

# What is the “Lineage” of South Korea After All?: Most Wired “Ancient” in Asia

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NCTA-Oxford 2009

## Purpose

It is important for my students to open a door to understanding what life is like in Asia and in Korea specifically. I want to open a discussion with my students on how big the world actually is. My students need to understand that there is more to Korea than the smiling Korean in an episode of M\*A\*S\*H. This culture has been around for thousands of years and is rich in ancient as well as modern history. Korea is out in the world making a name for itself on the modern technology stage yet we in America aren't even in the theater to hear the play. This needs to change.

## State of Ohio Social Studies Standards

**People & Societies** 9<sup>th</sup> *Diffusion*: 3. Explain how advances in communication and transportation have impacted: a. globalization, b. cooperation and conflict, c. the environment, d. collective security, e. popular culture,  
12<sup>th</sup> –*Cultures*: 1. Identify the perspectives of diverse cultures groups when analyzing current issues. 2. Analyze proposed solutions to current issues from the perspectives of diverse cultural groups.

**Geography**: 9<sup>th</sup> *Places and Regions*: 1. Interpret data to make comparisons between and among countries and regions including: a. birth rates, b. death rates, c. Infant mortality rates, d. education level, e. per capita Gross Domestic Product  
2. Explain how differing points of view play a role in conflicts over territory and resources. 3. Explain how political and economic conditions, resources, geographic locations and cultures have contributed to cooperation and conflict.

*Human and Environmental Interaction*: 9<sup>th</sup>: Explain the causes and consequences of urbanization including economic development, population growth and environmental change. 10<sup>th</sup>: 2. Describe how changes in technology, transportation and communications affect the location and pattern of economic activities and use of productive resources.

**Economics**: 9<sup>th</sup> *Markets*: 1. Describe costs and benefits of trade with regard to:  
a. standard of living, b. productivity capacity, c. usage of productivity resources, d. infrastructure

## Essential Questions

1. What stereotypes are there about people in Korea?
2. What effect does Korea's location have on its history and culture?

3. What goals have Koreans made in digital and other technological fields?
4. How are digital and technological advances related to the personal needs of Koreans?
5. How has Korean culture affected the need for a digital culture?

## **Rationale**

Americans seem to think that they hold the corner market on all things “technology”. The students I teach believe they are the “first” to have everything that is “new”. Yet my research has shown that what we perceive as new is actually rather old in global terms; particularly those in Korea. Korea has pretty much been a “hidden” factor in America. It just really isn’t discussed in text books except for the Korean War; which is glossed over at best and maybe takes up two pages of text. I think it is important for students to realize what the rest of the world, particularly Asia has been doing while we have been busy in our own little world. I bet many of my students know what *Lineage*, *Star Craft* and *War Craft* are, yet I’d also bet they don’t know what country fostered the one and hosts the other. This exercise should help students to become aware of all the Korean technology that they themselves use and how advanced Korea has become technologically over the last few decades.

## **Teacher Preparation Prior to the Lesson**

1. Look at the sites listed in the teacher and student resources. These sites give good information on the background of Korea as well as the digital advances that have been made. Make note of the dates on the various articles so that you can see the progression and advances in technology.
2. Be familiar with the technology terms that the students are going to need to know so you can explain them if needed.
3. Make sure you have a large global map or print out of ones for students.
4. Book time in the computer lab if you don’t have computers for students to access.
5. Down load You Tube videos or make sure you can access them from school. You may need to get the IT person to let you into the You Tube site. If you can’t show in class, assign for students to view at home.
6. Have graph paper, colored pencils and rulers available for the charts you want students to make.
7. Make copies of the three articles in “Korea’s Digital Dynasty”
8. Make copies of “The Korean Baang: Crazy for Broadband”, and “The Bandwidth Capital of the World” for those students who don’t have access to computers.

## **List of Activities: These can be done separately or collectively**

1. (30-40 minutes) Ask kids to brainstorm what they know about Korea. Ask them to give their ideas then have them find it on the world map.
  - A. Where is it? Have them look at a map of the world and locate it by a. longitude and latitude b. physical proximity to other nations c. continent?
  - B. What physical features dominate? What bodies of water surround it? What kind of a physical feature is it?

