

## How did the geographic location and landform of Korea affect the development of the country?

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Topic: Informational Short Writing

Length: 3 days, more if students become absorbed in the project

Subject: English Language Arts

Grade: 7<sup>th</sup>

### Materials:

- Library Collection on Korea [could you indicate some specific titles that would be of use to other teachers who may want to use this lesson?]
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies book
- Maps:
  - Political of Asia
  - Physical Map of Korea
  - Economy Map of North and South Korea
- See Website suggestions in the appendix

### Rationale:

Connection is a key element in reading comprehension. If students connect what they know and what they can surmise, the research will be more meaningful, and comprehension will increase. Finding the answer to a hypothesis gives meaning to research. This should also make the writing more significant.

Most of the background knowledge for this project will be generated through their social studies class.

### Informational Writing Standard

2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.

8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

### Procedure:

#### Day 1:

Display a political map of Korea so students can see the location in relationship to the surrounding countries in East Asia.

Within groups have them discuss the following questions.

## How did the geographic location and landform of Korea affect the development of the country?

1. What major countries surround Korea?
2. What do you know about these countries? (Use texts if needed.)
3. Fill out a KWL Chart on each country. (**K**now **W**ant to Know **L**earned)

Mongolia

K	W	L

China

K	W	L

Japan

K	W	L

1. Think about the map and what you know about the surrounding countries. Then in your group discuss the following question:

**In what ways do you think these three border countries might have influenced Korea:**

- Culture
- Language
- Government
- Society
- Agriculture/diet

2. Write 2 hypotheses.
3. Next, look at the physical and economy maps of Korea. Study the landforms and natural resources.
4. Now continue the discussion using this question.

**How might the physical make-up and natural resources of Korean influence:**

- Culture
- Language
- Government
- Society
- Agriculture/diet

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5. Write 1 hypothesis.
6. With your team, collaborate using text sources and the Internet to begin researching each of your three hypotheses to prove them either right or wrong.

### Day 2:

1. Continue researching your hypotheses.
2. State your hypothesis.
3. Produce evidence that specifically proves or disproves your hypotheses.
4. Place your research in your choice of format to share with the class
5. Do not just read your information; present your information with authority.

### Day 3:

6. Students will share their information with the rest of the class in their choice of format.
  - May use notecards for reference.
  - Make a PowerPoint presentation
  - May use Kamishibai (cards and stage)
  - Students should share this project and not allow one person to do all the speaking unless the preparation was shared equally.

### Assessment:

This is a formative assignment, so no formal grade will be given. However, teacher and peer feedback will be essential to student growth.

Students will be informally assessed on their collaboration and oral presentation of their findings. Students will be assessed for mastery on an independent research project at a later time. Students will be required to record a personal assessment of this project in their standard-mastery portfolio.

Students not contributing to this project will be recorded as a missing assignment, and will need to complete a similar project before the final mastery assessment assignment.

**Prior Content:** Students will have written a narrative and persuasive writing by now. This is an introduction to our informational/research writing project. Students will gain historical content from social studies class.

**Follow Through:** This introductory project will eventually culminate in a research-based informational essay.

### Appendix Websites:

<http://www.pbs.org/hiddenkorea/geography.htm>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/South-Korea>

[http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Geography\\_of\\_South\\_Korea](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Geography_of_South_Korea)

<http://asiasociety.org/education/korean-history-and-political-geography>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/353462270724563165/>

