

## Student Worksheet

### DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

### STORY

## North Korea Prepares for Critical Transfer of Power

10/05/2010

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/july-dec10/korea\\_10-05.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/july-dec10/korea_10-05.html)

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How long has the Kim family ruled over North Korea?
2. How has the Kim family created a “cult of personality” in North Korea?
3. What is the Worker’s Party?
4. Why does Kim Jong-Un have to be promoted by the military before he can take over as leader?
5. Why can power transfers make governments vulnerable?
6. How many troops does the North Korean military have?

**7. What other communist country recently experienced a power transfer that kept power within the same family?**

**8. What is communism?**

**9. What are the five communist countries in the world today?**

**10. Why is China especially interested in what happens in North Korea?**

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1. How do you think so many North Koreans came to be sheltered from the truth and convinced of the cult of personality surrounding the Kim family? What do you think the government has to do to keep them from learning about the outside world?**

**2. Why do you think the original concept of communism didn't work in any of today's communist countries? Do you think it would ever be possible to share all goods and power equally among everyone? Why or why not?**

**3. Why are some people in North Korea becoming fed up with life under the Kim family? What kinds of things do you think a government has to supply to its people to keep them pleased with the way things are being run?**

**4. How does the way power is transferred from one leader to another compare to how it's done in the U.S.? What is the ceremony called when a president is sworn in in the U.S.?**