

**Lesson Title:** Korea: The Division of a Land, a People, and the Conflict of World Powers

**Grade level/ Subject:** Grades 11-12/Modern World History: Renaissance to the Present

**Goals/ Objectives:**

1. The student will be able to evaluate the decisions made by the countries which played a role in the Korean War. (Standard 1, Benchmark 1.1)
2. The student will be able to analyze the continued relations between North and South Korea, and its impact on the people and economies of these two countries. (Standard 4, Benchmark 4.1)
3. By investigating current news concerning Korean foreign relations, the student will be able to connect how past relations influence current and future relations between North and South Korea, The United States of America, Japan, China, and Russia. (Standard 5, Benchmark 5.3)

**Sources:**

Central Intelligence Agency. (2017, May 10). *Central Intelligenc Agency*. Retrieved from The World Fact Book: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ks.html>

Millet, A. R. (2017, May 3). *Korean War 1950-1953*. Retrieved from Encyclopaedia Britannica: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War>

Video: *A History of the Korean War*:

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=ymyy-t-999&p=a+history+of+the+korean+war+video#id=2&vid=17b0affc0c1d8f86eb8aaeae-d4009751&action=click>

Video: North Korea Explained. The Difference Between North & South Korea  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjJJUj\\_VbiM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjJJUj_VbiM)

**Duration of lesson:** Two 45 minute lessons

**Materials Needed:** Computer and internet access; URLs for the two videos; student gathered news articles; any additional lecture material from the teacher tying this material to previous lessons on Korea or Asia.

**Vocabulary:** The Cold War; The Demilitarization Zone (DMZ); DPRK; ROK; Pyongyang; Seoul; 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel; Yalu River; Kim Il Sung; Syngman Rhee

**Procedure:**

## Day 1:

- Begin the class with a short question and answer format about modern Korean history to ascertain what the students already know about the topic.
- Watch a short five minute video of *A History of the Korean War*:  
<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=ymyy-t-999&p=a+history+of+the+korean+war+video#id=2&vid=17b0affc0c1d8f86eb8aaeae4009751&action=click>.
- Watch another short five-minute video *North Korea Explained. The Difference Between North & South Korea* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjJJUj\\_VbiM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjJJUj_VbiM) about the economic and cultural differences between the two countries.
- The teacher then presents any other lecture material to be covered on this topic, tying it to previous lessons, textbook material, or any other background the teacher feels is necessary for an understanding of this topic.
- The students are then assigned the task of gathering information, including at least one current news article, per student to bring to the following class, concerning current relations between North Korea and South Korea, Japan, China, Russia, and/or the United States; and to be prepared to discuss their findings.

## Day 2:

- The students will form small groups and discuss their findings. Each student will share the information that he or she has found and the students will discuss their findings by connecting them to past foreign relations as well as discussing ideas about future ramifications.
- The students will be assigned and can begin research and work on a paper, due at the beginning of the next class period, in which they describe the causes of current tensions between the countries involved as well as their ideas as to how to resolve the current situation.

**Assessment/ Evaluation:** The students will be assessed based on the paper turned in.

**Paper guidelines:**

1. 2 (or more) pages.
2. Can be typed (double spaced) or hand written (legibly written).
3. Includes a title.
4. Uses correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
5. Answers the following questions.
  - a. Evaluate the decisions made and actions taken by the following countries (choose two): North Korea, South Korea, Japan, The United States, Russia, and China, and describe the role they played in influencing Korean history, beginning with the occupation by Japan during WWII and continuing to the present era.

b. What are the current relations between North Korea and the following countries? (choose two): South Korea, Japan, The United States, Russia, and China.

c. In your opinion, do you feel that these relations will improve or deteriorate in the near future? Give examples from our discussion of current news articles to support your answers.

**Grading:**

0 points - Did not turn it in, off topic.

1 point - Needs significant work.

2 points - Needs more attention on the topic but a good effort was made.

3 points - Responds to questions thoroughly, addresses the topics in the assignment and insights were made regarding concepts.