



**INTRODUCTION TO
KOREA**

WHAT DO YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT KOREA? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN?

WHAT I KNOW	WHAT I WANT TO KNOW	WHAT I LEARNED

LOCATION & GEOGRAPHY



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LOCATION

- ❖ Korea is located in East Asia, in what is called the Korean Peninsula.
 - ❖ A **peninsula** is a piece of land that is mostly surrounded by water.
- ❖ Korea is divided on the **38th parallel** into South Korea (The Republic of Korea), and North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea).
 - ❖ Korea has been divided since **1945** after the end of WWII.
- ❖ Looking at the [map](#), can you name some of Korea's neighbors?



GEOGRAPHY

- ❖ Korea is best characterized by the many mountains and streams that decorate its terrain.
 - ❖ It's no wonder that the poetic interpretation of the word Korea is “**Land of High Mountains and Sparkling Streams**”!
- ❖ The highest mountains are found in the north eastern region of Korea, whereas farmable lowlands and river valleys are more prominent in the south and west.
- ❖ Look up some of the famous parks in Korea! What are some that you would like to visit?



Jirisan Mountain (top) and Seoraksan Mountain (bottom)

HISTORY



HISTORY OVERVIEW

❖ The history of Korea is very extensive, starting in 2,333 B.C.E with the ancient kingdom of **Gojoseon**. Watch the video to learn a quick history of the Korean Peninsula! Can you make a timeline of Korean history based on the video?

❖ The Joseon Dynasty was the longest lasting dynasty of Korea, it lasted for around 5 centuries!

All Korean kingdoms explained in less than 5 minutes (Over 2,000 years of Korean history)

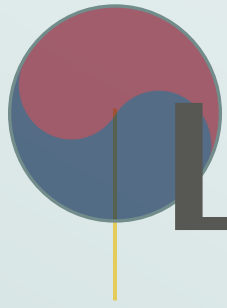


JOSEON DYNASTY

- ❖ The Joseon dynasty had two great peaks of cultural growth.
 - ❖ During this time, Korea saw the development of the Korean Tea Ceremony, Korean gardens, fortresses, palaces, paintings, and other innovations.
- ❖ The Joseon dynasty left a lasting influence in Korean culture, as most of the modern cultural norms and social attitudes developed during this time. **Neo-Confucianism** was especially influential, as it was the leading philosophy of the era.
 - ❖ Watch the video to see the great Gyeongbokgung Palace! Pay attention to some of the traditions that remain from the Joseon Dynasty.

Gyeongbokgung Palace Tour (KWOW #145)





LANGUAGE



KOREAN AND HANGUL Hangul Chart

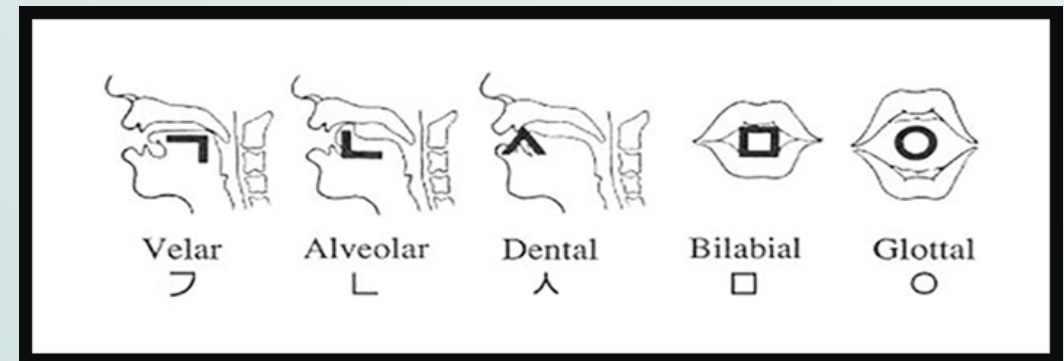
- ❖ The Korean language uses an alphabet called *Hangul*, meaning “Korean Script” or “Great Script”.
- ❖ It was developed by **King Sejong the Great** during the Joseon dynasty in 1446, and since then has been the official writing system.
- ❖ Before the development of *hangul*, Korea borrowed Chinese characters adapted to the Korean language called *Hanja*. However it was mostly used by the wealthy elite.

	g	n	d	r	m	b	s	o	j	ch	k	t	p	h
	ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ
a	가	나	다	라	마	바	사	아	자	차	카	타	파	하
ya	가	냐	다	랴	마	바	샤	야	자	차	카	타	파	하
eo	거	너	더	러	머	버	서	어	저	처	커	터	퍼	허
yeo	겨	녀	더	려	머	벼	셔	여	저	쳐	켜	터	퍼	허
o	고	노	도	로	모	보	소	오	조	초	코	토	포	호
yo	고	뇨	도	료	모	보	쇼	요	조	초	코	토	포	호
u	구	누	두	루	무	부	수	우	주	추	쿠	투	푸	후
yu	구	뉴	두	류	무	부	슈	유	주	추	쿠	투	푸	후
eu	ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ
i	기	니	디	리	미	비	시	이	지	치	키	티	피	히

