

Michelle Miller
Korea Lesson Plan
6-7 (45 minute class periods)

Life in Korea during the Korean War

PURPOSE: To show students that during the Korean War, life for Koreans was altered.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

1. What was Korean life like before the war?
2. How did the Korean War begin?
3. How did life change during the war?
4. How was the war resolved?
5. What aspects of life were different after the war?

RATIONALE: Students have learned through American History that life in America was different during war times. Women took new roles in society filling in jobs that men in the war previously had. Factories shifted from domestic production to war time production. Families were forced to ration food and gas and many people began to purchase war bonds and turn in scrap metal. This lesson plan will give students a global view of the effects of war and how they are similar to occurrences in America.

MATERIALS:

Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood by Richard E. Kim.

History textbook section on Korean War and life in America during wars. I am using “Creating America: A History of the United States”, by McDougal Littell, 2005.

Geography textbook sections on government, economy and lifestyle in Korea, I am using “World Cultures and Geography” by Mc Dougal Little, 2005 and “World Explorer: People, Places and Cultures” by Prentice Hall, 2005.

Outline maps of Korea available through www.worldatlas.com

Venn Diagrams, www.venndiagram.com

www.lifein korea.com

Still Life with Rice by Helie Lee, New York: Scribner, 1996.

ACTIVITIES:

*Round table discussion of how the American way of life was changed during various wars. (1, 45 minute period)

*Split the class into five research groups to investigate their topics. (2, 45 minute periods). 1. Korean life before the war. 2. Origins of the Korean War. 3. How the Korean War was resolved. 4. Life for Koreans during the war. 5. Changes after the war.

*Students present findings to the class. Each group should make a hand-out to distribute to the class. (1-2, 45 minute periods)

*Discussion of each topic and questions answered. (1, 45 minute period)

*Assessment including Venn Diagram of the similarities and differences of lifestyle during wars for Korea and America. Use maps so students can explain the major turning points of the war. (1, 45 minute period)

GRADE ADAPTATION: This lesson was created for an 8th grade American History class. The class I teach is at a K-8 parochial school. There are 28-34 students in each classroom. I meet with grades 6-8 each day for approximately 2 hours. The amount of time designated by this lesson plan can be adapted and doubled up for block scheduling where there are larger amounts of class time. The history curriculum I follow includes a chapter on the Korean War. This lesson can be adapted to lower grade levels by having more teacher instruction time and less independent group research time. Also the students can be given a map that has the boundaries of control and events of the Korean War drawn in. The students will use this map to write an essay about the events of the war. The Venn diagram activity should remain the same in most any age group. For students who have never worked with Venn diagrams before, this should be used as an opportunity to teach about Venn diagrams.