

## **Rush Lesson Plan: North Korea's Nuclear Threat**

### **Purpose**

How should countries deal with North Korea's nuclear threat?

### **Essential Questions:**

1. What are some important events in North Korea's past? How might these events influence current events?
2. What is the most effective way to deal with a nuclear threat?  
Should incentives or military action neutralize the nuclear threat?
3. How should the US/ world community treat people living in repressive countries?

**Rationale:** Asia is an area that the United States and the rest of the world desperately wants to influence. North Korean attempts to develop nuclear weapons potentially threatens the region and the rest of the world. How the United States and other nations deal with this conflict and future Asian situations has a direct impacts the well-being of the United States citizens now and in the future.

**Materials:** Computer with internet access, large sheets for timelines, rulers.

### **Activities:**

- 1) Research North Korea background info from BBC (see sheet)
- 2) Timeline- pick 12 critical events over the past 12 years (see sheets, sample)
- 3) What are some important events in North Korea's past?
- 4) Group Work- Negotiating North Korea's Nuclear weapons (see sheet)
- 5) Seminar Discussion- How should countries deal with new nuclear powers?

**Assessment:** Students will complete background questions on North Korea and Kim Il Jung, a timeline listing some of the recent highs and lows in North Korea, and a scored discussion making a plan of action for dealing with countries who newly acquire nuclear weapons. (Rubrics attached for timeline and discussion)

**Grade Adaptations:** Target Grade: 11/12<sup>th</sup> grade.

This lesson could be modified by working on the timeline. Students could work in groups and develop symbols and a short explanation to place on a class timeline on butcher paper. Another way would be to give students notes about the historical background and focus more on the discussion about how to deal with the nuclear threat.

North Korea Background Info

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Go to BBC

Type in North Korea

Select News: Country Profile of North Korea

1. What is the name of the capitol of North Korea: \_\_\_\_\_ South Korea: \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Kim Il-Sung introduce to the Korean people?
3. How is Kim Jong-Il related to Kim Il-Sung?
4. Describe the type of government in North Korea:
  
4. Why have many died in North Korea since the 1990's? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How is North Korea on human rights issues?
  
6. How have recent North and South Korean relations changed recently? \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. What capability does North Korea have?
  
8. What did George W. Bush call North Korea?
  
9. Why is it difficult to know much about Kim Jong-il?
  
10. How free is North Korea's media?

Select Timeline: North Korea

1. Who occupied North Korea and left in 1945? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who controlled North Korea after 1945? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who controlled South Korea after 1945? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the South do in 1950 which led to a North Korean invasion? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What year was the armistice or cease fire? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What did North Korea agree to do in 1992? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did they ask for in 1994? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did the US agree to do in 1995? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What did the North Koreans do in 1996? \_\_\_\_\_
10. In 2000, what did North and South Korea do? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What did North Korea withdraw from in January 2003? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What happened in September of 2005? \_\_\_\_\_

Select Q and A: North Korea's Nuclear agreement

1. Why did many see the nuclear agreement as important?
2. What is known about North Korea's nuclear weapons program?
3. How many nuclear weapons does North Korea currently have?
4. Has North Korea threatened blackmail for nuclear weapons before?
5. What is the difference between North Korea and Iraq?

Select Profile: Kim Jong-il

1. Who is Kim Jong-il?
2. Why is it difficult to know much about Kim Jong-il?
3. What adjectives are used to describe him?

Go back to the BBC homepage

Pick the North Korean government (2<sup>nd</sup> to last one on the right hand side)

Enter

Pick Biography of Kim Jung-il.

2. Juche means self-reliance. Why might this be important to North Koreans given their history?
3. How did Kim Jong-II fight against imperialism?

4. How did Kim Jung-il fight for worker's rights?

North Korea Background Info      KEY    Name: \_\_\_\_\_KEY\_\_\_\_\_

Go to BBC

Type in North Korea

Select News: Country Profile of North Korea

1. What is the name of the capitol of North Korea: Pyonyang    South Korea: \_Seoul
2. What did Kim Il-Sung introduce to the Korean people?    Juche/ self-reliance
4. How is Kim Jong-Il related to Kim Il-Sung?    He is Kim Il-Sung's son.
4. Describe the type of government in North Korea: rigid/ state-controlled-
  
5. Why have many died in North Korea since the 1990's?    \_\_\_\_up to 2 million
6. How is North Korea on human rights issues?    Up to 200,000 political prisoners- reports of torture, public executions, state-run labor camps, forced abortions/ infanticides in prison camps
  
