



Social Studies Virtual Learning

Contemporary Issues

North Korea

May 6, 2020



Contemporary Issues

Lesson #33: May 6, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: I can evaluate the relationship between North Korea and the United States

Warm Up

The United States & North Korea (authoritarian government) have had a rocky/complicated relationship since the beginning. After watching the following videos on leadership and secrecy, answer the following questions on a sheet of paper.

1. How does North Korea “restrict” Western media?
2. Why must North Koreans show blind loyalty and sorrow to deceased leaders?
3. Hypothesize why Kim Jong-un’s health is important to the United States & other countries.



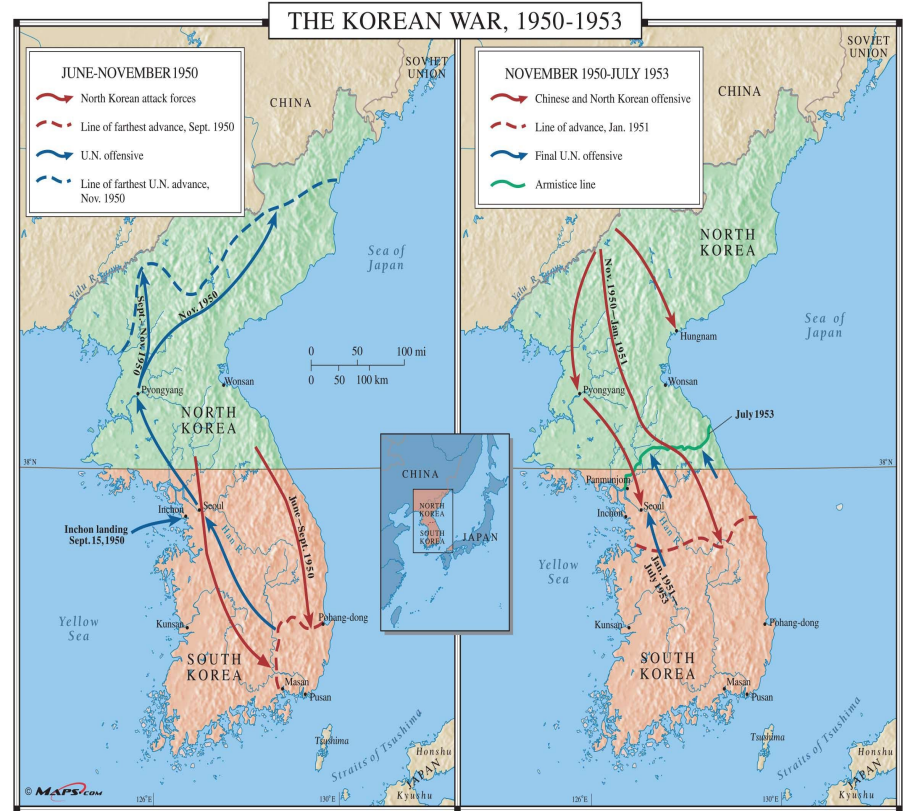
Warm Up Answers

1. How does North Korea “restrict” Western media?
 - a. No embedded media sources, countries learn about North Korea from state run media- always behind
2. Why must North Koreans show blind loyalty and sorrow to deceased leaders?
 - a. Maybe genuine, but mostly fear of death
3. Hypothesize why Kim Jong-un’s health is important to the United States & other countries.
 - a. Authoritarian leader hereditary- who is next and has control of military



Lesson Activity

Since the Korean War, the United States has been both directly and indirectly involved with the rise of North Korea's authoritarian government. The "solution" to stop communism failed on the Korean peninsula. Therefore, the United States needed a new strategy to combat this authoritarian government: sanctions.



Practice

To understand the connection between North Korea and the United States, read the following article and answer the following questions on the same sheet of paper from the warm up activity.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/the-u-s-and-north-korea-on-the-brink-a-timeline/>

1. Explain how the atomic bomb led to North Korea's military buildup.
2. How did the Clinton administration reach out to North Korea? Why did they respond?
3. Detail North Korea's nuclear program since the Bush administration- is this progress or failure?
4. Did Kim Jong-un agree to the "Libyan model?" Analyze the relationship between sanctions and nuclear testing.



Practice Answers

1. Explain how the atomic bomb led to North Korea's military buildup.
 - a. Truman's discussion of the atomic bomb during the Korean War forced North Korea to develop military program and find powerful allies.
2. How did the Clinton administration reach out to North Korea? Why did they respond?
 - a. Leadership change led to an agreement for reduced nuclear testing. Soviet Union collapsed and left North Korea without their most powerful ally.
3. Detail North Korea's nuclear program since the Bush administration- is this progress or failure?
 - a. Nuclear testing has continued missiles have been built, but not very powerful.
 - b. Progress- nuclear program with heavy sanctions
 - c. Failure- not close to powerful enough
4. Did Kim Jong-un agree to the "Libyan model?" Analyze the relationship between sanctions and nuclear testing.
 - a. No- sanctions released in nuclear program destroyed.

Reflection

After learning about the United States and North Korea's relationship, compare and contrast this aerial map of electrical activity between North and South Korea.

1. Why would an authoritarian government “weaponize” electricity?
2. Hypothesize who/what the area of North Korea with electricity is.
3. How could this map be used as a “solution” to North Korea?

