

# LESSON 1: KOREAN WAR BACKGROUND

SUBJECT	TEACHER	GRADE	DATE
Middle Grades SS			

## OVERVIEW

This lesson utilized the articles found at [www.kwvdm.org](http://www.kwvdm.org) to introduce students to the politics leading up to the Korean War.

## TEACHER GUIDE

## STUDENT GUIDE

OBJECTIVES	Put your state standards here:	Students will be able to analyze the relationship of the countries involved in the Korean War.  Students will be able to describe South Korea's decision to either turn to communism or democracy before the war.
INFORMATION	The articles on <a href="http://www.kwvdm.org">www.kwvdm.org</a> will give students a basic foundation of how the conflict began and the politics around the war.	Students should discuss the word "frenemy" (perhaps referencing a movie such as Mean Girls) and the Robert Frost poem, The Road Not Taken, before beginning the web activity.
ACTIVITY	Teacher will circulate and answer questions as needed by the students. This is a good time to ensure that any key terms, dates, or names from your standards are understood.	Students will use <a href="http://www.kwvdm.org">www.kwvdm.org</a> and the question sheet provided (see Background Questions), to complete a webquest.
SUMMARY	Teacher will ask students to come back together and comment on what they have added to their prior knowledge about this time period.	Students will discuss what they learned or were surprised by from this activity. If completing the unit, students will store the answers in their portfolio.
EXTENSION	Teacher can create a display version of the road drawing that shows all of the key components he/she considers required knowledge from this lesson.	Students can create a drawing of a road showing at least 3 points from what they have learned about the decisions made by countries in this time leading up to the war.

## MATERIALS

- Internet access
- Question sheet
- Optional: drawing paper

## RESOURCES

- [www.kwvdm.org](http://www.kwvdm.org)

## NOTES

There are more tips and links at the bottom of the lesson plan page ([www.kwdhproject.org](http://www.kwdhproject.org))

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Background Questions**

[www.kwvdm.org](http://www.kwvdm.org)

**1) Under the "Korean War" tab, click "Statistics" and answer the following question:**

A) In reviewing the 3 graphs, what can you summarize about Korean civilian refugees and civilian deaths compared to other Asian conflicts? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2) Under the same tab, click "The Road Not Taken" and answer the following questions:**

A) From whom did Korea win their independence? \_\_\_\_\_

B) Which two world superpowers were waiting to influence Korea after their independence? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3) Under the same tab, read the paragraph about the "Frenemy."**

A) What is your definition of Frenemy? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B) How were the Soviet Union and United States considered Frenemies to Korea? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4) Under the same tab, summarize in one sentence what Korea meant to the United States?**

A) Does it seem like the U.S. cared about what happened to the actual citizens? Yes or No? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5) Under the same tab, read the passage entitled "U.S. Disinterest in Korea."**

A) What 3 key ideas presented lead you to think that the U.S. really was not interested in Korea? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Optional: Make Your Own Road**

On the back of this paper, or on a separate sheet of paper, draw a road that includes at least 3 stops. Each stop should represent something you have learned about how South Korea and the United States ended up involved in a conflict with North Korea and Russia. Use words and pictures to back up your points.