HANGUL

- ❖ Hangul consists of 24 letters, 14 consonants and 10 vowels.
- ❖ When writing in Korean, the consonant and vowels are combined in the form of a box or square for each syllable. Print out some [practice samples](#) and give *hangul* a try!
- ❖ To help with pronunciation, each consonant in *hangul* was designed to show the **shape the mouth** would take when pronouncing each sound.

개 dog	개																		
다 everything, all	다																		
가구 furniture	가	구																	
나라 country	나	라																	
노래 song	노	래																	
누구 who	누	구																	
도마 cutting board	도	마																	



LANGUAGE PRACTICE

- ❖ Watch the video to learn how to say some basic essential expressions in Korean!



FOOD



Bibimbap

KOREAN FOOD

- ❖ Traditional Korean food is called *Hansik*, and it normally centers on rice, soup, and side dishes.
- ❖ Side dishes are called *banchan*, and are an essential part to Korean meals. Typical Korean meals can have anywhere from 2 to 12 side dishes!
- ❖ Many *banchan* are pickled or fermented, and are normally spicy. The most famous of these being *kimchi*, which has around 200 variations!
- ❖ Watch the video to learn how traditional kimchi is made!

Traditional Kimchi Recipe (Tongbaechu-kimchi: 통배추김치)



KOREAN FOOD

- ❖ Korean cuisine has been affected not only by its geography and climate (which is very warm in the summer and cold in the winter), but also by its neighbors and by trade!
- ❖ The introduction of chili peppers to Korean cuisine in the 17th century was a game changer for the culinary traditions.
- ❖ How do you think that being a Peninsula has affected the development of Korean food? What about weather?

- ❖ Want to learn a simple Korean recipe? Try following the video to make Bibimbap!

How to: Korean Bibimbap!





CLOTHING



KOREAN CLOTHING

- ❖ The traditional attire of Korea is called a *hanbok*. In modern day it is normally worn for special occasions, such as birthdays, anniversaries, and weddings.
 - ❖ Modern hanboks also exist and are starting to gain popularity in some social circles in Korea.
- ❖ The design of the *hanbok* changed slowly over the course of Korean history, but is typically characterized by the slim top and wide bottom.
 - ❖ Watch the video to learn more about the hanbok, what are the common colors used in *hanboks*? What are some common motifs used in *hanbok* designs and what do they mean?

Korea Today - Korea's Traditional Attire, Hanbok 한복



BOJAGI AND JOGAKBO

- ❖ Aside from clothing, cloth in Korea has also been used as a form of art.
- ❖ *Bojagi*, which translates to wrapping or covering cloth, was a special type of cloth used in religious rituals and marriages as well as to wrap, carry, and store objects.
 - ❖ *Bo*, means happiness or fortune. During marriages, mothers would make *bojagi* for their daughters linking them together after marriage.
- ❖ *Bojagi* would consist of one large piece of fabric decorated with embroidery or pieced from cloth scraps (typically from *hanboks*) in a patchwork design known as *Jogakbo*.
 - ❖ Watch the video to learn more about the art of *bojagi*!



Fabric is added section by section until the *bojagi* is finished.

HOLIDAYS



Lotus Lanterns celebrating Buddha's birthday

POPULAR KOREAN HOLIDAYS

- ❖ There are many holidays celebrated in Korea, with some of the major ones being **Seollal** (Lunar New Year), **Chuseok** (Korean Thanksgiving), Buddha's Birthday, Korean Independence Day, and **Dano** (Spring Festival).
- ❖ **Seollal**, is the first day of the Korean Lunar calendar and the most celebrated traditional holiday in Korea.
 - ❖ During this time people perform ancestral rites, pay respect to elders, and exchange good wishes. Koreans also typically eat **Tteokguk** (Korean rice cake soup) during this time.
- ❖ **Chuseok**, is a 3 day holiday typically celebrated around harvest season. During this time the ancestral memorial ceremony called **Charye** is performed. Koreans normally return to their hometowns and celebrate with their families.
 - ❖ The special food made for this holiday is **Songpyeon**, a type of rice cake. Watch the video to learn more about this holiday!



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Which part of Korea would you like to visit, and why?

What did you notice about traditional Korean fashion? Google current Korean fashion styles and see how they compare.

What type of Korean food do you want to try, or have you tried?

How are *Chuseok* and Thanksgiving similar and different?

REFERENCES

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