

## World History Digital Education

### Lesson Plan

#### AUTHOR INFORMATION

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#### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Lesson Grade Span:** Middle School

**Targeted Grade Level:** 7th

**Targeted Course:** US History II

**Estimated Time to Complete Lesson:** 60 minutes

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

**Research Fellowship:** Most U.S. history lessons I have come across about Korea or American imperialism are mostly about either the Korean War or Theodore Roosevelt. I wanted to find a way to connect the 2. I became interested in Joseon–United States Treaty of 1882 and the Treaty of Portsmouth (1905) and the events that led to the Japanese occupation of Korea during our pre-trip lectures and during our research trip to Korea.

#### FOCUS QUESTION

In what ways did the Joseon–United States Treaty of 1882 and the Treaty of Portsmouth (1905) shape the relationship between Korea and the United States?

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

##### Virginia

USII.4 The student will apply history and social science skills to explain the changing role of the United States from the late 19th century through World War I by explaining the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt.

#### LEARNING TARGETS/OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain the significance of the Joseon–United States Treaty of 1882 in establishing Korean-American relations.
2. Understand the role of the Treaty of Portsmouth in East Asian diplomacy and its impact on Korea.
3. Analyze the effects of these treaties on Korea's modernization and international relations.

#### LESSON SUMMARY (brief paragraph)

## World History Digital Education

### Lesson Plan

In this lesson, students will compare and contrast the Joseon–United States Treaty of 1882 and the Treaty of Portsmouth (1905) by creating a poster that summarizes their findings. This lesson will engage students with both the historical context and the modern implications of these treaties, helping them understand their significance in the shaping of U.S.-Korea relations.

#### LESSON PROCEDURES (step by step teacher instructions)

##### 1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Warm-up question: What comes to mind when you think about U.S.-Korea relations?
- Show a map of Korea, Japan, and the U.S.
- Provide background on Korea in the 19th century, emphasizing its isolationist policies and the pressure from neighboring countries to open up for trade.
- Briefly introduce the Joseon–United States Treaty of 1882, the first treaty between Korea and a western nation, and its significance in opening Korea to international diplomacy.

##### 2. Joseon–United States Treaty of 1882 (15 minutes)

- Discuss the context of the treaty: Explain how Korea sought to secure protection from stronger nations, such as China and Japan, by forming a diplomatic relationship with the U.S.
- Present key points of the treaty, including trade agreements, mutual defense promises, and the opening of ports.
- Explain how the treaty marked the start of modern diplomatic relations between Korea and the United States.
- Discussion question: Have students discuss why Korea might have wanted to sign this treaty and what benefits and challenges they think it brought to Korea.

##### 3. Treaty of Portsmouth (15 minutes)

- Provide background information about the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) and how it affected East Asian politics.
- Discuss the U.S. role in mediating the Treaty of Portsmouth, ending the Russo-Japanese War. Include how Theodore Roosevelt was instrumental in the negotiations and won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts, the first ever American recipient.
- Explain how the treaty shifted regional power, with Japan emerging as a dominant force in Korea.
- Analyze how this event affected Korean sovereignty and the subsequent Japanese annexation of Korea in 1910.
- Video/Visual Aid: Show a short clip or presentation about the Treaty of Portsmouth and its consequences for Korea.

##### 4. Group Activity: Analyzing the Impact (20 minutes)

- Divide students into small groups and provide each with excerpts from the two treaties.

## World History Digital Education

### Lesson Plan

- Ask each group to answer questions about the significance of these treaties for Korea, the United States, and Japan.
  - How did the Joseon–United States Treaty of 1882 change the relationship between Korea and the United States?
  - Why was the Treaty of Portsmouth significant for Korea, and how did it affect its relationship with both the U.S. and Japan?
  - What were the main terms of the Joseon–United States Treaty of 1882, and how did these terms benefit both countries?
  - In what ways did the United States’ involvement in the Treaty of Portsmouth influence Korea’s political future?
  - How might the relationship between the United States and Korea have been different if the Joseon–United States Treaty of 1882 had not been signed?
- Have students create a poster summarizing their findings and discussing how the treaties affected Korean-American relations and Korea's path to modernization.

#### 5. Conclusion and Reflection (5 minutes)

- Bring the class back together and have groups present their posters.
- Reflection questions: How did these treaties shape Korea's future? What lessons can we learn from these historical events? (*this can be a writing assignment or a group discussion*)

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

- Projector or whiteboard
- Maps of [Korea](#), [Japan](#), and the [United States](#) (1880s-early 1900s)
- Copies of excerpts from the [Joseon–United States Treaty of 1882](#) and the [Treaty of Portsmouth](#)
- Video: [American Imperialism: The Treaty of Portsmouth](#)
- Worksheet with discussion questions
- Markers and poster paper for group activity