The Korean War (1950 – 1953)

“The Forgotten War”
Korea Split - 38th Parallel
The Battle for Korea

Kim Il Sung
Korean People’s Democratic Republic
(North Korea)

Syngman Rhee
Republic of Korea
(South Korea)
Main Cause of Korean War

Imperialism
Stage 1: North Korean Attack

**June 25, 1950**
- North Korea “struck like a cobra”

**June 27, 1950**
- Truman committed US troops
  (Truman’s toughest decision)
  (81% of Americans agreed)
- UN, led by MacArthur, committed to help South Korea

**July 5, 1950**
- US troops fought and lost
MacArthur Had A Plan
Stage 2: UN Counterattack

Operation Chromite
(September 15, 1950)

- Landed at Inchon
  (320 warships and over 70,000 men)
- Pushed out of Pusan
- Stood at the 38th Parallel
Stage 2: UN Counterattack

- Recaptured 38th Parallel
- UN troops to the Yalu River
- UN Troops: Home by Xmas
“...and if they tried to get down to Pyongyang there would be the greatest slaughter.” -MacArthur
Stage 3: Chinese Offensive

Battle of Chosin Reservoir
(Nov. 27 – Dec. 13, 1950)

120,000 Chinese vs. 20,000 American
Battle of the Chosin Reservoir
“The Chosin Few”
Chosin Reservoir Exhibit

National Marine Corps Museum
Quantico, Virginia
Stage 3: Chinese Offensive

- Recaptured North Korea
- Ready to take South Korea
- MacArthur wanted to use nuclear weapons
Truman Fired MacArthur
April 11, 1951
Stage 4: Stalemate “Sitzkrieg”

July 1951 — July 27, 1953
Famous Korean War Battles

Heartbreak Ridge
September 13 – October 15, 1951

Pork Chop Hill
March 23 – July 11, 1953
Heartbreak Ridge

- Volunteered to cover retreat
- Wielded Browning automatic rifle until he ran out of ammo
- Threw grenades until gone
- Pulled out a trench knife
- Fought off NK troops until he was shot and bayoneted as his comrades watched from above
- Next day, his company retook the position
- Found Pililaau’s body
- Surrounded by over 40 North Korea troops
- Awarded the Medal of Honor
Results of the Korean War