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Korea

Purpose: Architectural styles in northern and southern Korea were similar during its early history, but evolved into different styles after the peninsula was divided into two nations.

Essential questions:

- 1) What similarities are seen in early northern and southern Korean architecture?
- 2) What characteristics mark the difference between architectural styles developed in North & South Korea after the peninsula was divided?
- 3) Is the location of a structure always readily identifiable? (Are there exceptions to the "rules?")

Rationale: Exposure to Korean architecture
Politics can affect architecture

Materials: "Korean Architecture" PowerPoint slides and projector/monitor
Classroom sets of whiteboards, wipe-off cloths, and dry-erase markers

Activities: Prior to this activity, lessons on Korean War and government styles establishing that communism sets up rigid controls on a society.

- 1) Share slides 1-12 with the students. Ask for student comments on architectural features such as building materials, shape and size of buildings, roof styles, colors, etc. while also pointing out where on the peninsula each example is located - North or South. They should come to the conclusion that styles in the northern and southern regions were pretty similar.
- 2) Class discussion - Ask students to recall and share aspects of communism and democracy related to government control of the economy, the ability of a communist economy to generate wealth, the rights of people to choose, etc. Elicit examples. Ask "What effect could the establishment of a communist government in North Korea have on architectural design?" Responses may include regimentation, designed for propaganda, lack of "flair", low-quality building materials, and more.
- 3) Distribute whiteboards, wipe-off cloths, and dry-erase markers. Explain that they are about to see a series of buildings erected in N & S Korea since WWII. Each pair will be marked with either an "A" or a "B". Their task will be to decide which building is from which nation. Have them write an "A" and "B" on their whiteboards.
- 4) Begins sharing slides 13-43. Until the last slide, they are arranged in sets of 3: a common slide showing both buildings asking "North or South?" followed by slides of each building in the pair revealing its location. While they are looking at the first slide of each trio, ask the students to write "N" and "S" next to their "A" and "B" on the whiteboard. They are not to hold up their boards for anyone to see until you call for that action. Do so, scan them visually to see how they've "voted", then reveal the locations by moving on the 2nd and 3rd slide of the trio. (These slides have animation involved - some waiting for a mouse click, some automatic. Run through it yourself to see how it works before sharing with students.)

Assessment: After completing the activity, ask the following questions:

- 1) What characteristics mark the difference between architectural styles developed in North & South Korea after the peninsula was divided?
- 2) Is the location of a structure always readily identifiable? (Are there exceptions to the "rules?")

Grade Adaptation: Target group = Grades 9-12.

Scale down by: developing a worksheet for the students to write their responses on.