

Level I: “What Happened” Questions: Digging deeper into the 6-W’s

The Korean War conflict The conflict was that they split Korea in half in 1944 at the 38th Parallel. On June 25th, 1950, the North Koreans bombed and came in to South Korea to take it. We learned that from Arthur Phelps’ interview. Mr. Arlie Williams said that America felt that they had to stop the Communist Movement. If South Korea fell, then other nations could fall as well.

Level II: “Says Who” Questions: Analyzing Sources & Evidence

Our historical information was taken from primary source interviews. These interviews were conducted with five Korean War veterans who shared eyewitness accounts from the Korean War. Each soldier had a very different point of view so each soldier’s story has a different bias. For example, one soldier, Edwin Dunigan, never actually went to Korea. He served in Alaska during the time of the Korean War. Another soldier, Billie Jack Simpkins, was a paratrooper and saw conflict up close and personal. He has a very different story than Mr. Dunigan who served in an air force warehouse in Alaska. Both soldiers served their country during the Korean War but had very different experiences. We learned some things from our interviews that we had never read about before in any of our history textbooks. For example, each of the soldiers talked about how most all of their equipment (vehicles, ammunition, etc) was leftover from the Korean War. It broke down often and was frustrating for the soldiers. That isn’t something that is documented in our history books. Actually, history textbooks devote very little time to the Korean War.

Level III: “So What” Questions: Evaluating What Matters

Many people were affected by the Korean War. We actually still see a split North and South Korea today. There have been some improvements between the two countries in recent years. They competed as one country.

The Korean War represents the recurring theme of “Conflict & Compromise”. It happened during Era 5: World War II Through the Civil Rights Era 1941-1967. Several of the soldiers that were interviewed stated most all of their equipment was left over from World War II.

Level IV: "What Now" Questions: Connecting History to Current Choices

After working on this project, we all feel like we understand the Korean War much better. To be honest, we knew little before. Understanding the personal accounts of each of these soldiers has made us think about current events in a different light. It makes you realize that war has a different side, a personal individual side.

After listening to each of the soldier talk about how the Korean War has been pushed aside and not really talked it about, it made me realize that we needed to always recognize and show appreciation to our veterans.

It makes me wonder if I would have stepped up and served like these five men did. I hope that I would.