Cultural Divergence in Korea

From the articles “From One Korea to Two” and “Korea: Crossing the Divide,” The New York Times UpFront Magazine, May 10, 2010

Directions: READ THE ENTIRETY OF BOTH ARTICLES, making notes as you go, THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

1. Look up the term cultural divergence. How did the Korean War contribute to cultural divergence in this region?

2. How is the level of innovation different in North Korea than in South Korea?

3. Why is North Korea mostly rural while South Korea is more urban?

4. What is the purpose of the demilitarized zone?

5. Why is nationalism such an important part of life in North Korea?

6. Compare and contrast the demographics of North and South Korea (using the chart on page 22).

7. How do the people of North Korea perceive South Koreans?

8. How do the people of South Korea perceive North Koreans?

9. What were the difficulties faced by North Korean teen refugees in travelling to South Korea? What difficulties did they face in adjusting to life in South Korea?