Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education

Teacher Training | Curriculum Development | Outreach Programs | and More!

Cause and Effects of the Korean War

By: Ann Kennedy
OKAGE Teacher Consultant

Southeast High School
Oklahoma City Public Schools
Email: vakennedy@att.net

100 East Boyd Street, SEC 684 | Norman, OK 73019-1018 | (405) 325-5832 | (800) 522-0772 x 5832
www.OKAGEweb.org | okage@ou.edu

Title of Lesson: Cause and Effects of the Korean War
Author/Designer(s): Ann Kennedy

Grade Level(s): 6th and 7th

Time Recommended: 90 minutes

Overview:
Students will examine conflicting sources on the causes of the Korean War. They will complete a cause-effect chart.

***Geography for Life*:**
1. The types of boundaries used to define territorial division

Therefore, the student is able to:
A. Explain the types of boundaries based on physical and human characteristics, as exemplified by being able to

Describe and explain the use of physical and human characteristics to establish political boundaries (e.g., streets as political boundaries between local units of government, water features as boundaries between countries, watershed divides as boundaries between countries, boundaries delimited by political agreement such as the 49th parallel between the United States and Canada).

1. Identify and describe examples of disputed borders and explain the reasons for the dispute (e.g., Kashmir border between India and Pakistan, border between Algeria and Morocco, border between El Salvador and Honduras).

Oklahoma State Academic Standards:

OAS 2012	OAS 2019
Content Standard 2: The student will examine the human and physical characteristics of the major regions of the Eastern Hemisphere.	**7.5** The student will compare common physical and human characteristics of regions which create identity or uniqueness and influence people's perceptions of the Eastern Hemisphere.
4. Cite specific textual and visual evidence to analyze reasons for conflict and cooperation among groups, societies, countries, and regions of the Eastern Hemisphere and the involvement of multinational organizations of the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.	**7.5.6** Analyze reasons for conflict and cooperation among groups, societies and countries, including the creation and involvement of supranational organizations.

Resources and Materials Needed: *(List of all special materials, print resources, etc.) Copies of Source A and Source B for each student.*
Textbook
Internet access and computers for Web search
Procedures:

ENGAGE
Students will express their opinion on the following question:

When should the president of the United States send troops into another country?

1. Use the "fold the line" strategy. Students are to line up in a straight line.
2. State the questions to the whole class.
3. Tell them to discuss their answer with the person next to them on the left.
4. Next, fold the line in half so that there are two lines, facing each other.
5. Now they discuss their answers with the person next to them.

EXPLORE

1. Have students read what their geography textbook says about the Korean War.
2. Ask them if they think every country involved in the war would agree with what their textbook says. Why or why not?

3. Explain that they are going to try to answer the questions, "What caused the Korean War? and What were the effects of the Korean War? "

4. Tell them they will be reading two different views on the cause of the war and try to determine which one is most accurate and why.

5. Briefly establish the context of the Korean War by using the power point from sheg.stanford.edu **(It is attached to this lesson).**

- *Korean War was the first hot war of the Cold War: 1950-1953.*
- *The North was under the trusteeship of the Soviet Union, the South under the trusteeship* of *the Americans. Two different countries developed: the North became a communist country, the South a non-communist, democratic country.*
- *Both sides wanted to re-unify the country under their own rule.*
- *In 1950, after a number of small skirmishes at the border, war broke out between North and South Korea. The US backed and fought with the South, and China fought with a backed the North.*
- *Initially, American and United Nations forces pushed deep into North Korea; however, China entered the war and pushed the Americans backed into the South.*
- *After three years, the two sides fought to a stalemate and kept the country divided at the 38th parallel.*

EXPLAIN

1. Distribute copies of the handout titled, "Textbook A and Textbook B".

2 Read the sources aloud and answer questions the students may have about them.

3 Instruct students to work in pairs or small groups to identify the following:

A) What is the claim each source makes?

B) What evidence is there that to support the claim?

C) What reasoning is used?

4 Student partners/groups will create a CRE chart for each source.

EXPAND

Students will search several websites to make their own Cause and Effect chart for the Korean War.

Possible Answer Key for the Cause – Effect Chart

Causes of the Korean War
• *The "superpowers" temporarily divided Korea at the 38th parallel, with the Soviet Union in the north and the United States in the south.* • *The Cold War started and the superpowers failed to find a way to reunite a divided Korea.* • *North Korea refused to allow the United Nations to supervise elections.* • *The U.N. recognized an undemocratic and anti-communist Republic of Korea [South Korea).* • *The Soviet Union recognized the Democratic Republic of Korea [North Korea].* • *Each side claimed to be the sole representative of Korea.* Click here to enter text.• *Each leader want to unify Korea.* • *The U.S. and Soviet Union began to withdraw their troops, but tension between the two Koreas mounted.* • *The Soviets developed the hydrogen bomb.* • *The communists won control of China with Mao as the leader.* • *Mao supported a North Korean invasion into the South.*
Effects of the Korean War
• *Tension grew between the two sides.* • *The U.S. and the Soviet Union spent substantial amounts of their budgets on defense spending.* • *Over 300,000 civilians were killed.* • *The 38th parallel became a heavily defended frontier in the Cold War.* • *North Korea remains under communist, totalitarian rule today.* • *South Korea is a successful democratic and capitalist nation*

EVALUATE*?*

Students will complete an "exit slip" explaining what they think is the real reason for the Korean War.

Enrichment and/or Extension of the lesson

Extension:

Stage a debate for students to express their opinion as to whether or not the U.S. should have gotten involved in the Korean War.

Notes:

Click here to enter text.

References:

Click here to enter text.

Resources:

OKAGE's Geography Resources:

http://www.okageweb.org/resources/ http://www.okageweb.org/member-resources/
http://www.okageweb.org/helpful-links/

Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies (OCSS) and Oklahoma Social Studies Supervisors Association (OSSSA) Geography Resources for Grades 6 and 7 World Geography.

http://okcss.org/whats-new.html

Textbook A

Upset by the fast and astonishing growth of the power of the Republic, the American invaders hastened the preparation of an aggressive war in order to destroy it in its infancy....The American imperialists furiously carried out the war project in 1950....The American invaders who had been preparing the war for a long time, alongside their puppets, finally initiated the war on June 25th of the 39th year of the Juche calendar. That dawn, the enemies unexpectedly attacked the North half of the Republic, and the war clouds hung over the once peaceful country, accompanied by the echoing roar of cannons.

Having passed the 38th parallel, the enemies crawled deeper and deeper into the North half of the Republic...the invading forces of the enemies had to be eliminated and the threatened fate of our country and our people had to be saved.

Textbook B

When the overthrow of the South Korean government through social confusion became too difficult, the North Korean communists switched to a stick-and-carrot strategy: seeming to offer peaceful negotiations, they were instead analyzing the right moment of attack and preparing themselves for it.

The North Korean communists prepared themselves for war. Kim Il-sung secretly visited the Soviet Union and was promised the alliance of the Soviets and China in case of war. Finally, at dawn on June 25th, 1950 the North began their southward aggression along the 38th parallel. Taken by surprise at these unexpected attacks, the army of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) fought courageously to defend the liberty of the country....The armed provocation of the North Korean communists brought the UN Security Council around the table. A decree denounced the North Korean military action as illegal and as a threat to peace, and a decision was made to help the South. The UN army constituted the armies of 16 countries—among them, the United States, Great Britain and France—joined the South Korean forces in the battle against the North.

Source:
http://sheg.stanford.edu/upload/V3LessonPlans/Korean%20War%20Lesson%20Plan_0.pdf