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Korea: United/Divided/United

Rationale:

-Regarding the place of Korea in US history we tend to focus primarily on the military aspect of the Korean war in the greater context of the US policy of containment towards communism during the Cold War, but neglect the aftermath of the political, social, and physical divide created by the armistice and the DMZ. It is important to show students that a divided Korean peninsula has not always been the norm, and that although there are great divisions between the 2 separate countries, commonalities persist to this day. To highlight these differences and commonalities this lesson uses 2 videos to show the great disparity caused by the aforementioned differences in wealth, living conditions, politics, etc. but highlight the continuance of a shared culture that predates the Korean War. Students will be asked to reflect on the differences and speculate as to why each country has developed the way they have and also reflect on why some cultural aspects have remained the same. Additionally, they will be asked to speculate on the future regarding the Korean peninsula. This lesson plan will require approximately 2.5 class periods to complete (120-130 minutes).

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will understand the historical reasons why North and South Korea have developed in such remarkably different fashions
- Students will understand that basic human wants, needs, and goals cross arbitrary "national" boundaries
- Students will understand that shared cultural identity crosses arbitrary boundaries
- Students will understand the impact that internal and external powerful influences have on the development of countries/states

Ohio Academic Content Standards for Social Studies:

- HI9.14
 - Explain the causes and consequences of the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War including the decline of Communism
- HI9.15
 - Examine regional and ethnic conflict in the Post-Cold War era including Asia

-HI10.8

-Explain how the Cold War and related conflicts influenced US foreign policy after 1945 with emphasis on the Korean War

Essential Questions:

1- What commonalities do North and South Korea share? Why do you think these things have persisted despite the geographic division of the country?

2- What things about North and South Korea are remarkably different? Why do you think these differences have developed?

3- What do you think the future holds for all of Korea? Why do you feel such a way? Support your argument with specific examples.

Strategy:

-The first 2 days of the lesson will be set aside for viewing the different documentaries. Students will be given the essential questions before viewing the documentaries and told to write down specific answers to them as they view the films. After viewing the films the class will then discuss essential questions #1&2, with the instructor writing their answers on the board. Following this exercise, the students will complete a writing assignment where they will answer essential question #3. This will allow us to check the understanding of the students by having them critically analyze whether or not the unifying factors between the Koreas will be enough to reunite the peoples or that the divisions have cut too deep to ever really mend. Additionally, this will allow us to see if our students understand the impact other countries have on the internal and external affairs of other countries.

Materials:

-Handout of essential questions

-Copy of "Inside North Korea" documentary

-Ling, Lisa, Dir. *Inside North Korea*. Warner Home Video: 2006, Film.

-Copy of "Globe Trekker: South Korea" documentary

-Cross, Ian, Dir. *Globe Trekker: South Korea*. Pilot Film & Television Productions Ltd.: 2003, Film.

Evaluation:

-Students will be evaluated formally by reading and Scoring/Grading their writing assignments following the exercise and will be evaluated informally by their responses during the discussion activity

Possible Follow-Up Learning:

-This lesson can in most likelihood be modified to follow the same patten/methodology with other states that have been divided during the same era (i.e. Germany, Vietnam).