

## Benchmark II

The players in Northeast Asia, including China (PRC), Japan, North Korea (DPRK), South Korea (ROK) and Taiwan (ROC) have many similarities (writing systems, art, architecture, religion) and also many differences (political systems, language, historical development). The similarities can create interdependence and cooperation. The differences can create competition and even animosity. Your task is to investigate and comprehend the relationships between and among the parties in the region, based on each of the domains.

Objective 1: Explore and be able to discuss the social and cultural relationships within the region.

Suggested activities:

1. Prepare a demographic and ethnic profile of the parties in this region.
2. Compare and contrast examples of art and literature from several parts of the region.
3. Using the following list of events:
  - Japanese colonialism,
  - World War II,
  - Use of atomic weapons,
  - Korean War,
  - Development of communism in Asia,Compare and contrast how different experiences have influenced one party's perception of another within the region.
4. Research the impact of migration on border areas of the region.
5. Gather and analyze pictures, cartoons and other materials which show the countries' opinions of each other.

Objective 2: Describe through maps and in a report the economic interdependence within the region.

Suggested activities:

(A possible resource to use is the UN's *cyberschoolbus*.

<http://www0.un.org/cyberschoolbus/index.asp>)

- 1) Compare and contrast the extent to which the economies of each country rely on central planning or free market principles.
- 2) Create thematic maps comparing the GDP per capita, trade balances of the parties in the region, and graphical representation of the natural resources of the region.
- 3) Compare and contrast the sources, production and consumption of energy in the region.
- 4) Develop a concept map showing trade flow within the region.
- 5) Investigate the impact of cross border criminal activity in the region.
- 6) Develop an economic profile of one of the parties in the region.

Objective 3: Examine and be able to discuss scientific cooperation and transfer of nuclear technology within the region.

Suggested activities:

- 1) Analyze the motivations and impact of nuclear exports and imports within the region, and then develop a concept map showing the transfer of nuclear technology within the region.
- 2) Discover the motivations for acquiring or not acquiring nuclear weapons.

Objective 4: Analyze and report on the political connections within the region.

Suggested activities:

- 1) Compare and contrast the political philosophies of the parties of the region.
- 2) Describe the means by which the parties pursue their security and defense.
- 3) Create a concept map of the diplomatic relations between and among the parties in the region.
- 4) Discuss the different techniques that parties in the region use to express their points of view.
- 5) Analyze and prepare a report on the provisions and implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework.
- 6) Create a chart showing the regional membership in the following organizations or agreements: NPT, MTCR, Zangger committee and the nuclear suppliers group.

Objective 5: Analyze and be able to describe political divisions in the area.

- a. Explain why Korea is divided and regional attitudes towards reunification.
- b. Describe Chinese attitudes towards Taiwan and Taiwanese attitudes towards China.
- c. Compare and contrast regional attitudes to the China/Taiwan issue.
- d. Examine and be prepared to discuss other territorial disputes.