

# CLASSROOM READY Weekly News

LEVEL 1

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## Where in the World Is Kim Jong-un?

**K**im Jong-un is the Supreme Leader of North Korea. For several weeks, nobody outside of North Korea knew where he was. This led some to wonder if Kim might be sick or in isolation to avoid COVID-19.

North Korea is a country of 25.5 million people that borders China and South Korea. Most Western nations see North Korea as a **dictatorship**, with Kim as its absolute leader.

North Korea has been developing nuclear weapons and is believed to have succeeded. It is also developing missiles to allow it to launch its weapons into other countries. This has caused great concern for South Korea. There have also

been tensions between North Korea and other countries, who have condemned North Korea for trying to develop nuclear weapons.

The Korean War ended in 1953, splitting Korea into North and South. No official peace treaty has ever been signed and the border between the two countries remains one of the most militarized in the world.

As a result, the health and whereabouts of North Korea's leader is of interest around the world.

After a public appearance on April 11, Kim was not seen for several weeks. He missed planned public events, including the celebration of his late grandfather's birthday on April 15. Even for North Korea, which is very secretive, this was unusual.

The 36-year old Kim has

a family history of heart problems. One rumour is that he had heart surgery. Another said the surgery was on his ankle. One report suggested Kim might be ill from this surgery.

During North Korea's **May Day** celebrations on May 1, Supreme Leader Kim finally made a reappearance. North Korean **state media** showed pictures of Kim laughing. ★



### DID YOU KNOW

North Korea's previous two leaders were Kim's father and grandfather. Some believe if Kim were unable to continue, his sister, Kim Yo-jong, would become leader.

To view videos, go to:  
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/zahx>

Video



### WORD POWER

**DIKTATORSHIP:** A government or country in which power is held by a person who rules a country with total authority and often in a cruel or brutal way.

**MAY DAY:** A holiday on May 1, celebrated in many countries as a traditional spring festival or a day to celebrate workers.

**STATE MEDIA:** News organizations (TV, newspapers, radio stations, and websites) that are controlled by the government.

## Where in the World Is Kim Jong-un?

1. Who is Kim Jong-un?

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2. How do most Western nations see North Korea?

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3. What has North Korea been doing? How do other countries feel?

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4. What happened after April 11?

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5. When did Kim Jung-un reappear?

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### CRITICAL THINKING

1. What are your thoughts on the disappearance of Kim Jung-un?

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# Map Activity: North Korea

1. **Locate and label the following countries in capital letters:**

NORTH KOREA  
CHINA

JAPAN  
RUSSIA

SOUTH KOREA

2. **Locate and label the following cities:**

Pyongyang  
Beijing

Seoul  
Tokyo

3. **Locate and label the following bodies of salt water:**

Pacific Ocean

Sea of Japan

Yellow Sea

4. **Create a colour legend for your map with the following:**

North Korea

Other Countries

Salt Water

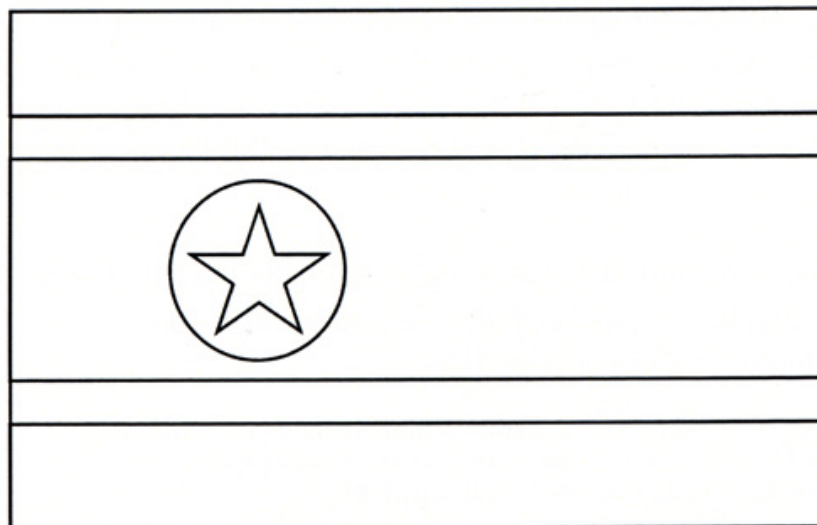
5. **Draw and label the compass bearing.**

6. **Label your map:**

North Korea and Neighbouring Countries

7. **Colour the flag as follows:**

Three horizontal bands of blue (top), red (triple width), and blue; the red band is edged in white; on the hoist side of the red band is a white disk with a red five-pointed star.





# Word Power

Using the words defined below, fill in the blank in each of the following sentences with the word that fits best. All of the words have been used in the article.

1. The brothers were acting very \_\_\_\_\_ about their plans.
2. I am trying to determine the \_\_\_\_\_ of my car keys.
3. Monarchs used to have \_\_\_\_\_ power, but most no longer do.
4. The patient was put in \_\_\_\_\_ until they could find out what disease she had.
5. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ in completing his homework assignment.

**Absolute:** Having unlimited power.

**Condemned:** Said in a strong and definite way that someone or something is bad or wrong.

**Isolation:** The state of being in a place or situation that is separate from others.

**Militarized:** An area with weapons and military forces.

**Missiles:** Rockets that explode when they hit a distant target.

**Secretive:** Not letting people see or know what you are doing or thinking; tending to act in secret.

**Succeeded:** Achieved the correct or desired result.

**Whereabouts:** The location of a person or thing.

## Quiz

1. Kim Jong-un is the Supreme Leader of China.  
True      False
2. After a public appearance on April 11, Kim was not seen for several weeks.  
True      False
3. North Korea has been developing \_\_\_\_\_ and is believed to have succeeded.
4. Kim missed planned public events, including the celebration of his late \_\_\_\_\_'s birthday on April 15.
5. During North Korea's May Day celebrations on \_\_\_\_\_, Supreme Leader Kim finally made a reappearance.