

Japan and Disputed Land

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Disputed Land

Purpose:

This lesson is a simulation permitting students to discuss and make decisions as they relate to territorial disputes between Japan and four neighbors: People Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Taiwan and Russia. Students use deductive reasoning skills to formulate an opinion and to substantiate their opinion with facts. Listening skills and the ability to articulate an idea are the focuses of this lesson. This lesson will introduce geographic place-names and review historic events related to various 20th century wars.

Grade Level:

This two day lesson is for high school students in grades 9 through 12. Content of this lesson is interdisciplinary with emphasis on geography, comparative government, current issues and history classes.

Materials:

1. Attached are Disposition Papers for the delegates and speakers.
2. Download a map showing territory in dispute. In many cases, showing the area of dispute will suffice.

Optional Materials:

1. United Nations flag or picture of flag.
2. Speakers gavel

Procedure:

Day One: A Special Meeting of the United Nations Security Council

1. Set the stage. Arrange the room in a different manner. Hang the United Nations flag (or download a paper representation).
2. Select students randomly as they enter the room (playing cards work well). Some cards will be more valuable and other cards will represent assistants. Arrange chairs behind chairs (similar to the United Nations Security Council). This seating arrangement will facilitate consultation in addition to adding an atmospheric element to the simulation. Depending upon the number of students, extra roles may be assigned to inhabitants from the disputed territories. These people may also be divided into nationalists wishing independence, and those wanting the benefit of either major party.
3. Some students will be assigned roles as representatives from the Security Council. Both China and Russia are permanent members with veto powers. Add the other nine members.

4. The Chairmen of the Security Council explains nearly 50 years have passed since the end of World War II. No peace treaty has been concluded with regards to the following disputed lands:
 - A. Diaoyu Islands
 - B. Kurile Islands
 - C. Dokdo Islands
5. Japan is seeking resolution with regards to these disputed lands with the following countries: Republic of Korea, Russia and People's Republic of China.
6. Ask for a vote of the council whereby neither China nor Russia will evoke their veto option.
7. Allow groups to have a brief period to read and understand their points of view.
8. Begin the simulation with presentations from the plaintiff party, i.e. Japan Japan should have an expert for each of the following territorial disputes. Each expert should read the attached Disposition Handout.

Day Two:

6. Representatives from the other interested parties will present their conflicting views.
7. After issues are presented, follow with a Q & A period, time permitting.
8. Ask for a group consensus as to guidelines or precedents for settling the ownership issue. Suggestions for possible guidelines might include: proximity of the land to a challenging nation, present-day administration, concerns of residents, burial grounds, ethnicity, legality of treaties, etc. The guidelines chosen by the students may or may not be prioritized.

Assessment:

1. Student may be asked to write a persuasive essay from the viewpoint of one nation

2. Students may be asked to write the verdict of their Security Council.
3. Students may be asked for a current event as it regards to this issue.

Grade Adaptation:

This lesson could be modified for middle school. Data sheets may be replaced by a teacher lecture followed by a classroom vote.

Japan's Disposition Paper: Northern Territories

1. Japan's claim to the unresolved Northern Territories:

1. Kunashiri Island
2. Etorofu Island
3. Habomai Island
4. Skikotan Island

These islands are part of the Kurile Islands.

2. Natives of the Kurile are referred to as the Ainu. No Ainu live in the Kuriles.

3. Proximity issues: Japan can see these islands with the naked eye from Hokkaido (Japan's northern most island).

Early 17th century maps label the Kurile as part of Japan.

3. Historical Treaties:

- a. *The 1855 Treaty of Commerce, Navigation and Delimitation* – Sakhalin Island as a mixed settlement for Russian and Japanese nationals.
- B. 1870, negotiations called for a division at the 50th parallel.
- C. *1875 Treaty for the Exchange of Sakhalin for the Kurile Islands* - This peaceful exchange had Sakhalin return to Russia and Kurile to Japan.
- D. *Portsmouth Treaty* following Russo-Japanese War of 1904- southern half of Sakhalin ceded to Japan.
- E. *Yalta Conference* following World War II- U.S.S.R. and Japan not at war. A neutrality pact, which ended three days after the bombing at Hiroshima. The U.S.S.R. violated the neutrality pact.
- F. September 3, 1945- secret agreement between allies- Stalin occupies the Northern Territories.
- G. *San Francisco Peace Treaty* signed in 1951 between Allied Powers and Japan, but Russia does not sign. Japan signs that the “Kurile Islands” did not include Etorofu, Kunashir, Shikotan, or Habomai islands, which had always been Japanese territories.
- H. *The Tokyo Declaration, 1993*, confirmed as the basis for bilateral relations between Russia and Japan. These countries were working towards an early conclusion of a peace treaty through the solution of the territorial issue on the basis of historical and legal facts and based on documents produced with the two parties agreements as well as the principles of law and justice.

Russia's Disposition Paper: Northern Territories

1. Russia currently administrates for the Kurile Islands.
2. Cossack trappers in search of fur, seal and sea otter came from the north in 1700's.
3. Historical treaties:
 - A. *The Treaty of Commerce, Navigation and Delimitation (the Shimoda Treaty of 1855-* provides for an agreement on national boundaries. Article 2 states. A Japanese-Russian border shall lie between the islands of Etorofu and Urup. Etorofu shall belong to Japan and the Kuriles shall belong to Russia.
 - b. Russia claimed they first discovered and claimed the Kurile. (Japan claims they did not have to be discovered, they could always see them).
 - c. *The Portsmouth Treaty* following the Russo-Japanese War never nullified the 1855 or 1875 Treaties.
 - d. After 1917, the Russian Revolution founded a new state. The national boundaries of its predecessor government survive.
 - e. August 14, Japan accepts the Potsdam Proclamation and surrenders to the Allied Powers.
 - f. The U.S.S.R. did not sign *The San Francisco Peace Treaty* in 1951.
 - g. Currently, thousands of Russian border troops are stationed in the Kurile Islands.
 - h. *The Tokyo Declaration, 1993* was confirmed as the basis for bilateral relations between Russia and Japan. These two nations were working towards an early conclusion of a peace treaty through the solution of the territorial issue on the basis of historical and legal facts and based on documents produced with the two parties agreements as well as the principles of law and justice.

