

North Korea's nuclear countdown

North Korea started its nuclear programme three decades ago. Now the world has united in condemnation of the rogue Communist state after it tested a second nuclear weapon in defiance of UN resolutions

Missile launch sites



Suspected nuclear weapons facilities



■ **1979:** North Korea starts to build nuclear reactor at Yongbyon

■ **1986:** Yongbyon begins operation

■ **1993:** First nuclear crisis develops as Pyongyang pulls out of Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty

■ **1994:** Clinton Administration reaches Agreed Framework. North Korea freezes nuclear production for next eight years in return for aid

■ **1998:** Pyongyang fires ballistic missile that overflies Japan

■ **2002:** U.S. president Bush names North Korea as part of "axis of evil"

■ **2006:** North Korea carries out first nuclear test. UN imposes sanctions

■ **2007:** Pyongyang agrees to shut down Yongbyon reactor in return for economic aid

■ **May 2009:** North Korea conducts second underground nuclear test, raising explosive power to new level