



**Editor's Note:** The lesson that follows was developed by a participant in an Indiana University National Consortium for Teaching about Asia seminar. We thank Anne Prescott of the IU East Asian Studies Center for sending this lesson. A virtual tour of the DMZ accompanies this lesson plan. To include the virtual tour in your curriculum, please visit our Web site, <http://www.aasianst.org/EAA/supplemental.htm> where a script of the tour can be printed and the color photos can be viewed.

## A VISIT TO THE DMZ

### A Virtual Tour of the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea

LESSON CONSTRUCTED BY JOHN FRANK, HISTORY TEACHER

CENTER GROVE HIGH SCHOOL, GREENWOOD, INDIANA

TARGET AUDIENCE: GRADES SEVEN TO TWELVE, SOCIAL STUDIES STUDENTS

#### Contents:

- Lesson Outline for the Teacher
- Questions to be Answered before We Visit the DMZ
- Answer Key for Questions to be Answered before We Visit the DMZ
- A Virtual Visit to the DMZ Map Worksheet
- United Nations VISITOR'S DECLARATION
- Script for a Virtual Visit to the DMZ
- Questions from Our Tour Guide
- Questions Back at Our Hotel Room in Seoul

#### Lesson Outline for the Teacher

1. Prepare students for the "virtual visit" by having them complete the enclosed preparatory worksheet, *Questions to be Answered before We Visit the DMZ*, and map activity, *A Virtual Visit to the DMZ Map Worksheet*. It is suggested they use their US or world history textbook, encyclopedia, reference books, or Internet sites

(<http://www.koreanwar.org/> or <http://korea50.army.mil/>), as sources of information for worksheet and map completion.

2. The writing assignment *Questions from Our Tour Guide* is intended to provoke student thought about the nature of the DMZ and will serve as a writing prompt for this lesson's final activity, *Back at Our Hotel Room in Seoul*.
3. To better simulate a visit to the DMZ, prior to starting the visual presentation, students can read and sign the *VISITOR'S DECLARATION*. All actual visitors to the United Nations Joint Security Area at Panmunjom must sign this document.
4. Show students the images of the DMZ on the CD-ROM and read the script provided for each image.
5. Upon completion of the "virtual tour," ask students to complete the worksheet *Back at Our Hotel Room in Seoul*. This worksheet is designed to encourage the students to reflect upon their expectations and impressions of their visit to the DMZ.

#### QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BEFORE WE VISIT THE DMZ

Instructions: Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences in the following paragraph.

Korea was a colony of the Empire of Japan from 19\_\_ until 19\_\_. The country was divided in 19\_\_ at the \_\_th parallel. The \_\_\_\_\_ part of the nation was occupied by the Soviet Union and the \_\_\_\_\_ part of the nation was occupied by the \_\_\_\_\_. South Korea was invaded by \_\_\_\_\_ in 1950. The United Nations (UN) Security Council declared this invasion an act of aggression and authorized the use of UN military forces to repel the invasion. Within three months, the UN forces had been pushed back to a defensive perimeter near the Korean city of \_\_\_\_\_. In August 1950, General \_\_\_\_\_ led a surprise counterattack behind the enemy lines at the port of \_\_\_\_\_. Over the next few months, the UN forces pushed the retreating North Koreans northward toward the \_\_\_\_\_ River, which forms the historic boundary between Korea and China. On December of 1950, Communist troops from \_\_\_\_\_ entered the war, driving the UN forces southward. Over the next several months, after a series of attacks and counterattacks, the war reached a stalemate. In 19\_\_\_\_, an armistice was signed between the combatants, allowing for the exchange of prisoners and the establishment of a \_\_\_\_\_, or a four-kilometer-wide border area in which neither side is allowed to keep offensive military forces. Although a peace treaty has not been signed since that time, the \_\_\_\_\_ serves as the boundary between the two divided parts of Korea.

