

World History Digital Education

Lesson Plan

AUTHOR INFORMATION

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State: Connecticut

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lesson Grade Span: Secondary Schools

Targeted Grade Level: 11th & 12th

Targeted Course: Asian American Studies or American Literature

Estimated Time to Complete Lesson:

Brief explanation of content connection and/or inspiration of lesson from Discover Korea

Research Fellowship: This lesson was inspired by our visit to No Gun Ri Bridge and the Education Center. The controversy surrounding this tragedy will enable students to see the importance of collecting multiple perspectives in arriving at the truth of an event or issue.

FOCUS QUESTION

What is the significance of the No Gun Ri Massacre in understanding the Korean War and the shaping of historical narratives?

NATIONAL STANDARDS, STATE STANDARDS, AND/OR AP CED EKS

Common Core Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.6: Evaluate authors' differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing the authors' claims, reasoning, and evidence.

LEARNING TARGETS/OBJECTIVES

- - Students will learn important facts about the Korean War.
- - Students will understand the controversy surrounding the No Gun Ri massacre.
- - Students will analyze the ways in which the perspectives of those writing history shaped the history that they produced.
- - Students will understand how biases and the media could distort stories.
- - Students will reflect on the importance of uncovering and understanding historical events.

LESSON SUMMARY (brief paragraph)


In this lesson, we will explore the tragic event known as the No Gun Ri Bridge Massacre, which took place during the Korean War. The No Gun Ri Bridge Massacre refers to the killing of South Korean refugees by the U.S. military in July 1950. At that time, stories about the U.S. military killing civilians during the war were uncommon due to various reasons. However, declassified documents from the U.S. Air Force revealed the truth about the No Gun Ri massacre, shedding light on the tragic incident. The survivors of the massacre faced challenges in being heard and acknowledged by the media. Additionally, we learned about the role played by North Korean soldiers in rescuing the South Korean refugees during this horrific event. Overall, this lesson highlights the importance of understanding historical events and their impact on the lives of individuals affected by war.

LESSON PROCEDURES (step by step teacher instructions)

Lesson Plan: Unveiling History: The No Gun Ri Massacre

Duration: 50 minutes

Materials:

- Slide presentation  No Gun Ri Massacre
- Video: Introduction to the Korean War
- Article: "Holly Richardson: The No Gun Ri massacre and 'collective forgetting'"
- Document: President Clinton's Statement of Regret

Procedure:

Slide 1: Introduction (5 minutes)

- Begin the lesson by displaying Slide 1 of the presentation.
- Introduce the topic: "Today, we will uncover a significant event in history: The No Gun Ri Massacre. This event took place during the Korean War, and it is important for us to learn about it to understand the controversies surrounding the war and how history is shaped."
- Ask students: "What do you already know about the Korean War? Have you ever heard of No Gun Ri?"

Slide 2: Learning Goals/Targets (5 minutes)

- Display Slide 2 of the presentation.
- Explain the learning goals for the lesson: "By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:
 - Learn important facts about the Korean War.
 - Understand the controversy surrounding the No Gun Ri massacre.
 - Analyze the ways in which the perspectives of those writing history shaped the history that they produced.
 - Understand how biases and the media could distort stories."
- Ask students to reflect on their prior knowledge and think about what they hope to learn from the lesson.

Slide 3: Understanding the Korean War (10 minutes)

- Display Slide 3 of the presentation.
- Show the video: Introduction to the Korean War.
- After the video, discuss the following questions as a class:
 - "According to the video, what are five important facts about the Korean War?"
 - "How do you think these facts shaped the course of the war and its aftermath?"

Slide 4: The No Gun Ri Massacre: A Brief Overview (5 minutes)

- Display Slide 4 of the presentation.
- Explain that the No Gun Ri massacre occurred during the early stages of the Korean War.
- Provide a brief overview of the event: date, location, and estimated civilian casualties.
- Ask students: "Why might the number of casualties be uncertain?"

Slide 5: What Happened at No Gun Ri? (10 minutes)

- Display Slide 5 of the presentation.
- Explain that refugees were fleeing from advancing North Korean forces during the Korean War.
- Discuss how US troops were ordered to stop the refugees, fearing enemy infiltration.
- Ask students to analyze the factors that contributed to the deaths of innocent refugees.

Slide 6: The Aftermath of the Massacre (5 minutes)

- Display Slide 6 of the presentation.
- Explain that survivors were left traumatized and without justice for decades.
- Discuss why some historical events remain hidden for so long.
- Ask students to share their thoughts on why it is important to uncover hidden historical events.

Slide 7: Controversy (10 minutes)

- Display Slide 7 of the presentation.
- Provide students with the article: "Holly Richardson: The No Gun Ri massacre and 'collective forgetting'".
- In small groups, ask students to read the article and discuss the following questions:
 - "What did the declassified documents from the U.S. Air Force reveal about the No Gun Ri massacre?"
 - "In your groups, analyze the potential motivations and biases of different perspectives involved in the controversy."

Slide 8: The Impact of the 1999 Report (5 minutes)

- Display Slide 8 of the presentation.
- Provide students with President Clinton's Statement of Regret.
- Discuss the importance of governments acknowledging past mistakes or crimes.
- Ask students: "How do you think the 1999 report and the subsequent investigations impacted the survivors and their families?"

Slide 9: Remembering No Gun Ri Today (5 minutes)

- Display Slide 9 of the presentation.
- Discuss how No Gun Ri serves as a reminder of the horrors of war and the importance of historical truth.
- Talk about the memorials and education initiatives that ensure the victims are not forgotten.
- Ask students: "What is our role in making sure that more complete stories are being told? What questions could we ask to arrive closer to the complete story?"

Slide 10: Conclusion & Reflection (5 minutes)

- Display Slide 10 of the presentation.
- Summarize the main points covered in the lesson.
- Have students take a moment to reflect on the importance of uncovering and understanding our past.
- Ask students to share their final thoughts or questions on today's lesson.


Assessment:

- Informal assessment will be conducted throughout the lesson through class discussions and group activities.
- Students' understanding of the topic can be assessed through their participation in the discussions and their responses to the reflection questions.

Extension Activity:

- Students can research other hidden or forgotten historical events and create presentations or essays to raise awareness about them.
- Students can also explore the role of media in shaping historical narratives and analyze how biases can influence public perception of events.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS (links, resources, handouts, etc.)

 [The Korean War: 5 Things to Know | History](#)

[Holly Richardson: The No Gun Ri massacre and 'collective forgetting'](#)

[No Gun Ri: Clinton's Statement | PBS News](#)

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