

# Asian Studies Unit

(6 weeks)

## Korea

### **Purpose:**

Although similar in some cultural and historical aspects, China, Japan, and Korea are distinct societies with unique history, traditions, and lifestyles.

Essential Questions:

1. What are some shared traits?
2. What are some differences?
3. How does geography affect the culture of a place?
4. What are some basic facts about Korea?

### **Rationale:**

To familiarize students with some key concepts, ideas, and facts about Korea.

### **Materials:**

A reference library and Internet options for research about Korea.  
A guest speaker.  
Art materials for projects.

### **Activities:**

1. In groups, students will research specific information about China.
2. Students will write 6 paragraphs sharing their research.  
Paragraph #1 will include a summary of their required research.  
Paragraphs #2-6 will summarize their findings on their chosen topics.
3. Students will construct a paper kite.
4. On upper side of the kite, students will decorate it using traditional Korean designs and colors.
5. On the under side of the kite, students will display their researched items.
6. Students will present their kites to the other groups.
7. Culmination activity: Students will fly their kites.

**Handout K-1:** List of required and elected items for research.

**Handout K-2:** List of terms and explanations.

**Handout K-3:** Directions for making a Korean kite.

**Assessment:**

Pre-assessment:

Students will make a list of what they know about Korea. This list will be collected by the teacher and used as part of the final assessment.

Post-assessment:

Following the entire project (five lessons), students will return to their lists of “what they know” about each country. They will cross off any information that they have learned is erroneous and will add new information learned about each culture. Their ability to determine which information is false will show a high level of understanding of the purpose and essential questions of the unit.

10 facts = C

15 facts = B

20 facts = A

Student projects (fans) will be assessed based on effort and accuracy of information as well as fulfilling all information.

**Grade Adaptation:**

These lessons are targeted to 7<sup>th</sup>-grade students in a World History/language arts inclusive class.

To use these lessons with elementary students, you would select books on their reading level and make certain that reference materials were available on various levels. You could eliminate some of the requirements for the projects and presentations.

To use these lessons with high school students, you would select higher-level reading and research materials. You might also add more requirements to the projects and presentations.

## Handout C-1

### Project/Presentation Requirements – China

Your group will make a Korean kite using paper and other materials. It will be designed and decorated in traditional Korean style. On one side you will include the following information, which you will have discovered during your research.

#### Required Items:

- A timeline of at least 5 significant historical events.
- A tracing of the country from an atlas which will include:
  - time zone
  - distance from Columbus, Ohio
  - 2 lines of latitude /longitude
  - current population
  - one significant landmark
  - major resource(s)
  - capital
- Where our name for the country came from as well as what the natives call the country.
- Information about the major religion(s) practiced or historically practiced.
- The current country flag draw and colored and on it include:
  - current government: type and leader
  - year flag was adopted

#### Selected Items:

Students will then need to add 5 more researched items from the list below. Students may select other items not found on the list, with teacher permission.

music	education	marriage
clothing	food	heritage
art	language	written language
symbols	family	holiday
celebrations	inventions	past-time for teens

For each item you may want to include a bulleted list or words and phrases rather than paragraphs since your space will be limited, and your project should be visually interesting.

An example of a finished project will be displayed in class.

## List of Terms and Explanations

K-2

**Art:** information about traditional arts and art forms in Korea.

**Symbols:** these could be traditional symbols or symbols you feel are important to the culture and country today. Include an explanation.

**Family:** information about the traditional family structure in the country. How are women treated? How are children treated? The old? What groups have high and low status in the family or community?

**Education:** information about who gets an education, what type of education is offered, and an education valued by the people of Korea. Are certain subjects focused on more than others? Describe a typical school day for a 12-13 year old Korean student. Can compare past to current.

**Music:** information would include traditional music, major instruments, and occasions for which music is played. Can compare past to current.

**Clothing:** information would include traditional dress for men, women, boys, girls, old, etc. Do people still wear the traditional clothing today? If so, when? And if not, what do the people of Korea wear today?

**Inventions:** What inventions came from Korea? What impact did these inventions have on the country of Korea and on other countries, particularly the United States?

**Food:** What are some traditional foods of Korea? What foods do we readily eat in our country? What role does food play in celebrations and rituals?

**Language:** What is the language(s) of Korea. Did the language originally come from somewhere else?

**Written language:** What form of written communication do the Koreans use? Where did the written language come from? Supply a small sample.

**Past -time for teens:** information can include what a typical teenager did for entertainment and socialization in the past and currently.

**Marriage:** information could include average age of marriage, arranged marriages, and traditional wedding ceremonies.

**Heritage:** information could include anything interesting you find about Korean heritage and how it is preserved within the country.

### **Korea References:**

1. East Asia: A New History by Rhoads Murphey
2. Fun with Kites by John and Kate Dyson
3. A Panorama of 5000 Years: Korean History by Andrew C. Nahm, Ph. D