Answer Key for Questions to be Answered Before We Visit the DMZ

Korea was a colony of the Empire of Japan from 1910 until 1945. The country was divided in 1945 at the 38th parallel. The northern part of the nation was occupied by the Soviet Union and the southern part of the nation was occupied by the United States. South Korea was invaded by North Korea in 1950. The United Nations (UN) Security Council declared this invasion an act of aggression and authorized the use of UN military forces to repel the invasion. Within three months, the UN forces had been pushed back to a defensive perimeter near the Korean city of Pusan. In August 1950, General MacArthur led a surprise counterattack behind the enemy lines at the port of Inchon. Over the next few months, the UN forces pushed the retreating North Koreans northward toward the Yalu River, which forms the historic boundary between Korea and China. On December of 1950, Communist troops from China entered the war, driving the UN forces southward. Over the next several months, after a series of attacks and counterattacks, the war reached a stalemate. In 1953, an armistice was signed between the combatants, allowing for the exchange of prisoners and the establishment of a DMZ, or a four-kilometer-wide border area in which neither side is allowed to keep offensive military forces. Although a peace treaty has not been signed since that time, the DMZ serves as the boundary between the two divided parts of Korea.

## LESSON PLAN AND ONLINE RESOURCE

**Editor's Note:** An answer key for the map may be found at the EAA Web site, <http://www.aasianst.org/EAA/supplemental.htm>

### Questions to be Answered Before We Visit the DMZ

*A Virtual Visit to the DMZ Map Worksheet*

Locate and label the following locations on the map:

Panmunjom  
Inchon  
Yalu River  
Pyongyang  
Cease-fire Line  
Seoul  
38th parallel  
North Korea  
South Korea



**Source:** This map has been modified based upon a Florida Geographic Alliance map. Florida Geographic Alliance <http://fga.freac.fsu.edu/maps.html>. The original map can be accessed at <http://fga.freac.fsu.edu/pdf/asia/korea.pdf>.

## VISITOR'S DECLARATION

(UNC REG 551-1)

VISITORS TO THE JOINT SECURITY AREA ARE REQUIRED TO READ AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING:

1. The visit to the Joint Security Area at Panmunjom will entail entry into a hostile area and possibility of injury or death as a direct result of enemy action. The Joint Security Area is a neutral but divided area guarded by United Nations Command military personnel on the one side (South), and Korean Peoples Army personnel on the other (North). Guests of the United Nations Command are not permitted to cross the Military Demarcation Line into the portion of the Joint Security Area under control of the Korean People's Army. Although incidents are not anticipated, the United Nations Command, the United States of America, and the Republic of Korea cannot guarantee the safety of visitors and may not be held accountable in the event of a hostile enemy act.
2. Visitors must comply with the following instructions:
  - a. UNC military personnel will wear appropriate military uniform prescribed by their service for off-duty wear. Other visitors will be dressed in appropriate civilian attire so as to maintain the dignity of the United Nations Command.
  - b. Prior to entering the Joint Security Area, each visitor (including military personnel) will receive a laminated guest badge which identifies him/her as an authorized guest of the United Nations Command. Guest badges must be worn on the upper left side of the outmost garment. Guest badges must be turned in prior to departure from Camp Bonifas.
  - c. Fraternization, including speaking or any association with personnel from the Korean People's Army/Chinese People's Volunteers (KPA/CPV) side, is strictly prohibited. Personnel from the KPA/CPV side are identified as follows:
    - (1) Military Personnel—Brown or olive drab North Korean uniforms with red arm bands for guards with weapons and yellow arm bands for Military Armistice Commission personnel.
    - (2) Press personnel—Green arm bands.
    - (3) Visitors—Green pieces of cloth at upper pocket.
  - d. Visitors will not point, make gestures, or expressions which could be used by the North Korean side as propaganda material against the United Nations Command.
  - e. Visitors will remain in a group from the beginning to the end of the tour and will follow all instructions from their tour guide. Any complaints will be registered after returning to Camp Bonifas.
  - f. Firearms, knives, or weapons of any type will not be taken into the JSA.
  - g. The area and buildings (tan colored) under the military control of the Communist side will not be entered for any reason. Permission of the tour guide must be obtained prior to entry into LPIC buildings (blue colored) in the JSA.
  - h. At no time will visitors stand in the way of or interfere with military formations. Facilities and equipment inside the conference room will not be handled. Photography is permitted in the JSA but is prohibited enroute between Checkpoint A (the entrance to Camp Bonifas) and Checkpoint B (the entrance to the JSA).
  - i. If any incidents should occur, remain calm, and follow instructions issued by security personnel.
3. Any questions concerning the above information should be brought to the attention of the tour guide.

