

WHDE Lesson Plan

Can North Korea be Trusted?
AUTHOR INFORMATION
Author: Mary Ellen Richichi State: Florida
GENERAL INFORMATION
Lesson Grade Span: Elementary (K-5), Middle (6-8), Secondary (9-12) Targeted Grade Level/Course: 8 th Grade US History (Gifted/advanced) Estimated Time to Complete Lesson: 55 minute class
FOCUSED QUESTION
Can North Korea Be Trusted?
STANDARDS (STATE/C3)
Standard 7 SS.912.A.7 : Understand the rise and continuing international influence of the United States as a world leader and the impact of contemporary social and political movements domestic and international.
STUDENT & TARGET OUTCOMES
Students will analyze the facts from the June 12 th submit and compile information in terms of how North Korea is responding to compromise. Students will also read Can North Korea be Trusted Junior Scholastic article. By the end of the lesson, students will be able to determine if North Korea will dismantle their nuclear weapons, unification, and be open to negotiate under the joint statement.
LESSON OVERVIEW
The main focus of “Can North Korea be Trusted” lesson is about the deconstruction of the Nuclear Missiles Through research and reading, students will confirm facts and historical

PROCEDURES

Can North Korea Be Trusted? Article:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fpaN1iFN5MSR9pxYCe6UkFsir_s9k4mN

Make copies/upload article to Google Classroom

Refer to page 13 to cover the location of North and South Korea.

Assign students into groups to answer questions 1-10 and then review the questions. After reviewing the map. Students will research information about the June 12th Summit between North and South Korea. Have students access the Junior Scholastic Article “Can North Korea be Trusted”. After reading the article, have students determine if North Korea can be trusted and why or why not. Students will use facts and evidence they have received from what they researched and read.

EXAMPLE

Students will be shown clips from the Olympics with North and South Korea walking out together under the unification flag. Students will also view the news clip of the American soldiers being returned from North Korea. Students will also analyze the June 12th summit highlights and learn about North Korea’s nuclear program.

The teacher will scaffold questions to the whole class in order to get students to make inferences about how these events stated above to help narrow down their understanding to determine if North Korea can be trusted.

Why does North Korea want to hold on to their Nuclear powers? Will the threat of nuclear use really be beneficial to North Korea?

After practicing making inferences as a class, the students will work in small groups to decipher the article which will then lead the students to discuss if the USA can trust North Korea.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Can North Korea be Trusted? Comprehension worksheet

Written Response: students using evidence to support their point of view

Please attach rubric as a separate file.

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RESOURCE LIST

“Can North Korea be Trusted?”, Junior Scholastic, 3 September, 2018 vol 121 no 1. pp 8 - 13

MODIFICATIONS & EXTENSIONS (OPTIONAL)

MODIFICATIONS

Anything that may need to be modified, excerpted, or annotated for differing reading levels or abilities.

EXTENSIONS

Is there any way the overall purpose of your lesson can have an impact as part of a larger school or community function?



CAN NORTH KOREA BE TRUSTED?

A historic summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un is bringing hope for peace. But it remains to be seen whether North Korea's brutal young dictator will make good on his promise to give up his nuclear weapons. BY BRYAN BROWN

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (*seated*) during the test of a long-range missile. Experts believe North Korea's weapons can reach the United States.

JUST A YEAR AGO, the world was bracing for a possible nuclear war between the United States and North Korea. That summer, the isolated **Communist** nation successfully tested long-range missiles. Experts say these weapons are capable of reaching cities in the U.S. At the same time, North Korea's young dictator, Kim Jong Un, threatened to reduce America to "ashes and darkness." In response, President Donald Trump vowed to unleash "fire and fury like the world has never seen" on North Korea. A nuclear conflict seemed more likely than at any time since the end of the Cold War (1947-1991).

Then, on the morning of June 12, 2018, the seemingly unthinkable happened. The two countries put aside their decades-long hostility and vowed to work together for peace—at least for the moment. Trump and Kim shook hands at a hotel in Singapore, marking the first time a sitting U.S. president has met with a leader of North Korea.

At the conclusion of their historic summit, they signed a joint statement in which Kim committed to "work towards complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." In return, Trump agreed to suspend military exercises with South Korea, which the U.S. has been conducting for decades.

