

## Lesson Plan

### Korea Through the Years

**Book:** The Battle of Inchon

**Series:** Major Battles in US History

**Level:** Navigator

#### Objective

To help students explore the relationships between and history of other countries, examining how different military and political ideologies and alliances lead to and influence world events.

#### Supplies

- *The Battle of Inchon*
- Korean History web page: <http://www.koreanculture.org/?mid=generalE>
- BBC's North Korea country profile: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15256929>
- BBC's South Korea country profile: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15289563>

#### Before the Activity

Read through *The Battle of Inchon*, or assign it to the students to read on their own.

#### Activity

Chapter 2 (“Planning the Attack”) of *The Battle of Inchon* gives a very brief overview of events that led up to the Korean War. Today students will use the “Korean History” web page to dig deeper into the story behind this conflict. Start with the section called “Japanese Occupation and Independence Movement.” Read this section out loud to the class and ask the following questions:

- When did Japan take over Korea? (A: 1910)
- What happened to Koreans under Japanese rule? (A: They were exploited economically and banned from being educated in Korean. However, they also developed a strong nationalist spirit.)

Next read the section called “Founding the Republic of Korea” and ask the following questions:

- When did Japan’s control of Korea end? (A: When Japan lost World War II.)
- Was Korea free after this? (A: No. US troops occupied the southern half, and the Soviets occupied the northern half.)
- What latitude line divided the country? (A: The 38th parallel.)

- What government controlled the northern half? Who was its leader? (A: A communist government, which was supported by the Soviets. It was led by Kim Il-sung.)
- What government controlled the southern half? Who was its leader? (A: The Republic of Korea, a country that worked toward democracy. Its first president was Syngman Rhee.)

The “Founding the Republic of Korea” section ends by discussing what Korea is like today, but it focuses mostly on South Korea (also called the Republic of Korea). Have the students use the BBC country profiles to look up the differences between North Korea and South Korea. They should write down the answers to the following questions:

### **North Korea**

1. What is this country’s full name?
2. What is its capital?
3. Who is the current leader?
4. What is the life expectancy in this country?
5. The first sentence of the BBC profile uses the word “most” to describe North Korea. What does it say about this country?
6. According to the BBC profile, what is this country known for?
7. According to the BBC profile, what is the media like in this country?

### **South Korea**

1. What is this country’s full name?
2. What is its capital?
3. Who is the current leader?
4. What is the life expectancy in this country?
5. The first sentence of the BBC profile uses the word “most” to describe South Korea. What does it say about this country?
6. According to the BBC profile, what is this country known for?
7. According to the BBC profile, what is the media like in this country?

### **Evaluation**

Use the attached answer key to score the students’ answers to the questions about the BBC country profiles. Give them one point for each question, for a total of 14 points.

### **Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ writing standards, grade 5 (W 5.7) and the National Council for Social Studies subject matter standard IX.

### North Korea (ANSWER KEY)

1. What is this country's full name? (The Democratic People's Republic of Korea)
2. What is its capital? (Pyongyang)
3. Who is the current leader? (Kim Jong-un, "the third supreme leader in the Kim dynasty")
4. What is the life expectancy in this country? (66 years for men and 72 years for women)
5. The first sentence of the BBC profile uses the word "most" to describe North Korea. What does it say about this country? ("one of the world's most secretive societies")
6. According to the BBC profile, what is this country known for? (It is known for "nuclear ambitions" and "rigidly maintained isolation from the rest of the world.")
7. According to the BBC profile, what is the media like in this country? (TVs and radios only have access to government-run media stations, which only show propaganda that is flattering to the country's leaders.)

### South Korea (ANSWER KEY)

1. What is this country's full name? (The Republic of Korea)
2. What is its capital? (Seoul)
3. Who is the current leader? (President Park Geun-hye, the first female president)
4. What is the life expectancy in this country? (77 years for men and 84 years for women)
5. The first sentence of the BBC profile uses the word "most" to describe South Korea. What does it say about this country? ("one of Asia's most affluent countries")
6. According to the BBC profile, what is this country known for? (It is "one of the world's major economies and a leading exporter of cars and electronic goods.")
7. According to the BBC profile, what is the media like in this country? (It is "at the leading edge of the digital revolution. It is a trailblazer for high-speed and wireless internet.")