DECLARATION

*I have read, understand, and will comply with these instructions. If I am accompanied by minor dependents, minors for who I am responsible for the purpose of this tour, my signature constitutes acceptance of the terms of these instructions in their behalf.*

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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## LESSON PLAN AND ONLINE RESOURCE

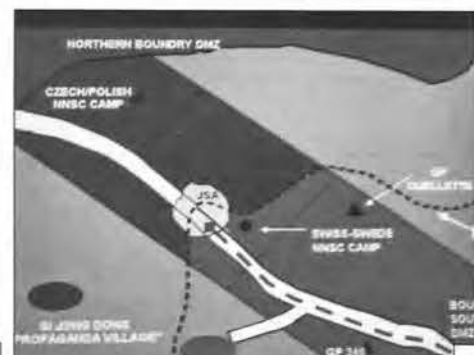
Script for a Virtual Visit  
to the DMZ

Early in the day, we leave Seoul, the capital of South Korea, to begin a one-hour bus ride to Panmunjom village and the DMZ [Photo 1]. The distance from one of the world's largest cities to the DMZ is only 40 kilometers (25 miles). Panmunjom is an area where a Joint Security Area (JSA) has been created. The JSA is a place where North and South Korea meet to discuss military, economic, and political problems between their countries [Photo 2]. It is the only location where the two Koreas meet and has been the site of numerous disputes over the past fifty years [Photo 3]. Over 75,000 people visit here each year. This area is also referred to as the United Nations Command Security Force—Joint Security Area. Before the bus departs we are told of the United Nations Command enforced dress code—no jeans, t-shirts, halter-tops, or shorts. We must also read and sign the release form provided by the UN forces [Photo 4]. (Pass out the *VISITOR'S DECLARATION* form and request that all students sign the document.)

For most of our hour drive to the DMZ we will not be allowed to take photographs from the bus. At certain times it will be announced that photography is allowed [Photo 5]. Anyone violating this policy risks confiscation of his or her camera and exposure or destruction of their film. The highways that we will drive upon are named the Unification Road and the Freedom Road.

We cross a bridge called "Freedom Bridge." No photos are allowed. In the event of military aggression by North Korea, this bridge will be immediately blown-up. (South Korean citizens are not allowed to go beyond this point.) A US Army soldier boards the bus and will now accompany us during the rest of our visit to this area.

We arrive at the UN Security Forces forward base named Camp Bonifas [Photo 6]. This US and South Korean military base is 400 meters from the DMZ [Photo 1]. The DMZ is a zone, 2,000 meters on either side of the 151-mile long armistice line, in which both sides' military activities are strictly restricted and regulated. At this location we will be given a briefing and required to wear an identification badge. We also change busses from one operated by our tour company to a bus owned by the UN Joint Command [Photo 7].



## Questions From Our Tour Guide

1. List three things that you think you will see during your visit to the DMZ.
2. Is there any reason to be worried about our safety when we visit Panmunjom?
3. Why did you sign up to take this tour? Why are you interested in visiting the DMZ?



## LESSON PLAN AND ONLINE RESOURCE



9



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11

Our bus now enters the Joint Security Area. Today, there are 24 buildings in the 800-meter diameter area [Photo 8], where representatives of the United Nations and North Korea meet to confer about a variety of contentious issues.

