



"Police Action": The Korean War, 1950-1954

Student Name _____

Date _____

Activity #1: The Decision to Intervene in Korea

Timeline of Events Related to the Origins of the Korean War

Date	Event
August 10, 1945	The United States and the Soviet Union agree to a temporary division of Korea—formerly a Japanese colony—along the 38° Parallel. U.S. forces were to occupy and administer the southern half, while Soviet troops would occupy and administer the North.
March 1946	During World War II the two combatants in the Chinese Civil War—the Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek and the Communists under Mao Tse-tung—had agreed to a temporary truce while both fought the Japanese. However, less than a year after the defeat of Japan the truce fell apart, and large-scale fighting resumed between the two sides.
May 1948	The United States sponsors elections in South Korea. The Soviets protest the decision, and instruct left-wing parties there to boycott the election. The result is that Syngman Rhee, a dedicated anti-communist who was educated in the United States, becomes head of the government. Soon afterward the Soviets establish a communist regime in North Korea under the leadership of Kim Il-sung.
August 12, 1949	Eager to rid itself of commitments in East Asia, the United States formally recognizes the independence of South Korea, and arrangements begin for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the region. The Soviets make a similar announcement regarding North Korea.
December 26, 1948	The last Soviet troops leave North Korea.
January 1949	Chinese communist forces under Mao Tse-tung enter city of Peking. They change the name to Beijing and declare that it is the new capital of China.

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February 3, 1949	U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson, citing the unpopularity and corruption of Chiang Kai-shek in Nationalists, recommends that the U.S. government stop sending aid. Truman and Congress reject this advice, and approve a further \$50 million in economic and military assistance.
June 1949	The last U.S. troops leave South Korea.
July 14, 1949	The Soviet Union successfully tests its first atomic bomb; however, a formal announcement of this fact is not made until September 23.
October 1, 1949	With most of the Chinese countryside, as well as its major cities, in communist hands, Mao Tse-tung declares victory in the civil war. He announces that henceforth the country will be referred to as the "People's Republic of China."
December 1, 1949	Chiang Kai-shek and his supporters abandon the mainland and flee to the island of Taiwan, where they form a government called the "Republic of China."
January 12, 1950	Secretary of State Acheson gives famous "perimeter" speech to the National Press Club in Washington. Discussing U.S. strategy in Asia, he lists Japan, Okinawa, the Philippines, and the Aleutian Islands as vital interests that will be defended with force. The list includes neither Taiwan nor South Korea.
February 9, 1950	U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy (Rep.-Wisconsin) gives speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, blaming recent foreign policy failures—particularly Mao Tse-Tung's victory in China—on the presence of communists in the State Department.
February 14, 1950	After a two-month visit by Mao Tse-tung to Moscow, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China announce a 30-year alliance treaty. According to the terms of this treaty, each side promised to come to the aid of the other in the event of a war against a third party.
March 10, 1950	The Central Intelligence Agency warns of a massive buildup of North Korean troops along the South Korean border, predicts that an invasion is imminent.

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April 1950	Soviet leader Josef Stalin gives Kim Il-sung permission to launch an invasion of South Korea; however, he warns Kim that "if you should get kicked in the teeth, I shall not lift a finger. You have to ask Mao [Tse-tung] for all the help."
June 25, 1950	At approximately 4:00 am, 80,000 North Korean troops, equipped with Soviet weapons, invade South Korea. South Korean forces are quickly forced to retreat. Truman orders U.S. naval and air forces—but not ground forces—to assist in the defense of South Korea.
June 27, 1950	The United Nations calls upon its members to come to the aid of South Korea. The proposal only wins the approval of the Security Council because the Soviet delegation is boycotting its proceedings to protest the U.N.'s failure to recognize Mao Tse-tung's regime as the legitimate government of China.
June 28, 1950	North Korean forces capture Seoul, the capital of South Korea.



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Activity #2: The Decision to Cross the 38th Parallel

Timeline of Events Related to the Korean War, June 29-October 10, 1950

Date	Event
June 29, 1950	General Douglas MacArthur, commander of U.S. forces in East Asia, visits the front lines, where he witnesses firsthand the desperate situation of the South Korean army.
July 7, 1950	General MacArthur proposes to use U.S. troops to launch a massive counterattack against the North Koreans that would not only drive them from South Korea, but would overthrow Kim Il-sung's regime in the North and unite all of Korea under a single government. Most of the Joint Chiefs of Staff oppose this, as does George Kennan, who insists that U.S. forces should only drive the North Koreans back across the 38 th Parallel.
July 10, 1950	The United Nations authorizes the formation of a force comprised of U.S. troops and those of fourteen other nations, under the overall command of General MacArthur.
July 19, 1950	Truman appears before Congress asking for \$10 billion to support the "police action" in Korea. He follows this up with a radio address to the American public, but he makes it clear that there will be no full-scale mobilization as there had been in World War II.
July 23, 1950	MacArthur proposes an amphibious landing of U.S. forces at Incheon, behind the North Korean lines. The Joint Chiefs of Staff approve the plan on August 28.
August 7, 1950	U.N. forces halt North Koreans outside the city of Pusan.

