

Name _____ Date _____

The Korean War - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. ****Truman's Address on Korea**** Read the following excerpt from President Harry S. Truman's address on July 19, 1950. [passage]

With which of the following statements would Truman most likely agree?

At noon today I sent a message to the Congress about the situation in Korea. I want to talk to you tonight about that situation, and about what it means to the security of the United States and to our hopes for peace in the world. Korea is a small country, thousands of miles away, but what is happening there is important to every American. On Sunday, June 25th, Communist forces attacked the Republic of Korea. This attack has made it clear, beyond all doubt, that the international Communist movement is willing to use armed invasion to conquer independent nations. An act of aggression such as this creates a very real danger to the security of all free nations. The attack upon Korea was an outright breach of the peace and a violation of the Charter of the United Nations. By their actions in Korea, Communist leaders have demonstrated their contempt for the basic moral principles on which the United Nations is founded. This is a direct challenge to the efforts of the free nations to build the kind of world in which men can live in freedom and peace. This challenge has been presented squarely. We must meet it squarely. ... Fifty-two of the 59 countries which are members of the United Nations have given their support to the action taken by the Security Council to restore peace in Korea. These actions by the United Nations and its members are of great importance. The free nations have now made it clear that lawless aggression will be met with force. The free nations have learned the fateful lesson of the 1930's. That lesson is that aggression must be met firmly. Appeasement leads only to further aggression and ultimately to war. The principal effort to help the Koreans preserve their independence, and to help the United Nations restore peace, has been made by the United States. We have sent land, sea, and air forces to assist in these operations. We have done this because we know that what is at stake here is nothing less than our own national security and the peace of the world.

A. The spread of communism is an urgent issue that's only affecting Asia.



B.

It's necessary for the US to get involved in Korea to contain the spread of communism.

Truman states, "This attack has made it clear, beyond all doubt, that the international Communist movement is willing to use armed invasion to conquer independent nations" and "This challenge has been presented squarely. We must meet it squarely" to explain why the US's involvement is necessary.

C. North Koreans advancing into South Korea is not a threat to the US.

D. The involvement of the United Nations only makes things more difficult for the US.

2. ****Family Reunions**** The Korean War not only separated the two Koreas but also many families. War-torn families have not been able to communicate with or see each other since 1953, the end of the Korean War. North and South Korean Red Cross officials have campaigned since 1971 to bring separated families together. It wasn't until 2000 that the first reunification event took place, where 100 South Koreans and 100 North Koreans were able to see their loved ones. Since 2000, there have only been 21 state-organized family reunions. The reunions are usually heavily supervised and brief. They last only a few days and are very emotional for everyone involved. They provide a glimpse of the pain and loss that many Korean families have and continue to experience due to the division of the two countries. Many of the affected family members are in their 80s, so there is a sense of urgency around these reunification events. But the number of family reunions has decreased in recent years due to tensions between the two Koreas. Despite these challenges, many are still hopeful that they'll be able to see their loved ones again.

We can infer from this passage that North and South Korean family reunions are rare and valuable. Which of the following details do NOT support this inference?

- A. "War-torn families have not been able to communicate with or see each other since 1953, the end of the Korean War."
B. "They provide a glimpse of the pain and loss that many Korean families have and continue to experience due to the division of the two countries."
C. "Since 2000, there have only been 21 state-organized family reunions." ☒

D.

"The reunions are usually heavily supervised and brief."

This detail only describes what reunification events are like but does not support the inference that they are rare and valuable.

3. **Excerpt from *The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War* by David Halberstam** Unlike Vietnam, the Korean War took place before television news came into its own and the United States became a communications society. In the days of Korea, television news shows were short, bland, and of marginal influence—fifteen minutes a night. Given the state of the technology, the footage from Korea, usually making it into the network newsrooms back in New York days late, rarely moved the nation. It was still largely a print war, reported in newspapers in black and white, and it remained black and white in the nation’s consciousness. ... And so the true brutality of the war never really penetrated the American cultural consciousness. An estimated 33,000 Americans died in it. Another 105,000 were wounded. The South Koreans lost 415,000 killed and had 429,000 wounded. Both the Chinese and North Koreans were exceptionally secretive about their casualties, but American officials put their losses at roughly 1.5 million men killed. The Korean War momentarily turned the Cold War hot, heightening the already considerable (and mounting) tensions between the United States and the Communist world and deepening the chasm between the United States and Communist forces asserting themselves in Asia.

This excerpt provides an explanation for why {}.



- A. the Korean War did not receive as much attention in the US as the Vietnam War
- Details like “Given the state of the technology, the footage from Korea, usually making it into the network newsrooms back in New York days late, rarely moved the nation” and “It was still largely a print war, reported in newspapers in black and white, and it remained black and white in the nation’s consciousness” support this answer.*
- B. newspapers are better at reaching a larger audience than television programs
- C. the Korean War garnered more attention than the Vietnam War
- D. television news shows used to last only 15 minutes