The difference between the compilation of Java and C is the steps in the compilation process. In C, we first compile the source code to object code. This object code is machine language code designed for the specific operating system it is running on. Depending on which header files are included, the object code will then need to be sent through a linker which will link other object code to the source object code. After all the necessary library's object code are linked to the source object code, we produce an executable file.

In Java, we compile the source code to an intermediate language known as bytecode. Bytecode is lower level code compared to java, and is interpreted by the java virtual machine (JVM) inside the java runtime environment (JRE). The difference between bytecode and object code is, bytecode works cross-platform while object code does not.

Object code interacts directly with the platform it was built on, giving you more control over the internal functions of the system. On the other hand, the operating system and bytecode are separated by the JVM. The JVM will handle standard and basic behavior such as memory cleanup, also known as garbage collection. Therefore, the same java code can be compiled are run on multiple platforms. This is because the code stays the same, however the JRE and JVM will change depending on which platform it is installed on.