September 15, 1950	U.S. forces under MacArthur land at three separate locations on the Korean coast near Incheon. The North Koreans, taken completely by surprise, are driven from Incheon with minimal U.S. casualties.
September 19, 1950	U.N. troops reach Seoul and recapture it ten days later. (Sept. 29)
September 27, 1950	Truman approves MacArthur's plan to cross the 38 th Parallel, invading North Korea.
October 7, 1950	U.N. forces under MacArthur cross the 38 th parallel; later that same day, the United Nations General Assembly passes a resolution recommending "the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic Government in the sovereign State of Korea."
October 10, 1950	The official trade station of the People's Republic of China warns that the Chinese people cannot stand idly by and allow U.N. forces to overrun North Korea.



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Activity #3: Truman vs. MacArthur

Timeline of Events Related to the Truman-MacArthur Controversy

Date	Event
August 24, 1950	MacArthur sends a public statement to a national meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in which he argues that Taiwan is vital to U.S. national defense, and must be defended at all costs against Communist China.
August 26, 1950	Fearing that MacArthur's statement to the Veterans of Foreign Wars might be interpreted by China as a provocation, Truman orders that it be withdrawn, stating that the general's position on Taiwan was "in conflict with the policy of the United States and its position in the United Nations."
October 14, 1950	Truman and MacArthur meet on Wake Island to discuss the war in Korea. MacArthur assures Truman that the Chinese will not intervene, and apologizes for any embarrassment caused by his remarks on Taiwan. Truman later expresses his anger with MacArthur for not wearing his dress uniform for a meeting with the President of the United States.
October 19, 1950	Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, falls to United Nations forces.
October 25, 1950	A Chinese force of 250,000 men, supported by Soviet jets, cross the Yalu River into North Korean territory, but withdraw back into China two weeks later.
November 24, 1950	MacArthur launches his final offensive toward the Yalu River, the border between North Korea and China.

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14

November 25, 1950	Chinese troops cross the Yalu River again, this time attacking MacArthur's forces, forcing them to retreat back toward South Korea.
December 20, 1950	Angered by repeated statements by MacArthur in favor of all-out war against Communist China, Truman issues an order forbidding the release of any "speech, press release, or other public statement concerning military policy" without approval from the Department of Defense.
December 25, 1950	The United Nations calls for an armistice in Korea; MacArthur calls for all-out war against Communist China with assistance from Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist Chinese forces in Taiwan.
January 4, 1951	Chinese troops capture Seoul, capital of South Korea.
March 7, 1951	U.N. forces launch "Operation Ripper" along the Han River, pushing Chinese troops back.
March 18, 1951	Seoul is taken once again by United Nations troops.
March 20, 1951	In a letter to House Republican leader Rep. Joseph R. Martin, MacArthur criticizes Truman's refusal to wage a full-scale war against China.
April 5, 1951	Rep. Martin, having received MacArthur's letter, reads it aloud on the floor of the House of Representatives.
April 11, 1951	Truman dismisses MacArthur from command. He is replaced by General Matthew Ridgeway.

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15

• June 25, 1950 - July 27, 1953

KOREAN WAR

Directions: The following sentences describe the causes, major events, and results of the Korean War. Fill in the spaces with the words, names, and terms from the list that best complete the statements. Use provided time line to input dates.

Invasion	Soviet Union	ninety	capital
Allied	shells	Communists	Allies
elections	Soviet	Japan	Pyongyang
Jeep	ignored	border	civilians
United Nations	half	world war	Korea
prisoners	jet airplanes	China	military
north	fighting	commander	Seoul
			helicopters
			• Tokyo

Causes of the War

- (1) In 1895, the Japanese took control of Korea and in 1910 made it part of _____
- (2) After Japan was defeated in World War II, Korea was occupied by troops of the _____ and the United States.
- (3) Soviet forces in northern Korea and American soldiers in southern Korea were separated by the 38th parallel, a latitude line that divided the country in _____
- (4) The United Nations called for _____ to choose one government for the entire country, but the Soviets opposed the idea.
- (5) North Korea and South Korea became separate nations. Their troops sometimes clashed along the _____
- (6) The United States withdrew its forces from Korea in 1949. In 1950, the Communist leaders of North Korea ordered an _____ of South Korea.