7. How have recent North and South Korean relations changed recently?    New "sunshine policy" strengthening of North/ South Korean relations
  
8. What capability does North Korea have?    Nuclear weapons/ uranium enrichment
  
9. What did George W. Bush call North Korea?    "axis of evil"
  
10. Why is it difficult to know much about Kim Jong-il?    No free press- very private to other societies.
  
11. How free is North Korea's media?    Radio/ TV owned by the government/ people risk being put in labor camps for listening to foreign media reports

Select Timeline: North Korea

13. Who occupied North Korea and left in 1945?    Japan\_\_\_\_\_
14. Who controlled North Korea after 1945?    Soviet Union\_\_\_\_\_
15. Who controlled South Korea after 1945?    United States\_\_\_\_\_
16. What did the South do in 1950 which led to a North Korean invasion?    \_ Declare independence\_

17. What year was the armistice or cease fire? 1953\_\_\_\_\_
18. What did North Korea agree to do in 1992? Allow inspections.\_\_\_\_\_
19. What did they ask for in 1994? \$5 billion in aid to freeze nuclear program\_\_\_\_\_
20. What did the US agree to do in 1995? Build nuclear reactors for energy\_\_\_\_\_
21. What did the North Koreans do in 1996? Sends troops into DMZ\_\_\_\_\_
22. In 2000, what did North and South Korea do? Opening of borders, North stops propaganda against Sout Korea\_\_\_\_\_
23. What did North Korea withdraw from in January 2003? Nuclear Non- proliferation treaty
24. What happened in September of 2005? Will give up weapons for aid/ security

Select Q and A: North Korea's Nuclear agreement

6. Why did many see the nuclear agreement as important?

It is promising to resolving conflict, but only time will tell.

7. What is known about North Korea's nuclear weapons program?

Has been working on nuclear reactor since 2002.

8. How many nuclear weapons does North Korea currently have?

Possibly one or tow.

9. Has North Korea threatened blackmail for nuclear weapons before?

1994 Agreed Framework.

10. What is the difference between North Korea and Iraq?

North Korea- larger military/ huge domestic problems.

Select Profile: Kim Jong-il

12. Who is Kim Jong-il? Leader of North Korea

13. Why is it difficult to know much about Kim Jong-il?

No free press, reclusive personality.

14. What adjectives are used to describe him?

Playboy, eccentric, manipulator, intelligent.

Go back to the BBC homepage

Pick the North Korean government (2<sup>nd</sup> to last one on the right hand side)

Enter

Pick Biography of Kim Jung-il.

5. Juche means self-reliance. Why might this be important to North Koreans given their history? They have been occupied by foreigners- Japan/ US/ Soviets.
6. How did Kim Jong-Il fight against imperialism? Advanced Kim Il Song's ideas.

How did Kim Jung-il fight for worker's rights? Met with other workers/ organized them.

## The Korean Conflict from The Idiot's Guide To World Conflicts

Korea was ruled/ dominated by the Japanese before WWII.

Once Japan lost in WWII, the Russians controlled the part of Korea north of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel and the United States controlled the area south of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.

At the time, North and South Korea were economically, agriculturally interdependent.

In 1948, two countries- North Korea (communist in the Soviet mold- no free elections, private property and few consumer goods) and South Korea (capitalist) were created.

North Korea was determined to conquer South Korea and make it communist.

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1950, North Korea attacked South Korea. The U.S. quickly decided to send troops to support South Korea. The U.N. also sent troops. China was afraid of Western aggression past North Korea and sent 850,000 Chinese troops.

The war ended in a stalemate- no victor. The dividing line is known as the Demilitarized Zone or DMZ. Several incidents in the 1960's and 70's showed the great tension between the 2 sides.

Recently, however, a thawing or lessening of tensions is happening between North and South Korea. North Korea no longer has the support of the Soviet Union and its poor economic conditions. In 2001, North and South Korea signed an "Agreement on Reconciliation" which stated that they would both not test or manufacture nuclear weapons. North Korea then refused to allow weapons inspectors to check their nuclear weapons. After strong pressure from the West, the North Korean leader Kim il-sung agreed to freeze its nuclear program.

In 2000, the 2 leaders- Kim Dae-jung from South Korea and Kim Jong-il met and allowed visitation between 100 South Koreans visiting family members in North Korea. After September 11, George W. Bush called North Korea a part of an "axis of evil." North Korea has experienced great famine and death of its people. Kim Jong-il continues to threaten the use of nuclear weapons. Some feel he is willing to use them, while others believe he is making the threat to win economic support in exchange for his limiting the nuclear program.

