

Korean Lesson Plan

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Map Work About the Korean War

Purpose: This is a skill building activity to use maps to interpret history.

Essential Questions:

1. What were the risks involved in invasion of Inchon?
2. What could the United Nation forces have done differently to avoid China entering the war?
3. Explain the use of the term “meatgrinder” and its implications.

Rationale: To develop map skills and apply them to the Korean War

Materials: Interactive website - <http://users.erols.com/mwhite28/korea.htm>
Korean Map Activity Worksheet

Activities: Following a lecture about the events leading up to the Korea War:

- Students will view the interactive map (from <http://users.erols.com/mwhite28/korea.htm>) which displays the month by month occupation of the Korean peninsula
- Students will work independently on the map activity worksheet (15 minutes)
- Students will partner up and review their answers for the first two parts of the worksheet, then collaborate on the analysis questions (15 minutes)
- Students will engage in a class discussion that centers on the analysis questions (20 minutes)

Assessment: Korean Map Activity Worksheet grade
Scored class discussion

Grade Adaptation: Target Group – 10th grade American history students

Upscale – give students the information from the six stages of the Korean War and blank maps of the Korean Peninsula and have students design the six stage maps

Downscale – the teacher can go over the map questions one at a time with students or the teacher can partner high/low achieving students to work on the worksheet together

Name _____
Date _____
Period _____

Korean War Map Activity

Basic Map Questions – Use the maps below to answer the following questions.

1. What serves as the dividing line between North Korea and South Korea? _____
2. What is the capital of North Korea? _____
3. What is the capital of South Korea? _____
4. What 2 countries border North Korea? _____
5. What country borders South Korea to the south? _____
6. What bodies of water surround North and South Korea? _____
7. What type of landform is North and South Korea combined? _____
8. What natural features serves as the border between China and North Korea? _____



Korean War Maps – Study maps A-F. Match the correct map to the appropriate stage of the Korean War.

Map A



Map B



Map C



Map D



Map E



Map F



- _____ 9. Stage 1 – June 25, 1950; North Korea attacks the South and captures the capital of Seoul
- _____ 10. Stage 2 – late July, 1950; North Korea pushes the United Nations forces to the southeast corner of the peninsula
- _____ 11. Stage 3 – September 1951; United Nations forces stage an amphibious invasion near Seoul, recapture Seoul, and cut the North Korean supply lines
- _____ 12. Stage 4 – October 1951; United Nations forces push the North Koreans across the 38th parallel and further north (China feels threatened by the massive invasion of North Korea)
- _____ 13. Stage 5 – November 1951; China enters the war, which creates “an entirely new war,” and the capital of Seoul is retaken by the North Koreans
- _____ 14. Stage 6 – January 1952; United Nations forces recapture Seoul and a stalemate commences

Map Analysis – Using information from maps A-F answer the following questions in complete sentences.

15. What risks were taken by General MacArthur, the commander of the United Nations forces, when he ordered the invasion at Inchon?
16. When China entered the war (Stage 5) General MacArthur told the Joint Chiefs, “We face an entirely new war.” What could the United Nation forces have done differently to avoid China entering the war?
17. Stage 6 started the slow and painful recapturing of the capital of Seoul, which then turned into a stalemate. General Matthew Ridgway, United Nations forces, and his troops referred to this stage of the war as the “meatgrinder.” Explain the use of this term and its implications.