

North Korea

OVERVIEW

North Korea is the most secretive, closed, repressive, and isolated country in the world. The North Korean people have very limited freedom, because of their strict government. There are tensions between North and South Korea, and there is always the threat of war. The communist country has nuclear weapons, and threatens that they will not hesitate to use them.

The totalitarian regime has often been accused of abusing human rights. There are reports from international organizations on torture, slave labor, and public executions.

Oddly enough, the official name of the country is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It is located in the northern part of the Korean Peninsula. Pyongyang is the capital city of North Korea, and is home to around 2.8 million people.

Leadership

The Kim family rules North Korea. They have created a country where the people treat them as superheroes with special powers. Kim Il Sung is the founder of the regime. His son, Kim Jong Il, was designated as the new leader after his father's death. Kim Jong Il died in 2011 after having ruled the country for 17 years. Kim Jong Un was the successor, and is the current leader of North Korea. Only a little is known about Kim Jong Un, but he has continued ruling the country the same way as his father and grandfather.

Economy

North Korea's economy is completely planned by the government. Essentially, this means that the government owns most of the businesses in the country. Apart from North Korea, there is only one other country in the world that has such a centralized planned economy; Cuba. North Korea has a policy that forbids most people and companies to trade with other countries. Only China and Russia are allowed to invest in North Korea, and on a very small scale. The country is one of the poorest and least developed in the world.

Fast Facts

Flag:



Population:	24.76 million
Capital:	Pyongyang
Currency:	North Korean won
Leader:	Kim Jong-un
Government:	Family dictatorship, Totalitarianism



Exercise 2: Are the statements below true, false or not given?

- 1) Kim Jong Il is the current leader of North Korea. ()
- 2) North Korea is a Democracy. ()
- 3) North Korea has weapons of mass destruction. ()
- 4) Tourists are not allowed in North Korea. ()
- 5) Pyongyang is home to nearly 15 million people. ()
- 6) The North Korean leaders have supernatural powers. ()
- 7) The government owns most of the businesses. ()
- 8) Kim Jong Un has made the country more free and open. ()
- 9) Kim Il Sung died in 2011. ()
- 10) North Korea is similar to Cuba in many ways. ()
- 11) North Korea does not trade with other countries. ()
- 12) The regime treats its people very well. ()