2. (50 minutes to pair and research; 50 to present findings) Break up into groups and assign a mini research project. Give them the CIA world fact book website to get stats on South Korea. Break kids into pairs and assign these topics. Tell them they have one class period to research this site and look up at least one other site for information on their topic. They will then need to report to the class their findings in a 5-10 minute presentation. They should show at least one visual to help explain their topic:

A. Intro B. People C. Government D. Economy  
E. Communications/ Transportation F. Military

3. (50 Minutes) Wrap up session. Show You Tube Videos: Beautiful Seoul and Night View of Seoul, South Korea. Explore these topics:

A. What are people like there? What does Seoul remind them of? What differences are there between large American cities and Seoul?

B. Where are the population centers in South Korea? (Seoul, Pusan, Incheon) Give numbers of people in those places as a percentage of the populations. How do they compare to American cities such as New York, LA, Chicago and Atlanta? Compare them to areas the kids are familiar with. Some cities have population larger than the state of Ohio.

4. (20 Minutes) Now that students have some basics and can picture a little bit about what South Korea is like; tell them you are now going to look at a topic kids know a lot about: digital technology. Have students brainstorm what these terms mean: a. “wired” with regard to technology, b. broadband, c. digital, d. satellite, e. fiber optic, f. internet, g. IT, h. PC, i. DSL, j. bandwidth, k. RPG

5. (30 Minutes) A. Ask how many kids have these technologies: a. cell phone, b. picture phone, c. phones with internet access, d. internet at home, e. have DSL, f. dial up, g. satellite radio, h. GPS units, i. any other technologies j. play RPGs on the internet? Have them graph the results.

6. (50 Minutes) What country do they think has the most technology use? C. What country is the most “wired”? Look at the 2008 ITIF Broadband Rankings of the top 30. Have the students graph the top 10 by household penetration, speed and price. Then have the students graph all 30 by continent. What inferences can they draw from these stats? Why do some places have higher broadband rankings than others? Discuss. What questions do they have now? Show You Tube video:” Seoul the Capital City of the Digital World”

6. ((3) 50 minute classes) As a class pull up [South Korea Leads the Way](#), read and discuss. What was it like to live in Korea from an American’s perspective? Then have students break into groups. Have kids come up with 3 essential questions they have so far that they want answers to. Give each group one of the three articles in [South Korea’s Digital Dynasty](#) to read and report on to the class. Once read and discussed in the small groups; see what questions they have gotten answers for and what new questions they have. Have the groups with same story get together to discuss. Do they have answers to any more questions? As a

larger group decide how they want to present the information to the class at large. Have them come up with Essential questions they want the class to get answers to during the presentation. Do 8-10 minute presentations. Discuss as a class. How has this digital boom affected Korea?

7. (50 Minutes) Have students read “The Korean Baang: Crazy for Broadband”, and “The Bandwidth Capital of the World” the night before class. Have them write down three questions and three observations that resulted from the readings. Have students think about: the Korean Baangs, what are they? What is the social implication of the baangs and the whole digital community? Why is there such fascination in the digital world? Is it an escape mechanism for a very structured society? Why are role playing games so popular in Korea and other places in the world. Why are they so popular in America? Do the students play them? Why? Hold class discussion the next day. Analyze the above questions.

8. Enrichment. Have students who haven’t gotten answers to their questions get online and find answers. Have them report findings to the class.

### **Teacher Resources**

Atkinson, Robert D., Daniel K. Correa and Julie A. Hedlund. Explaining International Broadband Leadership: Executive Summary. The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation. May 2008. 12 April 2009 <[www.itif.org/index.php?id=142](http://www.itif.org/index.php?id=142)>

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The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation. . Appendix F: South Korea. May 2008. 12 April 2009. <[www.itif.org/files/2008BBAppendixf.pdf](http://www.itif.org/files/2008BBAppendixf.pdf)>

## **Student Resources**

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- HGKim80. Beautiful Seoul. 13 April 2008. 5 April 2009 <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEb6Dkowoco](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEb6Dkowoco)>
- Jyjohn92. Seoul the Capital City of the Digital World. 1 Mar 2007. 5 April 2009. <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaQ0hnObscM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaQ0hnObscM)>
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