



## Korean War Veterans Memorial Washington, D.C.

### Introduction and Instructions

Declared in June 1950, the Korean War was never actually settled and remains, to this day, a “frozen war.” After being liberated from the Japanese Empire at the end of WWII, the Korean Peninsula was subsequently divided between the United Nations (UN) in the south and the Soviet Union in the north. Negotiations between the two sides failed to produce an agreement, and in 1953, North Korea invaded the South. What do you know about the history, significance, and symbolism of the Korean War Memorial? In addition to any prior knowledge you may have, use your research skills and the resources provided here to answer the questions below.



What was the Korean War all about? Check out this link for a brief history of the war.  
READ: [https://www.ducksters.com/history/cold\\_war/korean\\_war.php](https://www.ducksters.com/history/cold_war/korean_war.php)

1. How did the United States get involved in the Korean War?

2. What was the original intent of the United Nations? How did that change?

3. How did the war end? What changed as a result?

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Learn more about the the story behind the Korean War Veterans Memorial.  
WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byGdY4F4Xzc>

4. How would you describe the memorial based on what you've learned?

5. What do the pictures on the etched mural represent?



Learn about some of the symbolism used in the Korean War Veterans Memorial.  
READ: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Military-Programs/Korean-War-Veterans-Memorial/>

6. Choose three examples of symbolism used and explain their meaning.

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## WHAT DO YOU THINK? *This is your chance to share your opinions, make connections, and apply what you've learned!*

1. Inlaid in silver, a granite wall at the Korean Memorial reads, "Freedom Is Not Free." Explain what is meant by this statement.

2. Korean War? Korean Conflict? Police Action? Congress never officially declared war on North Korea. Do you think it should still be considered a war? Why or why not?



**CONSIDER:** The United Nations was created during WWII. It is an international organization of major world leaders whose goal is to monitor and mediate conflicts between nations, provide humanitarian aid, and provide security for the countries involved from hostile actions that threatened their way of life. The Korean conflict was labeled as UN-led "police action" where the United States provided most of the UN forces.

3. Do you think that the United States should be involved and send troops to fight or support other countries who are at war?