

United States - Japanese Relations In Post World War II Era

The End of United States' Occupation of Japan

Purpose:

Examine the end of the United States' occupation of Japan.

Target Grade Level: 9

Essential Questions:

1. Why did United States end its occupation of Japan in 1952?
2. How would a democratic Japan be an example to other Asian countries?
3. How could Japan be a first line of defense for the United States?

Rationale:

Students will discover that as a result of changes in Japan, other countries also changed.

Materials:

- Outline map of Asia (available at: <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/>)
- Background info: <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2124.html>

Activities:

1. Small groups discuss why the United States ended its occupation of Japan in 1952 and write a hypotheses.
2. Students locate the following countries on outline maps of Asia: China, Formosa, Korea, Philippines, Australia and Soviet Union
3. Group discusses impact of each of the following on Japan, Asia, United States and the world:
 - A. Philippines gain independence from the United States in 1946.
 - B. Communist Revolution occurs in China in 1949
 - C. Nationalist Chinese move their government to Formosa (Taiwan).
 - D. Korea is jointly occupied by American and Soviet troops.
 - E. South Korea is invaded by North Korea in 1950.

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- F. United Nations forces are sent to Korea.
- G. General Douglas MacArthur assumes command of U.N. forces in Korea.
- H. French power weakens in Indochina.
- I. United States ends its occupation of Japan in 1952.
- J. Japanese and United States sign a Mutual Defense Pact.

Assessment:

Oral and group discussions and revised hypotheses concerning the end of American occupation in Japan.

Relationship to Social Studies Standards:

Grade 9, History, Grade-level Indicator 11

Analyze the consequences of World War II.

This lesson was originally developed by Dr. Betty Barclay Franks, teacher, Maples Heights City Schools, Ohio for the publication Learning About Our World: Japan. These lessons were revised for this publication by Teresa A. Bica, Supervisor of Elementary Student Teachers at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.