North Korea Nuclear Debate Activity



Part 1: Read the article and answer the following question.

1. What percent of North Korea’s foreign trade is with China? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Why do you think this is an important fact?
2. Originally, North Korea was a Marxist-Leninist state, yet after 1972 it is “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
3. The state owns all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. What basic freedoms do the people NOT have?
4. The U.S. has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_nuclear warheads. North Korea has between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nuclear warheads. Since the number is so drastically different, why do you think North Korea is a concern?
5. What are the potential consequences of nuclear war with North Korea? (not just human lose)
6. What did North Korea do in 2003 that was concerning?
7. What occurred in 2017?
8. How have Kim Jung-Un and President Trump responded to each other?
9. U.S.—Options for dealing with the nuclear crisis

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| U.S. Options | Explanation | Pros | Cons |
| 1: Direct military confrontation |  |  |  |
| 2: Direct diplomacy with North Korea |  |  |  |
| 3: Containment |  |  |  |
| 4: Multilateral diplomacy |  |  |  |
| 5: Rely on China to pressure North Korea |  |  |  |

Part 2: Process the reading.

1. Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to “declare war.” The president has power as commander-in-chief, however to initiate military actions against other nations. Do you think only Congress should be able to authorize nuclear strikes against North Korea? Explain your answer.
2. Which of the U.S.’s options for dealing with North Korea’s nuclear weapons is best? Explain.
3. Which option is the worst? Explain.
4. In the article, I agree with…
5. In the article I disagree with…
6. Write down 1 question you will ask your small group based upon the issue of North Korea’s nuclear weapons. These MUST be level 3 questions (see below).

Level 3: answers to the questions require you to think; can be moral questions

Key words: evaluate, judge, if/then, predict, imagine, hypothesis, speculate, forecast

Is…ethical, what is your opinion on…, what is the best solution…

Example: If Kennedy had survived the assassination, how different do you think history would be?

Should anyone be held accountable for the Kennedy assassination? Why? How?

Part 3: Civil Conversation

In small groups assigned by the teacher you will discuss the issue of North Korea’s nuclear weapons. You can discuss any of the questions in part 2 (or the chart on part 1).