The bus stops at a building called "Freedom House" where we will be allowed to take photos. From this observation platform [Photo 9] we can see across the line that divides North and South Korea. We can see a North Korean observation tower [Photo 10], a North Korean visitors center [Photo 11], and "Conference Row," the buildings [Photo 9] in which UN and North Korean officials meet to administer and enforce the armistice agreement of 1953.

Many famous people have also visited this area [Photo 12].

Here we see US and Korean guards inside a conference building in the Joint Security Area [Photo 13].

These are North Korean guards on their side of the JSA [Photo 14].

This village and the 480-foot-tall flagpole on the North Korean side of the armistice line were established for propaganda purposes [Photo 15]. (The flag itself is 90 feet long). No one lives in the village. South Korean farmers are the only actual inhabitants of the DMZ and they tend their crops under constant military protection [Photo 16].

Since 1953 there have been numerous instances of hostility along the DMZ and Joint Security Area. An example is the 1976 attempt of US forces to remove a tree that was obstructing their view within the Security Area [Photo 17]. North Korean guards responded to the tree removal by taking the American's axes from them [Photo 18] and killing two American officers. Four US enlisted men and four South Korean soldiers were also injured. The fight lasted four minutes. Five days later, heavily reinforced UN units cut down the tree. [Photo 19] Today, this monument marks the former location of the tree that sparked this severe violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement.



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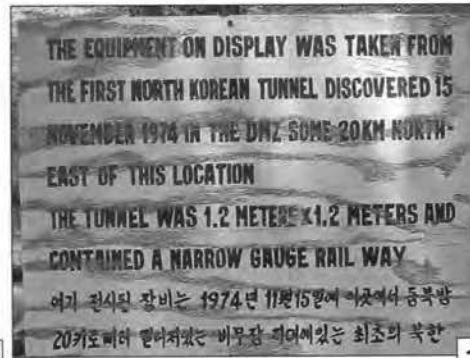
## LESSON PLAN AND ONLINE RESOURCE



18



19



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The North Koreans have attempted to tunnel under the DMZ on several occasions since their first tunnel was discovered in 1974 [Photo 20]. Four of these tunnels have been discovered as of today [Photo 21]. North Koreans dug these tunnels so that they can send spies and saboteurs into South Korea. Underground, deep inside a second tunnel dug by the North Koreans, we observe the actual line that has divided the Korean nation since the 1953 armistice [Photo 22].

Placing a small part of the Korean peninsula off-limits to intense agricultural and commercial development has had unintended consequences. Inside the DMZ, species of endangered and rare birds, bears, and other animals exist inside an unusual wildlife refuge.

In recent years, efforts at Korean reconciliation have taken place at Panmunjom. Red Cross conferences, cultural, and sports exchanges are conducted within the Joint Security Area [Photo 23]. The reunification of Korea and the end of this heavily fortified line of division seems to be the strong desire of most individual Koreans as well as the official policy of both the governments of the North and South.

When we return to Seoul, you are encouraged to visit the *War Memorial of Korea*. Outside the Memorial's entrance stands this statue [Photo 24]. The statue's soldiers represent the divided people of Korea. Prior to 1945, when Korea was divided along the 38th parallel by Soviet and American occupation forces, the Koreans had been a united people. At the conclusion of a tragic three-year war in 1953, Korea remained a divided nation. Many Korean families were separated by the political division of their nation and have not seen members of their families for over fifty years. Koreans visit the boundaries of the DMZ to be as close as possible to separated family members. South Korean students have attempted marches to the DMZ to meet with North Korean students. Today, Korea remains divided by the most militarized border on earth.

After a buffet lunch at the NCO club at Camp Bonifas and a chance to visit a DMZ gift shop [Photo 1], we begin the one-hour return bus ride to Seoul. I hope you have enjoyed your visit to the United Nations Command Security Force—Joint Security Area. ■



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### Questions Back at Our Hotel Room in Seoul

1. Did you see what you expected to find at the DMZ? What was different about the visit than what you were expecting to experience there?
2. Would you recommend this tour to the DMZ to a friend? Why or why not?

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