

**Asian Studies
University of Toledo 2005
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Korea Lesson Plan

Purpose: Explain how the Korean culture developed under the influence of its powerful neighbors, China and Japan.

Essential Questions:

- 1. What is the geography of Korea and how does it relate to cultural development and history.**
- 2. What influences did China have on the culture and history of Korea.**
- 3. What influence did Japan have on the culture and history of Japan.**

Rational: Expose the students to the history and culture of Korea. Compare and contrast the Korean culture with other European cultures previously studied.

Activities:

Lesson 1, Day 1

Students will read about the geography of Korea in our Social Studies book, *The World Around us-Eastern Hemisphere*.

Vocabulary words: Korean straight, typhoon

Discussion questions:

- 1. How do warm currents affect the climate of Korea?**
They help make the climate mild.
- 2. What bodies of water surround Korea?**
Yellow Sea, East China Sea, Sea of Japan.
- 3. Who are Korea's closest neighbors?**
Russia, China, Japan, India

Lesson 2, Day 2

Students will read a brief history of Korea in our Social Studies book, *Eastern Hemisphere*.

Vocabulary words: Yi Sunsin, Seoul, Pyongyang, dynasty

The brief history begins with the legend that Korea was founded by a spirit-king named Tangun. Early nomad settlers came from Manchuria and Mongolia. Later migrations came from China. The Koreans adopted Chinese technologies and writing system. This history goes on

to explain the Three Kingdoms of Korea that were established to protect their borders from outside attack. Missionaries from China and India brought Buddhism. The Choson dynasty began in 1392 and lasted over 500 years. The Japanese invaded Korea in 1592 and were eventually driven out. The Japanese invaded Korea again in 1910 and occupying the country for over 30 years. During this time Korean language, culture, and history was banned. Korea was liberated from Japan at the end of WWII. In 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea. The U.S. stepped in. Eventually Korea is split into two nations.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the Koreans organize themselves into 3 kingdoms?
To protect themselves from attack.
2. What hardships did the Koreans suffer under Japanese occupation?
Ban on their language, customs, and history and loss of farmland.
3. How has geography affected Chinese and Japanese influence in Korea?
The closeness Of Korea to Japan and China has often tempted both to try to dominate Korea.
4. What does the proverb, “Korea is like a shrimp caught between two whales” mean?

Lesson 3, Day 3

Language Extension: Read an excerpt from the book “Lost Names” by Richard Kim. Read an excerpt from the book “The Journal of Ben Uchida” by Barry Denenberg. Discuss the similarities between the way the Koreans were treated by the Japanese and the way the Japanese were treated in U.S. internment camps.

Assessment: Students will be given a test covering essential facts about Korean geography, culture, and history. Sixty percent of the test will be objective and forty percent will be essay.

This lesson is geared for 6th grade, but could easily be adapted to older grades.

Sources

Student material:

Solberg “The Land and People of South Korea” Lippincott, 1990 This book offers information on the geography, history, culture, education, and sports of South Korea including numerous photographs.

McMahon, Patricia “Chi-Hoon A Korean Girl” Boyds-Mills Press, 1993 This is the story of a young Korean girl, her family, and their life in Seoul South Korea. Includes photos of scenes from daily life.

Teacher material:

Henthorn, William E. “A History of Korea” New York Free Press 1971

Macdonald, Donald Stone “The Koreans: Contemporary Politics and Society” 2nd Edit. Boulder:Westview, 1990

Nahm, Andrew C. “Korea, Tradition and Transformation-A history of the Korean People”Seoul: Hollym, 1988

Web Sites:

Geography- Virtual tour of Korea <http://www.userpages.umbc.edu/~skim32/IFSM403/tour>

South Korea 2001 Geography, people, government, economy, communication. <http://www.workmall.com/wfb2001/koreasouth/index>

History of Korea <http://www.socrates.berkeley.edu/~korea/history.html>