

United States and North Korea: Comparing Values

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Course: Sociology

Number of Days: 2 45-minute class periods

Objective: Students will analyze values in the United States and North Korea by comparing and contrasting cultural norms, behaviors, attitudes, and expectations.

Content Standards (Olentangy Local Schools Content Statements):

- Sociology: I can...Evaluate my own conduct by comparing myself with others.
- I can...Examine the world to develop my own views and to communicate those views with others.

Material Needed: *Inside North Korea*. National Geographic Studio, 2007. DVD.

Lesson Procedure:

1. Start by asking students to make a list of 5 things that they value
2. Provide students with the definition of “values” in sociology: “Standards by which people define what is valuable.”
3. Ask for student volunteers to share their list of things they value – discuss why students value these things
4. Ask students to now brainstorm 5 values they would characterize as “American” and discuss these values with students sitting near them
5. Call on students at random to volunteer one or two values in the United States. Keep a running list of these values on the board
6. Ask students if they feel these values are unique to Americans or shared in other parts of the world. Have a conversation about whether or not these values would apply to citizens of all countries
7. Ask students if they know anything about North Korea. Have a conversation about their ideas of North Korean culture.
8. Have students create a T-Chart to list the values of the United States and North Korea.

Values of the United States	Values of North Korea
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

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9. Explain to students that they will view the 52 minute documentary, *Inside North Korea*. As they watch the film, students should fill out their T-chart with what they see as American and North Korean values.
10. After the movie, place students into small groups to compare their lists and analyze whether or not the two countries are similar and why or why not
11. Call on students at random to share one or two values they see in North Korea. Create a class list of North Korean values on the board.
12. Discuss the reasons for these values in these different countries
 - a. Ask students to consider why and how these values became part of each respective country's culture
 - b. Ask students to consider values of individual vs. societal/government values
 - c. Ask students to relate this look into North Korea to current events (e.g. North Korea's development of ICBMs fitted with nuclear warheads)
13. As an exit slip, ask students to write down any questions about North Korea. Try to answer these questions at the end of the second class period or the next day