

# North's programme at intermediate phase?

The secret to achieving more destructive power is to increase the amount of thermonuclear fuel that an exploding atomic bomb can ignite. North Korea said that the test on Sept 3 was a hydrogen bomb, but analysts are sceptical of this claim.

## HOW IS A HYDROGEN BOMB DIFFERENT?

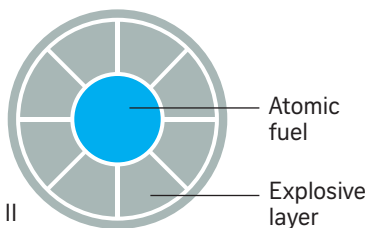
A hydrogen bomb, also called a thermonuclear bomb or an H-bomb, uses a second stage of reactions to magnify the force of an atomic explosion.

### Stage 1

#### IMPLOSION ATOMIC BOMB

Uses conventional explosives to compress and ignite atomic fuel

The destructive power of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima by the US in the closing days of World War II

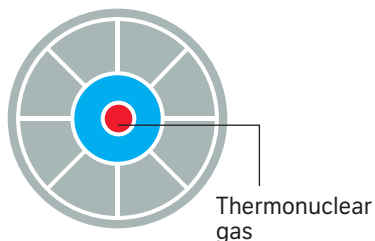


### Stage 2

#### BOOSTED ATOMIC BOMB

Uses a bit of thermonuclear fuel inside the atomic core

3x the destructive power of Hiroshima blast

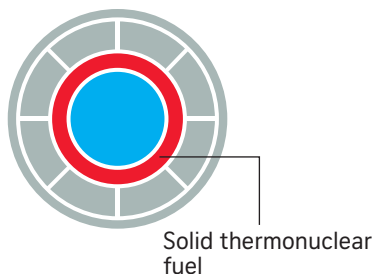


### Stage 3

#### LAYERED ATOMIC BOMB

Uses more thermonuclear fuel outside the atomic core

25x the destructive power of Hiroshima blast

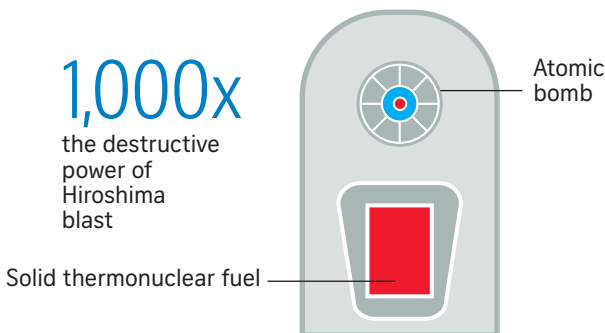


### Stage 4

#### HYDROGEN BOMB

Uses lots of hydrogen fuel that the nearby atomic core ignites

1,000x the destructive power of Hiroshima blast



NOTE: Destructive power for each stage is based on early tests in the US and Russia, not on current stockpiles.