

**Directions:** Read the following article on the Korean War and answer the questions on the back.

## THE COLD WAR HEATS UP

### The Korean War

In 1945, U.S. troops took over southern Korea from the defeated Japanese. Soviet troops occupied the north. The dividing line between South Korea and North Korea was the 38th parallel (line of latitude). The south developed an anti-Communist, representative form of government that soon turned into a dictatorship. The North became Communist. Each section hoped to unite the whole country under its rule. U.S. troops remained in South Korea until 1949.

**Attack.** On June 25, 1950, North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel and invaded South Korea. U.S. President Harry S. Truman did not want Communists to take over more territory. He called on the United Nations to take action. (The vote in the Security Council was taken when the Soviet Union was not present. The vote favored the U.S. request.) The UN then asked members for troops to fight in Korea. The United States rushed in U.S. soldiers from bases in Japan. Fifteen other UN member nations also sent fighting units. U.S. General Douglas MacArthur was appointed commander of the UN forces.

**Fighting.** By early September, the North Koreans had nearly pushed the UN forces off the Korean peninsula. Within three weeks, a counterattack swept the North Koreans back across the 38th parallel. UN forces moved toward the Yalu River, the border between North Korea and Manchuria. At this point, in November 1950, Chinese soldiers poured into North Korea. The Chinese wanted a Communist victory. They also wanted to prevent UN troops from coming too close to their own border. Chinese and North Korean forces pushed the UN troops back toward the 38th parallel, where the war had started. For the rest of the war, the fighting was centered on this location.

In July 1951, truce talks began. Throughout 1952 and into 1953, the talks and the fighting went on. Finally, in July 1953, an armistice was signed. North and South Korea did not formally end the war until 1996.

**After the War.** Since the end of the Korean War, South Korea has developed considerable economic power and moved toward a democratic form of government. In contrast, North Korea has remained a rigid Communist dictatorship. The United States continues to keep armed forces in South Korea.

## WHY DID THE KOREAN WAR HAPPEN?

**Directions:** Begin reading on page 667 from the section **Korean War**. Continue reading until the section entitled **Vietnam** on page 669.

1. After 1945, what nation occupied parts of North Korea? \_\_\_\_\_

2. True or False. South Korea was a democracy. If false, explain why.

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3. Why did US President Truman fear the North Korean invasion of South Korea?

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4. What was the goal of the United Nations in the Korean War?

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5. Explain two reasons why China fought against American and other United Nations troops. \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Decision time. Was this a victory for South Korea? A defeat? Or a draw? Explain your answer.

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7. Why do you think America still has troops stationed in South Korea?

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8. If you were alive back in the 1950's, would you have sent your son to fight in the Korean War? Why?

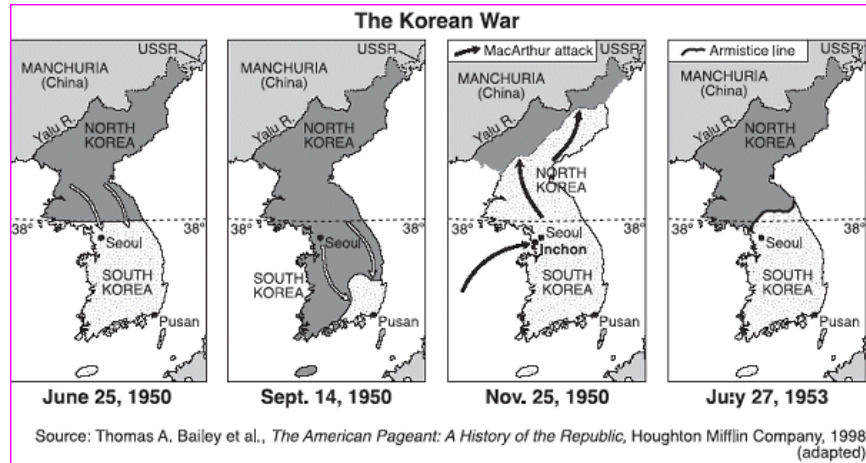
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Japan controlled Korea from 1910 to 1945. At the end of World War II, Korea was taken from the Japanese.

Americans moved into South Korea. Soviets moved into North Korea. This division of Korea was supposed to be temporary. But the USA and the USSR could not agree on a new government for Korea. So North Korea became communist. South Korea became an independent nation under UN sponsorship. The division between north and south became permanent.



### WAR IN KOREA

Tension increased between the two Koreas. In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. The United States asked the United Nations to condemn North Korea. The UN decided to help South Korea. The UN, the United States and other countries sent aid to South Korea. At first, North Korea was very strong. Communist China helped North Korea. But South Korea fought back. The two sides were equal. Neither side was able to claim victory. The war was a bloody stalemate.

### A TRUCE

In 1951, the United Nations tried to arrange a truce. The UN tried to stop the fighting. Finally, in 1953, a truce was arranged. The border between North and South Korea was almost the same as before the war.

Many North and South Koreans, Chinese and Americans died in the Korean war from 1950 to 1953. The war did not solve the problems between North and South Korea. But the war stopped the North Koreans from taking over South Korea. The war showed that the USA would help its friends in trouble. The war showed that the UN would use military power to try to enforce its decisions.

QUESTIONS: Answer the following question on separate paper.

1. Why were North and South Korea divided after World War II?
2. How were the two governments different as a result of the Cold War?
3. What brought the United Nations into the war on the South Korean side?
4. According to the truce, where was the new border to be?
5. What did the war prove about the United Nations?