Major Events of the War: 1950-1953

- (7) North Korea _____ a United Nations demand that it pull its army out of South Korea.
- (8) President Harry S. Truman ordered American forces to South Korea. Fifteen other _____ members also sent soldiers.
- (9) About _____ percent of the UN troops were Americans.
- (10) The North Korean Army was helped by soldiers from _____
- (11) General Douglas MacArthur of the United States was named _____ in chief of the United Nations Command.
- (12) MacArthur directed Allied operations from his headquarters in _____ Japan.
- (13) Lieutenant General Walton H. Walker became field commander of the _____ ground forces in Korea.

North Korea: Communist

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Kim Il-Sung

Allies < Mao Zedong
Josef Stalin

Sept. 29, 1950

- (14) During the first months of the war, the North Korean Communists captured Seoul, the _____ of South Korea.
- (15) After U.S. and UN forces arrived in Korea, _____ was recaptured.
- (16) The Allies advanced into North Korea and seized Pyongyang, the capital city, on October 19, 1950. The _____ retreated farther north.
- (17) General MacArthur and the Allies were confident that the war would be over by Christmas. But in late November, China sent a huge army into Korea to fight the _____
- (18) The Chinese forced U.S. and UN troops to withdraw from _____ and retreat into South Korea.
- (19) General Walker was killed in a _____ accident, and Lieutenant General Matthew B. Ridgway took command.
- (20) By the summer of 1951, the two sides had dug in and began fighting along a battle line _____ of the 38th parallel.
- (21) A continuing dispute between MacArthur and defense leaders in Washington led President Truman to replace the general as commander in chief. MacArthur wanted to use "air-out measures," including bombing bases in China, to achieve victory. Truman and his advisers feared such actions might lead to a third _____.
- (22) The Korean War marked the first battle between _____ - built MIG-15's _____ As many as 100 to 150 U.S. F-86 Sabre jets and _____ took part in some air battles.
- (24) For the first time during a war, _____ carried soldiers into combat. They were also used to make daring rescues of Allied pilots who had been shot down.
- (25) The U.S. Navy helped troops land by firing _____ at enemy targets on shore.

End of the War

- (26) After lengthy peace talks, an armistice agreement was signed on July 27, 1953, and the _____ ended.
- (27) A 212-mile wide Demilitarized Zone was set up to keep the two sides apart. Both agreed not to increase their _____ strength.
- (28) After the armistice was signed, the Allies and Communists charged each other with torture and starvation of prisoners, and other war crimes. The two sides exchanged 88,559 _____
- (29) The Korean War caused extensive damage throughout the country. More than a million _____ were killed.
- (30) Although the fighting stopped, negotiators were unable to draw up a permanent peace plan. They were also unsuccessful in reunifying _____

South Korea: Constitution - Democracy

Republic of Korea

Rhee Syngman

Allies < United States
United Nations

Korean War

Multiple-Choice

- (1) _____ Korea first became a divided nation after World War II when: (a) Soviet and American troops occupied the country (b) a civil war began between the north and south (c) Japan made it a colony
- (2) _____ The government of North Korea was controlled by: (a) Communists (b) a democratically-elected President and Congress (c) a monarch having divine right
- (3) _____ The Korean War began when: (a) Korea attacked Japan (b) the Soviet Union refused to trade with the Koreans (c) North Korea invaded South Korea
- (4) _____ The world peacekeeping organization that tried unsuccessfully to prevent the Korean War was the: (a) League of Nations (b) United Nations (c) Organization of American States
- (5) _____ The President who ordered U.S. troops to South Korea was: (a) Franklin D. Roosevelt (b) Harry S. Truman (c) Lyndon B. Johnson