## North Korea Timeline Assignment

1. Type in [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)
2. Under Search, type in: North Korea Timeline
3. Develop a Timeline and title it The Highs and Lows in North Korea- 1991-Present
4. Label each tick mark from 1991 to present.
5. Using the bbc timeline, choose 12 key incidents between 1991 and the Present. Decide whether each incident is a high or a low. If it is a high, place the incident above the timeline. If it is a low, place it below the timeline. The higher or lower you feel the incident is, the higher or lower it should be on your paper.
6. Create a symbol and an explanation of 5 words or less for each incident.
7. Answer the questions:
  - a. Given North Korea's modern history, is there reason to hope or despair for this country. Why? Use incidents from your timeline.
  - b. Have things in North Korea been improving or declining recently?
  - c. What predictions can you make about what this timeline might include in the next 5 years? 10 years? 20 years?
  - d. Given this history, how should other leaders deal with North Korea?

## Timeline Rubric

- A- Neat, accurate, includes all incidents with clear symbols and a 5 word or less complete explanation, explains rationale for the highs and lows.
- B- Mostly neat, mostly accurate, symbols, includes all incidents/ 5 word explanation, explains rationale the highs and lows
- C- Somewhat neat, some inaccuracies, most incidents, symbols, explanation of incidents, reasons for highs and lows.
- F- Not neat, many inaccuracies- events not included, symbols/ explanation lacking, no reasons for highs/ lows.

Ten Highs and Lows of Modern North Korea:  
1991- Present  
(See North Korea Timeline attachment)

Events that are Highs would go above the timeline. The higher above the timeline, the higher the event in modern North Korean history.

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1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 05

Low point events go below the timeline. The lower the event on the timeline, the lower the event would be.

Negotiating Nuclear Weapons

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Write A for Agree and D for Disagree for each statement.

1. \_\_\_ The US and other nuclear powers should be concerned about other countries obtaining nuclear weapons.
2. \_\_\_ Countries who fail to cooperate with nuclear weapons inspectors should be punished.
3. Giving money/ technology to discourage countries from developing nuclear weapons is blackmail.
4. \_\_\_ The US should not negotiate with countries that do not protect human rights.
5. \_\_\_ The US has a right to have a military presence in areas of economic interest.
6. \_\_\_ The US/ UN should help hungry people regardless of their leaders.
7. \_\_\_ The US/ UN should prevent the sale of nuclear weapons.
8. \_\_\_ The US/ Nuclear Powers have the right to share nuclear weapons technology with other countries if they choose.
9. \_\_\_ Countries have the right to their own self-protection.
10. \_\_\_ Only reliable leaders should have access to nuclear weapons.

## **North Korea Seminar Discussion Questions**

1. What are some key events in North Korea's history?
2. What are some developments over the past 10 years?
3. How should the United States and the international community deal with Kim Jung-Il? Is the carrot or the stick more effective? Why?
4. How should the US/ world community help people who live in countries with repressive rulers?
5. Should the US/ Nuclear Powers have the right to tell others not to obtain nuclear weapons?
6. How might the North Korean question be viewed by other Asian nations? Why? Would their views be different?
7. Does North Korea have the right to self-reliance?

## Seminar Discussion- Self-Assessment

1. What is your goal for this seminar? \_\_\_\_\_

Give a score for each category 10 (A+), 9(A), 8 (B), 7 (C), 6 (D), 5 (F).

Category	What to look for	Score
Listening	Follows the flow of discussion	
Listening	Incorporates others responses in your own	
Listening	Models Appropriate listening behaviors	
Reasoning	Comments are logical and complex	
Reasoning	Refers to text/ research/ timeline	
Reasoning	Offers Questions	
Speaking	Uses vocabulary/ events from research/ timeline	
Speaking	Organizes thoughts while speaking	
Speaking	Uses Marketplace English	
Overall		___/100

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# The Highs and Lows of North Korea: 1991 to Present

Korea joins United Nations



Allows weapons inspectors



Kim Song-Il dies-money for weapons



US agrees to help



UN food to help victims



North/ South Cooperation



- 1991
- 1992
- 1993
- 1994
- 1995
- 1996
- 1997
- 1998
- 1999
- 2000
- 2001
- 2002

Refuses access to inspectors



Famine kill 2 million-troops-DMZ



Bush "axis of evil"





2003

2004

2005

2006

