The Korean War

1950-1953
The Korean War

**Student Objectives**

1. Observe the ways Communism expanded in Asia and set the stage for the Korean War.
2. Learn who fought in the Korean War and about the wars stages.
3. Discover the different effects of the Korean War.
The Korean War

Nicknames of the Korean War:

1. Americans Forgotten War
2. A Police Action
The Korean War

Causes:

1. China’s Civil War
   - Nationalists vs. Mao Zedong and the Communists
2. Japan’s loss of territory
   - After World War II, Japan will lose the Korean Peninsula.
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- The peninsula will be split in half at the 38th parallel.
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A. The Soviets will get the northern half and set up a communist government.

-Leader will be Kim Il Sung
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B. The U.S. will get the southern half and set up a democratic government.

-Leader will be Syngman Rhee
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Invasion:

1. On June 27, 1950, North Korean troops will cross the 38th parallel and invade South Korea with the help of the Soviet Union.

2. North Korean forces will push South to the Pusan Perimeter.
3. The U.S. was worried that if the invasion of South Korea would be allowed, it would mean containment had been broken.
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4. A UN meeting was called to deal with the invasion. The Soviet Union will walk out of the meeting giving the United States unanimous approval for a resolution to call on member nations to come to the support of South Korea.

5. A U.S. led coalition force will be formed to serve as a protectorate of South Korea.
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6. Forces will be led by General Douglas MacArthur who was based in Japan.
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7. General MacArthur’s developed the Inchon invasion which will help the coalition forces surround the North Korean forces and later disperse and run back to North Korea.

8. He will take back the capital of Seoul in less than a week.
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9. Then coalition forces will push pass the 38th parallel north to the Chinese border at the Yalu River.
10. China warned the forces not to push any further north. MacArthur ignored the warning and in November, the Chinese Army crossed the Yalu into North Korea and attacked coalition forces.
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11. *The Chinese and North Korean forces will push the coalition forces back to the 38th parallel where the war will remain for the next 3 years in a stalemate.*
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13. Peace talks were held at Panmunjom between the two sides and lasted for more than 2 years.

14. Finally a truce was signed in 1953 by all sides, except South Korea. It left Korea divided exactly the same place as before the war.
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Effects:

A. 54,000 soldiers had been killed
B. 103,000 wounded
C. Containment had occurred without a nuclear war.
D. Military became integrated.
E. Military spending increased and new jobs were created.
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[Graph showing U.S. Defense Spending, 1941-1961]

SOURCE: Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970
The Korean War

F. Shaped future U.S. policy in Asia:

1. Led to a peace treaty with Japan in 1951

2. Diplomatic standoff with North Korea till today.