Completion

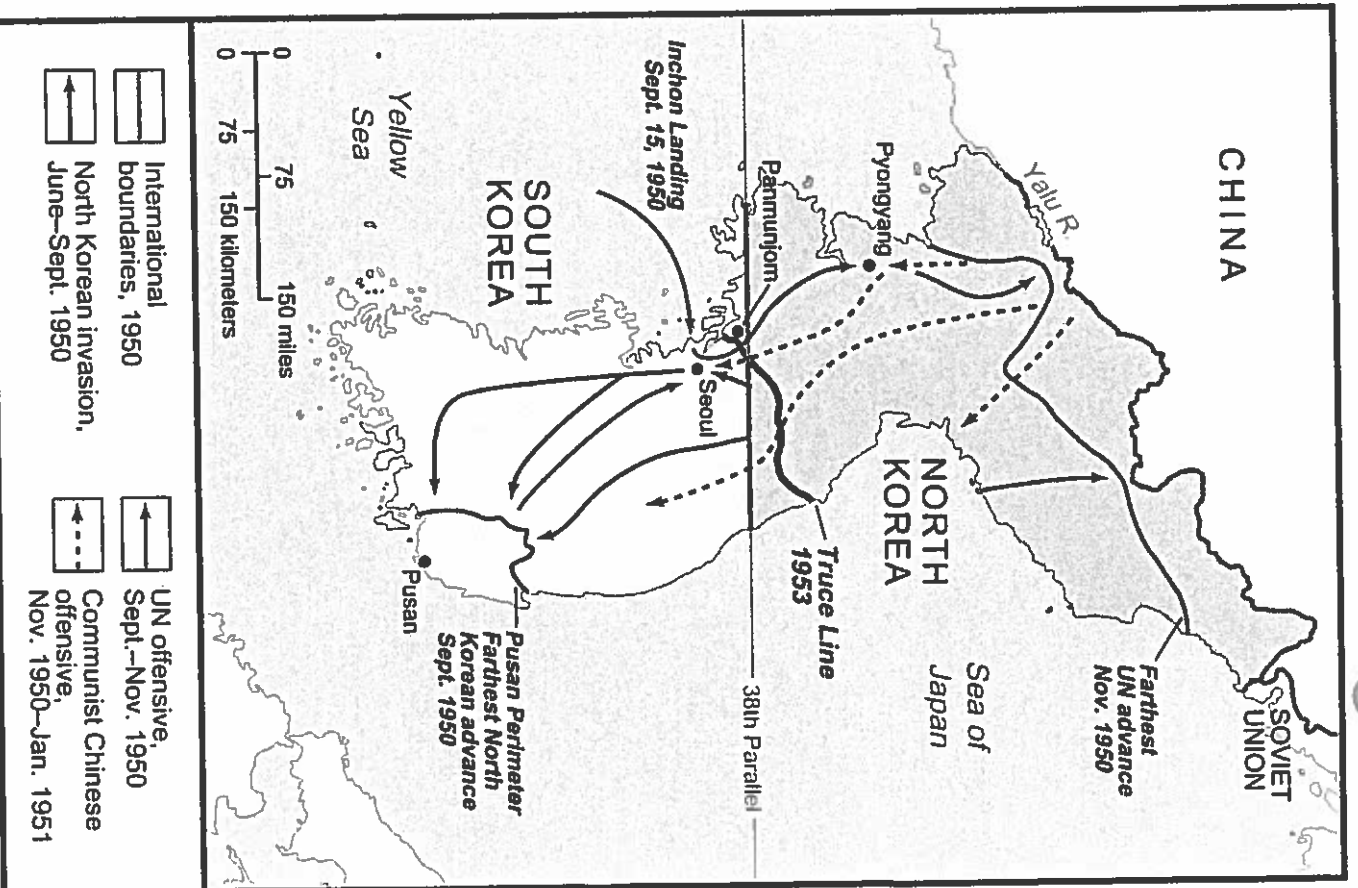
- (6) About ninety percent of the United Nations forces in Korea were sent there by the _____
- (7) General _____ was commander in chief of the UN Command until losing his job because of a dispute with Washington officials.
- (8) In the early months of the war, the Communists captured _____ the capital of South Korea.
- (9) The Allies eventually occupied Pyongyang, the capital of _____ planes and helicopters were used for the first time during the Korean War.
- (10) _____

Matching

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| (11) _____ United States | (a) sent ground troops to help the North Korean Army |
| (12) _____ Soviet Union | (b) Walton H. Walker and Matthew B. Ridgway served in the armed forces of this nation |
| (13) _____ North Korea | (c) built the MIG-15's that fought against the F-86's |
| (14) _____ China | (d) it was defended by the United States during the war |
| (15) _____ South Korea | (e) country above the 38th parallel |

True/False

- (16) _____ The Allies used "all-out measures," including bombing bases in China, during the Korean War.
- (17) _____ After the fighting ended, the Allies and Communists accused each other of committing war crimes.
- (18) _____ The Korean War resulted in widespread damage and loss of life.
- (19) _____ North Korea and South Korea were unified into a single nation at the end of the war.
- (20) _____ The Korean War lasted from 1974 until 1977.



THE KOREAN WAR, 1950-1953