

NCTA Lesson Plan on Korea
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Purpose: To gain an understanding of unique aspects of Korean culture.

Rationale: Most teaching about Asia focuses on China and Japan. Very little teaching is aimed at understanding Korea as a unique culture, separate from China, Japan, and U.S. foreign policy. The aim of this lesson is to introduce students to unique aspects of Korean culture.

Materials: text:
Murphy, Rhoads. *East Asia: A New History*. New York: 2004.
pp. 176-178

websites:

www.lifeinkorea.com/Culture/spotlight.cfm
www.pbs.org/hiddenkorea/culture.htm
www.sogang.ac.kr/~burns/cult96/cult96-index.html
www.clickkorea.org/
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Korea
english.tour2korea.com/02Culture/main.asp?kosm=m2_1
www.koreanculture.org/

film:
Hidden Korea, PBS

Activities: Students will all read the introductory pages in the text. Then they will be given an opportunity to peruse the websites above. They will be asked to choose one specific area of culture to investigate, e.g. pottery, food, martial arts. They will read the information on that area, using at least 3 different websites. They will then write a summary (in their own words) of what they have learned and print images to go along with their summary. They will then create an artistic and colorful poster of the summary and images.

Assessment: Each student will present his/her poster to the class.

Extension: Students can research the Chinese and/or Japanese counterparts of the area of Korean culture they have investigated and explain the differences.

Grade Adaptation:

- Target gifted grades 6-7
- Younger students could:
view the PBS film

**read *A Single Shard* or *The Kite Fighter* by Linda Sue Park and
discuss Korean pottery and kite making**

- **Older students could:**
 - investigate how Korea transmitted culture from China to Japan**
 - investigate Hideyoshi's invasion of Korea**
 - research the Japanese annexation of Korea**
 - investigate how Korea came to be divided after World War II**
 - investigate current foreign influences in Korea, especially
Chinese and American**