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Disposition Handout #3

Japan's Disposition Paper: Diaoyo Islands

Topics of General Concern:

1. Japan does not want to hurt bilateral relationships with PRC or Taiwan.
2. The ownership of all natural resources is the main point of dispute.
3. Maritime jurisdiction is a point of dispute with regards to the Diaoyo Islands.
4. If the Diaoyo Islands are considered Chinese, does this mean Taiwan is also?

Historical Treaties:

1. The Shimonoseki Treaty followed the Sino-Japan War. China ceded Taiwan to Japan. The Diaoyo Islands were part of Taiwan.
2. Okinawa Reversion Treaty, 1970, signed between U.S. and Japan, included Diaoyo Islands as part of Okinawa.
3. 1972, Japan claimed sovereignty over Diaoyutai Islands.

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Disposition Handout #4

Taiwan's Disposition Paper: Diaoyu Islands

Topics of General Concern:

1. Taiwan does not want to harm bilateral relations with PRC or Japan.
2. The issues of control over natural resources and maritime jurisdiction are of main concern.
3. For several centuries, the Diaoyu Islands have been administered as part of Taiwan.
4. 1968, the United Nations reported hydrocarbon deposits in the waters off Diayutai.
5. In terms of distance, Taiwan is closer to Diaoyu Islands than Okinawa.

Historical Treaties:

1. *Article 2 of the Treaty of Peace with Japan, 1951*-“Japan renounces all right, title and claim to Formosa and the Parcels. Therefore, the Diaoyu Islands are part of Taiwan.
2. Taiwan denounced immediately the *Okinawa Reversion Treaty*.

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Disposition Handout #5

People's Republic of China's Disposition Paper: Diaoyu Islands

Topics of General Concern:

1. The PRC does not want to damage bilateral relations with Taiwan or Japan.
2. The issues of control of natural resources and maritime jurisdiction are the main points of concern with regards to the Diaoyu Islands.
3. In 1874, Japan took Okinawa by force, but the Diaoyu Islands remained a part of Taiwan.
4. Taiwan was returned to China at the end of World War II (1945) based upon the 1943 Cairo and Potsdam Agreements. The Japanese agreed to these terms that all territories stolen from the Chinese be restored to the Republic of China.

Japan's Disposition Paper: Dokdo

1. The Japanese assert they had incorporated Dokdo, an island that they consider to be terra nullius, into the Japanese Empire on February 22, 1905.
2. The Bureau of Japanese Fisheries issued a ten-year lease of the island for sea lion hunting to a Japanese fisherman named Yozaburo Nakai. Mr. Nakai requested exclusive rights to fish and hunt sea lion. The Japanese government took Mr. Nakai's request one-step further and formally incorporated the island. Dokdo or Takeshima was officially declared part of Imperial Japan in February 1905.
3. Japanese officially entered the island's name in the State Land Register for the Okinokuni on May 17 1905.
4. In 1966, the Japanese Foreign Ministry produced an extensive study on the history of the island. The Foreign Ministry of Japan used this study as the basis for Japan's claim to sovereignty over Dokdo. This historical study states that Koreans lacked the proper navigation skills until the late 1800's to reach Dokdo by boat. The study also states the Dokdo is not visible from Korea.
5. Today, Dokdo is on the Japanese registers as part of the Shimane Prefecture.
6. During the Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese War, Korea encouraged the Japanese government encroachment in the form of imperialist behavior. The Foreign Ministry still believes the period of 1894-1910 was "internationally recognized" and therefore valid.

Historical Treaties:

1. *San Francisco Peace Treaty* did not resolve the legal ownership of Dokdo
2. *Article 8 of the Potsdam Declaration*- Dokdo's exclusion from Japan remained the SCAP (Supreme Command for the Allied Powers) policy throughout the occupation period of Japan.
3. Korea has refused to take the issue to the International Court of Justice.

Korean Disposition Paper on Dokdo

1. The government of Korea designated Dokdo ‘Natural Monument No. 336’ in 1982
2. The first historical references to the island were cited in Korean documents, dated 512 AD. The Korean Shilla Dynasty incorporated these islands.
3. Korea claims the Japanese historical accounts, maps and studies done in the 1960’s were not internationally approved.
4. Dokdo is visible from Korea.
5. A problem with early documents is the use of Sino-Korean characters. Sok is often used and not the dialectal pure Korean Dok.

Historical Treaties:

1. *The Protectorate Treaty of 1905* (Eulsa Treaty) or “Second Japan-Korea Agreement” was forced on Korea and lacks signatures of the King.
2. *Korean Government Imperial Ordinance No. 41- Article 2-* stipulates Dokdo as part of Korea.
3. SCAP (Supreme Command of the Allied Powers) issued order #677 on January 29, 1946, that specifically outlines Japanese territory for the occupation period. Dokdo was excluded from this list and remained off the occupation control list during the occupation period.
4. In the 1952 *San Francisco Peace Treaty* between Japan and former allied powers, the ownership of Dokdo was not settled in this treaty.