

Lesson Plan: Korea

Purpose:

This lesson is intended to introduce the students to information about the controversy surrounding Korea's Nuclear program as well as how it is viewed around the world, and then allow the class to have an informed discussion about the issue.

Essential Questions:

1. Why does North Korea have a Nuclear program?
2. How does the United States view North Korea's Nuclear Program?
3. How is North Korea's Nuclear program viewed around the world in Europe and Asia?

Rationale:

North Korea has been in the news and so I believe the students need an explanation from various viewpoints, to help with their understanding of the issues.

Materials:

I will gather news articles from various sources, mostly online, but some may come from magazines, and newspapers as well. I will have articles about Korea's Nuclear program from US journalists, European journalists, and Asian journalists.

Activities:

The United States sees the North Korean Nuclear program as a Security threat. We will begin with a large class discussion of what they already know about North Korea from what they've learned or seen on TV. I will clarify any misunderstandings with the knowledge I have gained through the Asia seminar and readings.

Students will then be placed in groups of three. Each group will be given a different article to read. They must read it and present a one to two paragraph summary of the article to the class. This way the entire class gets exposure to all the articles. We will have class discussion after all of the articles have been summarized for the class. In our discussion we will address the Essential Questions.

Assessment:

The class discussion may serve as assessment. If a homework assignment is needed, then the students may be assigned to write an article from their point of view about Korea's Nuclear program. They can discuss their own opinion in this article.

Grade Adaptation:

The target grade of this class is 9th grade. It can be scaled up or down with the length and difficulty of articles the students' must read.