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## East Asia



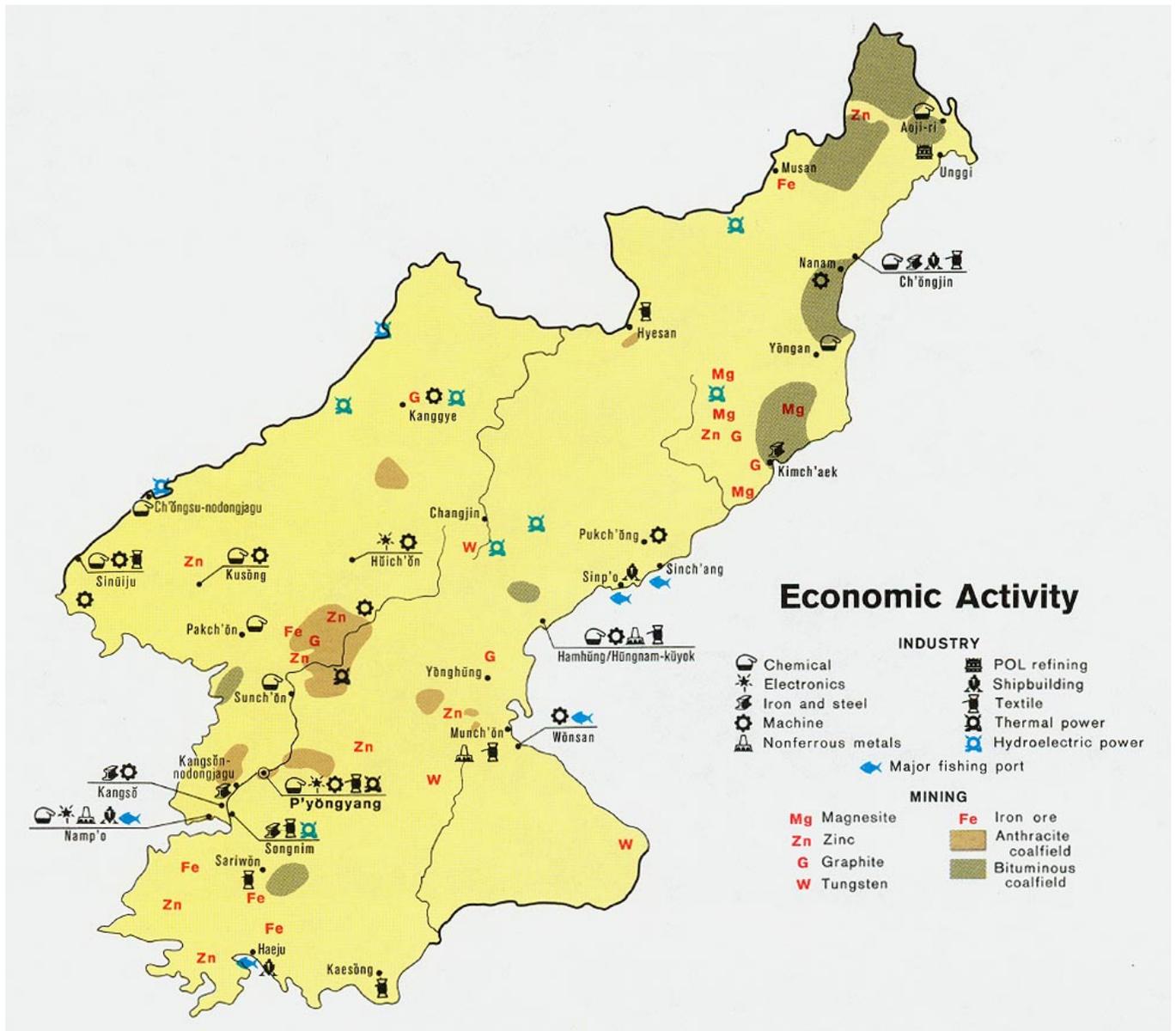
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## How did the geographic location and landform of Korea affect the development of the country?



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Economy of North Korea. Mining and industry 34.4%, services 31.3%, agriculture and fisheries 21.8%, construction 8.2%, utilities 4.3%. (2014 est.) Military products, mining (coal, iron ore, limestone, magnesite, graphite, copper, zinc, lead, and precious metals), metallurgy, textiles, food processing.



Natural Resources. South Korea is relatively poor in natural resources. ... The country's sparse mineral resources include coal, tungsten, iron ore, molybdenum, limestone, and graphite.