The joint statement also said that Trump and Kim would seek "to build a lasting and stable peace regime" on the divided Korean Peninsula. If further talks are successful, say experts, they could even lead to a treaty that would finally end the conflict that made the U.S. and North Korea bitter enemies: the Korean War (1950-1953).



Kim Jong Un (left) with President Donald Trump at their historic summit in June

"We're ready to write a new chapter between our nations," Trump told reporters. "Yesterday's conflict does not have to be tomorrow's war."

Experts say North Korea has built nuclear weapons capable of reaching U.S. cities.

But critics warn that North Korea has failed to live up to its agreements many times before—and that the U.S. gained nothing more than vague promises from the summit. By meeting with Kim, "President Trump has granted a brutal and repressive dictatorship the international legitimacy it has long craved," says Senator Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat.

North Korea is an **authoritarian** nation where leaders have spent billions of dollars developing

nuclear weapons while millions of its people live in poverty. Anyone who challenges its leaders can be arrested and forced to work in a labor camp—or simply be killed. For decades, U.S. officials have considered North Korea to be one of America's greatest threats. North Korea has also long threatened its neighbor, South Korea, a key U.S. ally.

While the summit between Trump and Kim might suggest that a new chapter is unfolding, it remains to be seen whether anything has really changed between the nations.

A Divided Country

North Korea's troubled history with the U.S.—and its neighbors in Asia—goes back to the end of World War II (1939-1945). When the war began, Japan had been **occupying** the Korean Peninsula for decades, brutally repressing its people.

During the war, the U.S. and the Soviet Union came together →

TIMELINE: North Korea



1945 DIVISION

After Japan's defeat in World War II, the Korean Peninsula is divided, with Soviet troops occupying the north and U.S. forces the south. In 1948, North Korea and South Korea become separate nations.

1950 KOREAN WAR

The war begins when North Korea invades South Korea. American-led U.N. troops defend South Korea. The North is backed by Soviet aid and troops from Communist China.

1953 ARMISTICE

The war ends in a stalemate, leaving the peninsula divided. Communist North Korea is ruled by Kim Il Sung. In South Korea, the U.S. backs a regime led by President Syngman Rhee.

1994 A DYNASTY CONTINUES

Kim Il Sung (*above*) dies, passing control to his son Kim Jong Il. Since its founding in 1948, North Korea has had only three leaders, dictators from the same dynasty (a powerful family or group).

to defeat Japan. When Japan surrendered in 1945, the Americans and Soviets agreed to temporarily divide the Korean Peninsula between them at the 38th parallel, the line of latitude at 38 degrees North (*see map, p. 13*). Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin controlled

the northern half. He and U.S. President Harry S. Truman agreed that a united Korea's future would be decided by elections.

But the Cold War—a long contest for global influence that pitted the U.S. and its democratic allies against Communist nations led by

the Soviet Union—was deepening. Stalin soon refused to participate in the elections.

In 1948, the U.S.-backed half of the peninsula became the Republic of Korea—or South Korea. The Soviet-backed North then declared itself the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It was headed by a Communist, Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Un's grandfather. He quickly assumed dictatorial power.

The Korean War

Korea was now permanently two separate nations. Meanwhile, in 1949, Communists won a civil war in China and seized control of the country's government. President Truman and his advisers feared that Communism was spreading.

So when North Korea attacked South Korea and occupied its capital, Seoul, in 1950, Truman believed he had to take a stand. He turned to the United Nations (U.N.), which authorized its



The joint statement signed by President Trump and Kim Jong Un after the summit in Singapore was very brief, leaving most details to be filled in later.

PAGE 10: CHARLYTES/THE NEW YORK TIMES (CARTOON); AP PHOTO (885); ERIC LAFORGUE/GETTY IMAGES (94); RAPHO VIA GETTY IMAGES (894); PAGE 11: REUTERS (995); STR/AP/GETTY IMAGES (201)



1995 FAMINE

When its state-run economy can't produce enough food, North Korea suffers years of famine. More than 1 million people die from the famine's effects.

2006 A NUCLEAR POWER

North Korea performs an atomic weapons test, confirming that the country has become a nuclear power, despite efforts by the U.S. and the U.N. to prevent that.



