Directions: Complete the following questions using the link listed below.

http://www.history.com/topics/korean-war

1. When did the Korean War begin?

2. What caused the outbreak of the Korean War?

3. Explain how Korean was divided between the northern half and the southern half. How did this division occur? Where did this division occur?
4. By the end of the decade, two new states had formed on the peninsula. In the ________, the anti-communist dictator _______________ (1875-1965) enjoyed the reluctant support of the American government; in the ________, the communist dictator ___________ (1912-1994) enjoyed the slightly more enthusiastic support of the Soviets.

5. In what way did the growing conflict in Korea symbolize the overall Cold War?

6. How did President Harry S. Truman view the Korean War?

7. Who was Douglas MacArthur?

8. What role did China play in the conflict? How did it impact the decisions of the Americans?

9. Explain the tensions that grew between MacArthur and Truman. What was the source of the tensions and what did it lead to?
10. Explain how the Korean War ended.

11. The Korean War was relatively short but exceptionally bloody. Nearly ____ million people died. More than half of these—about 10 percent of Korea’s prewar population—were ______. (This rate of civilian casualties was higher than World War II’s and Vietnam’s.) Almost ________ Americans died in action in Korea, and more than __________ were wounded.

12. What is the legacy of the Korean War? Why is it still significant today?
1. When did the Korean War begin?

   June 25, 1950

2. What caused the outbreak of the Korean War?

   The Korean War began when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south.

3. Explain how Korean was divided between the northern half and the southern half. How did this division occur? Where did this division occur?

   Korea had been part of the Japanese empire, but after World War II it fell to the Americans and the Soviets to decide what should be done with their enemy's imperial possessions. In August 1945, two young aides at the State Department divided the Korean peninsula in half along the 38th parallel. The Russians occupied the area north of the line and the United States occupied the area to its south.
4. By the end of the decade, two new states had formed on the peninsula. In the **south**, the anti-communist dictator **Syngman Rhee** (1875-1965) enjoyed the reluctant support of the American government; in the **north**, the communist dictator **Kim Il Sung** (1912-1994) enjoyed the slightly more enthusiastic support of the Soviets.

5. In what way did the growing conflict in Korea symbolize the overall Cold War?

Many Americans viewed the spread of communism in Korea as the first step of a communist takeover of the world, and the conflict in Korea would come to symbolize the larger conflict between the USA and the Soviet Union or the east vs. The west.

6. How did President Harry S. Truman view the Korean War?

“If we let Korea down,” President Harry Truman (1884-1972) said, “the Soviet[s] will keep right on going and swallow up one [place] after another.” Truman’s view involved stopping communism in Korea so it did not spread to the rest of the region and world.

7. Who was Douglas MacArthur?

Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964), the American commander in charge of the Asian theater.

8. What role did China play in the conflict? How did it impact the decisions of the Americans?

As American troops crossed the 38th Parallel boundary and headed north, towards Communist China, the Chinese started to worry about protecting themselves from what they called “armed aggression against Chinese territory.” Chinese leader Mao Zedong (1893-1976) sent troops to North Korea and warned the United States to keep away from the Yalu boundary unless it wanted full-scale war.

9. Explain the tensions that grew between MacArthur and Truman. What was the source of the tensions and what did it lead to?

Truman did not want to spark a war with China, whereas MacArthur did. MacArthur did not want to give into communism in any way. Truman eventually fired MacArthur over his views on China in the Korean Conflict.
10. Explain how the Korean War ended.

In July 1951, President Truman and his new military commanders started peace talks with the north. Both sides were willing to accept a ceasefire that maintained the 38th parallel boundary. Finally, after more than two years of negotiations, the adversaries signed an armistice on July 27, 1953.

11. The Korean War was relatively short but exceptionally bloody. Nearly 5 million people died. More than half of these—about 10 percent of Korea’s prewar population—were civilian. (This rate of civilian casualties was higher than World War II’s and Vietnam’s.) Almost 40,000 Americans died in action in Korea, and more than 100,000 were wounded.

12. What is the legacy of the Korean War? Why is it still significant today?

Korea is still divided today along the same lines of the 38th Parallel today and the tensions between the north and south are still an issue facing not only Korea, but the entire world.