

I Can't Keep Up With Choo: Korean Baseball and Geography

Ryan Ryzner- 9th Grade Geography

Duration: Three (3) 45 minute class periods. Two (2) periods of instruction/presentation. One (1) period of review and assessment.

Purpose: As an ice breaker for Korean Geography, students will be given a brief history of Korean baseball, noting its most recognized player, Shin Soo Choo. I will then divide the class and give each small group a team from the Korean Baseball Association. They will then do some basic research on the team and be able to identify on a map where they play their home games. They should also take note of any additional geographical features such as mountains, bodies of water etc. that surround their respective cities.

Materials:

- 1.) Computers or maps of Korea for groups
- 2.) Computers or pen and paper for notes
- 3.) Map of Japan (either physical or projected) to be viewed by all students

Websites:

- 1.) <http://www.livestrong.com/article/377072-korean-baseball-history/>
- 2.) <http://web.worldbaseballclassic.com/news/index.jsp?team=kor>
- 3.) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korea_Professional_Baseball#Participating_Teams
- 4.) <http://www.abcteach.com/maps/skorea.htm>
- 5.) http://www2.gol.com/users/graham/S_Korea_rel_95.jpg
- 6.) <http://www.freeworldmaps.net/asia/south-korea/map.html>

The Korean Baseball history information can be found in the first 3 websites. If classes do not have computers, then the teacher should consider providing an information packet. Site #4 provides a blank map of South Korea which can be filled in by students during each presentation. The same map should be projected for the class to view and for the map review/quiz. A topographic map is found on site #5. Bodies of water can be found on site #6.

Essential questions:

- 1.) What are the major cities in South Korea and where are they located?

- 2.) What major geographical features surround these cities?
- 3.) How does baseball factor into Korean history/culture? How do sports in general factor into Korean history/culture?

Knowledge and Skills :

- 1.) Basic Map Reading skills
- 2.) Internet research/note taking skills
- 3.) Working as a group
- 4.) Public speaking/ presentation of researched information

Assessment Information:

- 1.) Map quiz on Korean baseball cities and basic Korean baseball questions
- 2.) Group discussion
- 3.) Group participation grade.

Procedures:

- 1.) Provide the background information about Korean baseball (15-20 min)
- 2.) Split the class into 12 groups. Each group will become an expert on the location and surroundings of that team's city. If the class is smaller, use 6 groups and have each group research 2 teams/cities. Record data for submission. (20 minutes)
- 3.) Group presentations of findings (45 minutes)
- 4.) Review team locations and geographical surroundings (20 mins)
- 5.) Map/Korean Baseball Quiz (25 minutes)