2011 A NEW RULER

Kim Jong Un (above, fourth from left) takes over the North Korean government after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il. Like his father, the younger Kim continues to test nuclear weapons.

2018 HOPE FOR PEACE?

U.S. President Donald Trump meets with Kim in Singapore. While the two agree to pursue peace, it is uncertain whether their agreement will actually lead to ending North Korea's nuclear threat.

members to fight back the invaders. (Although 16 U.N. countries sent troops, most were from the U.S.)

Early on, the U.N. forces seemed poised for victory. After retaking Seoul in September 1950, they began making their way across the 38th parallel, toward North Korea's border with China.

But in late November of that year, some 300,000 Chinese troops swept south to aid North Korea. Outnumbered, the U.N. forces were soon in full retreat.

An Incomplete Peace

By April 1951, the war had become a stalemate. In July, the warring parties were ready to talk peace. It took two years of negotiations before the U.S., North Korea, and China signed an **armistice**.

The war had lasted nearly three years and resulted in about 5 million deaths—including 37,000 Americans. After all that, the armistice left the border between

North and South Korea close to where it had been before the war. It also created a 2.5-mile-wide buffer between the two countries, called the demilitarized zone (DMZ).

North Korea has failed to live up to its agreements with the U.S. in the past.

Still, the peace was incomplete. South Korea's president was unwilling to accept anything less than victory and refused to agree to the cease-fire. Over the following years, no formal peace treaty was ever signed. Technically, the Korean War has never ended.

Today, the Korean Peninsula's DMZ remains one of the most heavily secured borders in the world. Hundreds of thousands of North and South Korean troops stand guard against attack by the

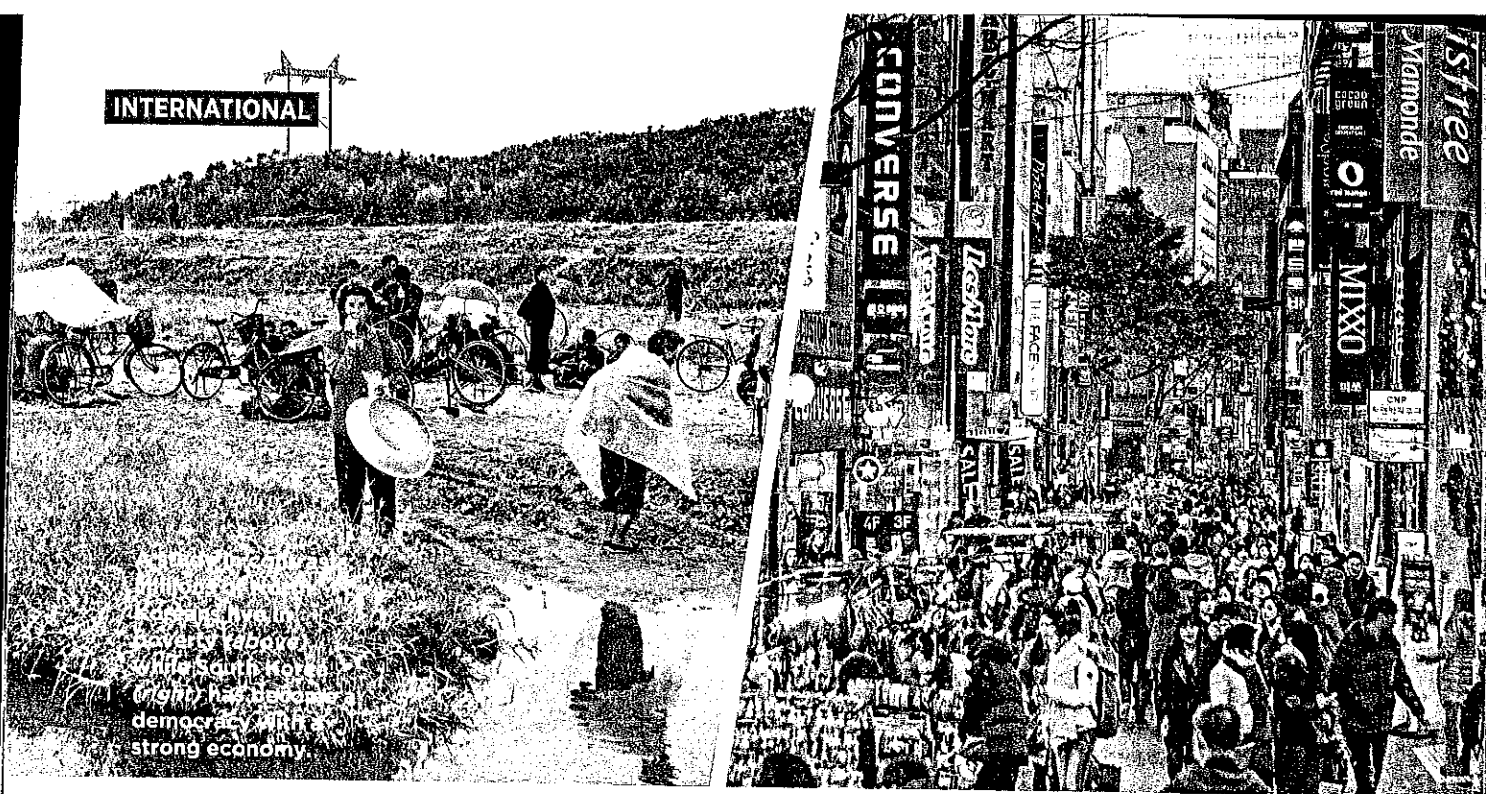
other country. The U.S. also keeps about 23,000 troops in South Korea—just in case.

