284	UN: 1,644,453
Captured	
US: 7,140	UN: 92,970
Missing	
US: 8,177	UN: 470,267

*Estimated North Korean casualties*

2'000'000	Civilian / Soldiers
900'000	Soldiers from CPV



## Armistice Agreement



## Armistice Agreement



Maintaining security and stability until a final peace regime / peace agreement

Arts. 36 – 50 establish and regulate the functioning of the NNSC



## Armistice Agreement

1. A military demarcation line (MDL) separating North and South Korea;
2. A demilitarized zone (DMZ) on either side of the MDL (2x2 Km/241 Km);



## Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC)

Switzerland

Poland



Sweden

Czechoslovakia

Each country sent approximately 100 delegates



## Armistice Agreement

3. A Military Armistice Commission (MAC), tasked with investigating and resolving violations of the Armistice Agreement;
4. A Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) to investigate violations of the armistice, including the prohibition of imports of arms into Korea;
5. A Joint Security Area (JSA) within the DMZ



## Original Mission of the NNSC

.... supervise, observe, inspect and investigate





## Original Mission of the NNSC

.... the rotation of units and personnel and the replacement of combat aircraft, armored vehicles, weapons, and ammunition at the 5/5 ports of entry



## THE 1970s-Industrialized Society



- 4 July 1972: S-N Joint Communiqué
- 15 August 1974: ROK First Lady killed by North Korean assassin
- 7 November 1978: OFC established

- ROK economy surpasses North's economy
- ROK transitions into shipbuilding and other major manufacturing
- South-North phone line established
- Red Cross meetings begin in Panmunjom
- US forces reduced to 43,000 as ROK Army takes over a larger portion of the DMZ



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## The Alliance, Then and Now



For over a half century, the ROK-US Alliance has strengthened and matured while providing security and economic stability for the Republic of Korea

1960

2008



## THE 1980s-The Rise of Democracy

- 1986-87: Democracy Movement
- 18 December 1987: Roh Tae Woo elected as President
- September 1988: Seoul Olympics



- Homegrown democracy movement succeeds
- ROK foreign policy opens channels for ROK with USSR and PRC
- ROK economy becomes car exporter
- North Korean Economy founders
- ROK Army continues modernization
- US force strength in ROK remains constant



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## THE 1950s—Recovery and Rehabilitation



- July 1951-53: War stalemate
- May 1952: ROK-US signs economic assistance agreement
- 27 July 1953: Armistice signed
- 1 October 1953: ROK-US Mutual Defense Treaty signed
- 15 June 1954: Peace Talks fail in Geneva
- 1 July 1957: USFK established

- 1-2 million Koreans killed and 1-2 million Korean families separated
- 37,000 US personnel killed in action
- Both Korean economies devastated
- ROK economy still agricultural
- North Korean Army rearms
- US force reduction from 325,000 → 58,000



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## THE 1990s-End of the Status Quo



- 1990-1991: S-N Basic Agreement
- September 1991: Both Koreas enter UN
- 8 July 1994: Death of Kim Il-sung
- 18 October 1994: Agreed Framework
- 1 December 1994: Armistice OPCON of ROK forces withdrawn from OFC

- North Korean economy collapses
- ROK becomes a world leader in semiconductor production
- ROK normalizes relations with Soviet Union and China
- Cold War ends
- USFK drops to 27,000
- Further reductions halted due to North's nuclear program



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## THE 1960s-Economic Development Begins

- 18 June 1965: ROK-Japan Diplomatic Relations
- 1965-1973: Korean participation in the Vietnam War
- 1966-1968: North Korean provocations

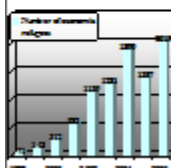


- ROK economy begins transition from agriculture to manufacturing
- US role in economy decreases
- ROK Army continues to grow and mature
- US force strength remains constant

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## Since 2000-The Era of Inter-Korean Contacts

- June 2000: S-N Summit
- June 2002: West Sea Naval Engagement
- February 2003: NK withdraws from NPT
- April 2003: ROK-US begin alliance transformation talks



- South-North Ministerial Talks begin
- South-North Economic cooperation expands
- Family Reunions held for first time since 1980s
- South becomes North's #2 Trading Partner
- Six Party Talks failure to solve nuclear issue
- ROK military continues modernization
- US Forces drawdown from 27,000 to 23,000
- NK economic refugees increase dramatically

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## THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT



## NN SC today

Sweden and Switzerland (5/5)

Poland, visiting once a year

*Budget: Cost sharing between UNC, SWE and SWI.*

## KOREA PENINSULA A STARTLING CONTRAST



## NN SC Activities



## NORTH KOREAN THREAT



## NN SC Activities

