

The Korean War

Objectives:

Understand the causes and key events of the Korean War.
Analyze the impact of the Korean War on the global political landscape.



Evaluate the significance of the Korean War in the context of the Cold War.
Develop critical thinking and research skills through analyzing primary and secondary sources.

Materials:

American Heritage Museum's Korean War exhibit.
Textbooks and online resources about the Korean War.
Primary and secondary sources related to the Korean War (e.g., photographs, letters, speeches).

Introduction:

Engage students by asking them what they know about the Korean War.

Provide a brief overview of the Korean War, including its causes, key events, and the role of major stakeholders (e.g., United States, Soviet Union, North Korea, South Korea, China).

Exploration of American Heritage Museum's Korean War Exhibit:

Take the students to the American Heritage Museum's Korean War exhibit.
Allow students to explore the exhibit independently or in small groups.
Encourage students to interact with the displays, read the accompanying information, and take notes on significant details.

Facilitate discussions and answer questions as students examine the artifacts and information presented in the exhibit.

Primary and Secondary Sources Analysis:

Provide your group with a set of primary and secondary sources related to the Korean War.
Instruct the groups to analyze the sources and identify key information about the causes, major battles, and consequences of the Korean War.
Each group should prepare a short presentation summarizing their findings to share with the class.

Whole Class Discussion:

Facilitate a whole class discussion based on the group presentations.
Encourage students to compare and contrast their findings, identify common themes, and ask clarifying questions.
Lead a discussion on the significance of the Korean War in the context of the Cold War and its impact on the global political landscape.

Extension Activity:

Assign each student to write a reflective essay on the significance of the Korean War. Encourage them to support their arguments with evidence from the American Heritage Museum's exhibit, primary and secondary sources, and class discussions. Collect the essays for assessment purposes.

Conclusion and Closure:

Review the key points discussed throughout the lesson. Encourage students to ask any final questions or share additional thoughts.

Alignment with Massachusetts Educational Framework:

Demonstrate an understanding of the causes and consequences of the Korean War (Massachusetts History and Social Science Framework: USII.12).

Analyze the role of the United States and other major stakeholders in the Korean War (Massachusetts History and Social Science Framework: USII.13).

Evaluate the significance of the Korean War in the context of the Cold War (Massachusetts History and Social Science Framework: USII.14).

Use primary and secondary sources to analyze historical events and draw conclusions (Massachusetts History and Social Science Framework: USII.25).

Develop critical thinking and research skills through analyzing historical sources (Massachusetts History and Social Science Framework: USII.27).



AHM's "Tiger" M4 Sherman on display is a good example of how the Interior War Intelligence Department viewed North Korean and Chinese culture at the onset of the Korean War. Have students explain why this tank was painted as a Tiger.