Life in North Korea

Since the war, South Korea has risen from being one of the world's poorest countries to having the 11th-largest economy in the world.

North Korea has remained stuck in time. Most North Koreans lack cell phones and internet access, and the government controls all of the media outlets. Children are taught to worship the Kims like gods. A 2014 U.N. report estimated that as many as 120,000 political prisoners are held in prison camps in North Korea. In 2013, Kim even ordered the execution of his uncle—his second-in-command and mentor—for allegedly plotting to overthrow him.

Kim Jong Un is now the third member of a dynasty of dictators to rule North Korea, after his father and grandfather. All three →



South Korea's economy has become a democracy with a strong economy

have stoked a fear of America to keep their people loyal, says Kathryn Weathersby, a historian at Korea University in Seoul: "It's very useful for an authoritarian government to have an outside enemy they can point to."

A New Beginning?

In the past two decades, the U.S. has tried negotiating with North Korea—as well as punishing it with economic sanctions over its nuclear weapons program. Neither approach has worked. When President Trump took office in 2017, he criticized his predecessors for failing to contain North Korea.

But the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, this past February brought hope for peace. In an effort to reduce tensions in the region, South Korean President Moon Jae-in invited North Korean athletes and a group of North Korean officials to the Games. That led to a meeting between Moon and Kim in April. There, the North Korean leader expressed an interest in meeting with Trump.

Ending an Old War

The world watched the summit between North Korea and the U.S. with great expectation. Yet it's unclear if real progress will come from it. The joint agreement signed by Trump and Kim leaves almost all of its details blank—to be filled in during later negotiations.

Formally ending the war may be key to stopping North Korea's nuclear threat.

Some experts believe that, unlike his father and grandfather, Kim Jong Un sincerely wants to make peace with the U.S., build North Korea's economy, and usher his country into a new age of openness with other nations.

But whether Kim will agree to give up his country's nuclear weapons remains to be seen. North Korea has made agreements to abandon its nuclear weapons program with each of the three

previous U.S. presidents but has never followed through on them.

"I'm not sure this [short] meeting . . . would suggest that there's nothing to be concerned about," says Christopher Hill, a diplomat who has negotiated with North Korea in the past.

Meanwhile, although Trump said he would end joint military exercises with South Korea—which North Koreans have long seen as a rehearsal for a U.S. invasion—he is leaving U.S. troops in place in South Korea for now.

In the long run, finally negotiating an end to the Korean War will likely be necessary to stop North Korea's nuclear challenge, experts James Dobbins and Jeffrey Hornung wrote recently in *The New York Times*. "Standing ready to formally end the old war may be the key to getting there without starting a new one." ♦

CORE QUESTION Why do North Korea and the U.S. each see the other country as a threat?

