

Conflict Management: Two Koreas

Purpose: Determining methods/ideas for effective reasoning and diplomacy for an area of potential conflict.

Central questions: Is there a peaceful answer to the Korean division? Does the U.S. presence aid or harm the peace process? Is diplomacy always effective in international relations? Why does the U.S. have an interest in Korea? What is the role of other regional powers in this relationship?

Rationale: Addressing the technique of conflict management while developing an awareness of the complexity of the same.

Grade Level: 9th Grade Global History (or United States History)

Time: One 47 minute period

Materials: Textbook excerpts of causes of the Korean War and outcome.
Excerpts from *The North Korean Nuclear Crisis* by Gennady Chufirin
<http://northkorea.ssrc.org/Chufirin/>
Optional: Portions of The Two Koreas by Dan Overdorfer

Procedures: Students will have read assigned sections and have been exposed to lessons on both the Korean War and Cold War. Class will be divided into two groups, each addressing the position of one of the Koreas, and charged with answering the following questions: From each country's perspective, what are the reasons for and against some type of reunification?

(Some possible answers: Common national/cultural heritage; decreased regional tensions; divided families; difficulties of dealing with diametrically opposed political systems; economic systems far out of synch; economic realities-remember Germany-make it expensive)

What are the most difficult questions? Recommendations?

Assessment: Each group will produce a written summary of the above, focusing on how to best deal with the most difficult issues.

Relationship to standards: Cold War conflicts and current regional hotspots contained in history standards. Examine regional and ethnic conflict in the post-Cold War era.