

## **Introduction**

This unit on the Korean War 1950-1953 is produced by the Korean War Memorial Foundation of San Francisco, California and is designed to introduce high school students to the causes and results of the war. World War II ended in 1945 and left many nations struggling to emerge from colonial rule to self determination. Korea was one of these countries. Ruled by Japan since 1905 and divided north and south by the allies at the Yalta Conference, it was also a battle ground for political-economic conflict. Russia set up a "puppet" communistic government while the United States set up a Democratic government led by Syngman Rhee. Both segments of Korea wanted a unified country.

In 1950, South Korea was an 18th Century agrarian economy, basically planting and cultivating rice with ancient methods. Fast forward to 2000 and the country is a world-class economic power. How did this transformation occur in such a relatively short period of time? Part of the answer to that question lies in the war. It provided the catalyst for growth. This unit is the first of a series of units that will attempt to answer this question.

## Teacher Lesson Plan

On the page titled "The Korean War", mark an A, B, C, D, or E in the upper right corner of the page. This will determine which study group each student is assigned to.

I. Distribute the blank map of the Korean peninsula.

II. Distribute Assignment #1. Allow students to use "Google" or any atlas they choose. Allow them to form their groups.

Flexibility: The map assignment should take one period. If you so desire, the group assignment can continue the following day. Again, allow the students to use any resources they choose. The group assignment should take at least one period, perhaps two.

When the research has been completed, have each group prepare their oral reports; each member of the group should make a contribution to the topics. Time provided for these reports is flexible; one period may not be sufficient to cover their topics.

Evaluation is at the teacher's discretion.

Resources: [kwvdm.org](http://kwvdm.org) - Korean War Veterans Digital Memorial

[kwlf.org](http://kwlf.org) - Korean War Legacy Foundation

[kwmf.org](http://kwmf.org) - Korean War Memorial Foundation

### Bibliography:

1. Goulden, Joseph C. *Korea, The Untold Story*. McGraw Hill. New York. 1983
2. Hammel, Eric. *Chosin*. Presidio Press. Novato. 1981
3. Hastings, Max. *The Korean War*. Touchstone Books. Simon & Schuster. New York. 1987.
4. McGovern, James. *To The Yalu*. William Morrow & Company. New York. 1991
5. Ridgeway, Mathew B. *The Korean War*. Doubleday. Garden City, NJ. 1967.
6. Summers, Harry G. *Korean War Almanac*. Facts on File. New York.
7. Toland, John. *In Mortal Combat*. William Morrow. New York. 1991.



# THE KOREAN WAR

1950-1953

The purpose of this unit is to introduce you to this conflict by having you investigate the conflict, including military operation, United Nations participation, as well as the outcome of the war.

## Assignment I

You have been provided with a blank outline of the Korean Peninsula. Locate the following geographic features and placed them on your map.

China	Yalu River
Russia	Imjim River
North Korea	Seoul
South Korea	Pyong Yang
Border Between North & South	Yudamni
38° North Latitude	Hamhung
East Sea	Wonsan
Yellow Sea	Taegu
Changjin (Chosen) Reservoir	Taebaek Mountains
Naktong River	Hagaru

## Assignment II

The class will be divided into 5 groups. In the upper right corner of this page, you will find a letter A, B, C, D or E. This identifies your group; when you are told to do so, divide into your assigned group and select a leader. You will be given an assignment sheet of topics to investigate. After completing your investigation, be prepared to make a 10-minute class presentation on your findings.

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## Assignment II

### **Group A:**

Compare North and South Korea as of 1950. Describe the following for each country:

Geographic features: mountains, rivers, harbors

Population

Resources: electric power, coal, petroleum, manufacturing, farming

Political alignment

Military Strength

a) Infantry: How many divisions?

b) Tanks

c) Artillery

d) Aircraft

e) Naval Vessels

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## Assignment II

### **Group B:**

How did the war start? When?

Describe the first three months of the conflict in terms of military objectives.

What was Task Force Smith?

Describe the reaction of the United Nations.

How did the United States become involved? What other countries came to the aid of South

Korea?

Who was the Commanding General of the multi-nation army?

How far did the North Korean Army penetrate into South Korea?

Describe the defense of Pusan.

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## Assignment II

### **Group C:**

What were the strengths of the U.S. Armed Forces in 1950?

Locate Inchon on the map. Why was this location chosen for the amphibious assault? How did this battle change the war?

How far north did the United Nations troops advance?

How close did they get to China?

# THE KOREAN WAR

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## Assignment II

### **Group D:**

When and why did China enter the war? What was the status of the Chinese army?

What was the initial impact of their participation?

When did "Peace talks" begin? Briefly summarize military operation during the "Peace talks".

Define two major problems that had to be resolved during the negotiations.

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## Assignment II

### **Group E:**

When did the war end? What were the major points of agreement?

What has been the relationship between North and South Korea since the truce?

Compare both countries as of 2000. Have there been any major changes in economic power from 1950-2000? If so, explain.

What were the casualties of the war? Divide the numbers between military and civilian casualties, as well as countries.