**Learning Targets:**

1. I can explain how Cold War international politics impacted regional conflicts in Korea.

**State Standards:**

26. The Cold War and conflicts in Korea and Vietnam influenced domestic and international politics.

**Materials Needed:**

- **Students need:** QR Code scanning device, headphones, QR Code WS/Quick Write
- **Teacher needs:** QR Code Key, PPT on background info to the 38th parallel

**Learning about Students’ Learning**

This lesson serves as an introductory lesson to the Korean War.

**Procedures including:**

- **Opening**
- **Activities**
- **Closure**

1. **Opener:** A Look at the Geography of Korea (pull up a map of the world, SE Asia, and Korea for students to analyze)
   - Where is Korea?
   - What are three countries that are near the Korean peninsula?
   - What are two ways they may be affected by the outbreak of war?
   - What directions would the North Korean forces take in an invasion of South Korea?

2. Go over with students how Korea became a divided nation. Be sure to include the following:
   a. Include the story of how the 38th parallel was used as an arbitrary man-made border in 1945
   b. Point out North Korea and South Korea on the map of divided Korea.
   c. Show the difference between the actual 38th parallel line assigned in 1945 and the border (MDL) now in actual use.
   d. Discuss the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), giving the dimensions in kilometers and equivalent dimensions in miles

**BACKGROUND:**

One result of the end of World War II in Asia was the division of the
Korean peninsula by the Allies. In order to fully understand how the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea operate in today's world, one must look at how a previously unified country was split into two countries, each with differing ideological viewpoints.

Prior to the end of World War II, the Japanese occupied Korea and imposed numerous hardships on the Korean people. When the armies of the Soviet Union in northern Korea and the United States in southern Korea forced the Japanese out of the country at the conclusion of the war, the Korean people thought they had reached the end of their troubles. However, neither of these two powers were willing to accept the other's domination of Korea. In 1945, at the Cairene Hotel in Cairo, Egypt, the matter was finally settled, although somewhat arbitrarily. Rear Admiral Matthias Gardner of the United States pointed to 38 degrees north latitude on a map of Korea and suggested that a border be applied there. So on August 15, 1945, the Soviet Union forces accepted the surrender of the Japanese north of the 38th Parallel, and the American forces accepted the Japanese surrender south of the 38th Parallel.

A military rule was established while efforts were made to unify the county under one government. The efforts of various countries and the United Nations failed in this attempt. In 1948 the Republic of Korea was founded in the south while the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea was founded in the north. The 38th parallel became the border for both countries.

On June 25, 1950, the military of North Korea invaded South Korea and the Korean War began. United Nations Forces (including United States soldiers) waged war with South Korea against North Korea, which received military aid from China and Russia. Finally, in 1953, an armistice agreement was signed on July 27. Neither side won the war. They simply agreed to stop fighting. Korea remains to this day a divided nation. The demarcation line ended up on and around the 39th Parallel. A zone 2 kilometers on either side of the border was established as the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone).

Today this DMZ of 4 kilometers runs across the Korean peninsula. It is a forbidden stretch. The 38th Parallel: Dividing a Nation 38 of land marked with barbed wire fences and signs. The citizens of both countries are not allowed near the area, and it is heavily patrolled by the military of both countries. Villages, families and friends have been split by this line on a map, which in reality has had terrible consequences for the Korean people.

Source: http://www.koreasociety.org/doc_view/198-the-38th-
3. Ask students to think-pair-share as to ways in which the DMZ and the closed border has affected the Korean people. For example: families are divided on either side of the border, trade between North Korea and South Korea has been halted and all transportation between the two countries has stopped. Have the students consider the various themes in geography (i.e. location, place, human/environment interaction, movement, regions, etc.) in their brainstorming.


4. Activity: The Creation and Effects of the 38th Parallel
   • QR Code #1 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0E9KeI8BtE

5. Closer: Quick Write (may carry over to HW and the opener for the next day’s lesson)

   Based on what students learned through the QR codes, they will complete a quick write on the following prompt.

   How did the U.S. come to the decision to divide Korea at 38th parallel? Who did/does this division advantage? Who does it disadvantage? What were the short term and long term ramifications of this division for both Americans and Koreans?

Assessment:
   (Label formative or summative)
   Quick Write (formative)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic/Content Language</th>
<th>Korean War 38th Parallel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**TIP #5/6**
Why the 38th parallel?

**Directions:** Scan the QR codes and answer the associated questions.

**QR Code #1**
1. When was Korea split?

2. Who ruled Korea prior to the end of WWII? How long did they rule over Korea?

3. Which part of Korea was controlled by the Soviet Union until 1948? Which part of Korea was controlled by the U.S. until 1948?

4. Who intervened to protect South Korea from the North?

5. Why didn’t the U.S. and Soviet Union just fight each other directly during the Cold War?

6. Why is the Demilitarized Zone’s name ironic?

**QR Code #2**
1. Do you think it’s significant that the South Koreans had to travel north to be reunited with their loved ones? Why or why not?

2. Why is Korea still in a technical state of war? How has this affected communication between the two Koreas?

3. How are participants in these reunions chosen? What is the success rate?

**QR Code #3**
1. Why did North Korea cut off the hotline on May 26? Do you think it could happen again? Why or why not?

2. Do you think Korea is better divided or united as they were under Japanese rule?
QUICK WRITE: Why the 38th parallel?

Directions: Respond to the following prompt through a sort of stream of consciousness in which you reflect on today’s lesson and what you have learned. You may use your notes.

How did the U.S. come to the decision to divide Korea at 38th parallel? Who did/does this division advantage? Who does it disadvantage? What were the short term and long term ramifications of this division for both Americans and Koreans?