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TIP

April 4, 2013

Lesson Title: An Introduction to Korea

Time to Complete: Two 45-minute class sessions

Lesson Objectives:

Students will learn that:

- The early histories of Japan and Korea were closely linked, but the countries developed very differently.
- Though they share a common culture, life is very different in North and South Korea.

Academic Content Standards

7th-Grade Social Studies

- Mongol influence led to unified states in China and Korea, but the Mongol failure to conquer Japan allowed a feudal system to persist.
- Maps and other geographic representations can be used to trace the development of human settlement over time.
- Geographic factors promote or impede the movement of people, products, and ideas.
- Trade routes connecting Africa, Europe, and Asia fostered the spread of technology and major world religions.
- Improvements in transportation, communication, and technology have facilitated cultural diffusion among peoples around the world.
- The ability to understand individual and group perspectives is essential to analyzing historic and contemporary issues.

Literacy in History/Social Studies

- Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source.
- Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

Procedures

1. Section Preview – Read and ask students for response – You live in Incheon, one of South Korea's largest cities. Sometimes your grandparents tell you about the other family members who still live in North Korea. You have never met them, of course, and your grandparents have not seen them since they were children, more than 50 years ago. After hearing stories about these family members, you are curious about their lives. Would you like to visit North Korea?

- a. Consider reasons to visit:
 - i. Meet other family members
 - ii. Experience a new culture
 - iii. Learn more about own family history
 - b. Consider reasons not to visit:
 - i. Miss friends
 - ii. Worried about where you will stay
 - iii. Might not be able to find relatives
2. Read “History and Culture” pp. 597-598 and 600-601
 - a. “Korean Culture”
 - i. Though they share a common culture, life is very different in North and South Korea.
 - ii. In the past, which two religions did most Koreans practice? *Buddhism and Confucianism*”
 - iii. Why do North Korea’s leaders encourage tis people to retain old customs and traditions? *They think Korean culture is the best in the world.*
 - iv. Why might Christianity be spreading in South Korea but not in North Korea? *South Koreans come into contact with people from other countries; North Koreans are discouraged from practicing any religion.*
3. Read “The Koreas Today”
 - a. “South Korea Today”
 - i. The people of South Korea today have freedom and economic opportunities.
 - ii. Where do most South Koreans live? *A coastal plain in the western part of the country.*
 - iii. Why do some people say the government of South Korea is corrupt? *Concentration of wealth and power in the hands of big business led to corruption of government officials.*
 - iv. How might South Korea’s relationship with North Korea hurt its economy? *Possible answer – Resources used for military defense cannot be used for other kinds of development.*
 - b. “North Korea Today”
 - i. The people of North Korea today have little freedom or economic opportunity.

- ii. Who ruled North Korea from 1948 to 1994? *Kim Il Sung*
 - iii. What is a command economy? *A system in which the government plans the economy and decides what is produced.*
 - iv. Why might the breakup of the Soviet Union be positive for North Korea?
Possible answer – The fact that the Soviet Union, one of North Korea’s main allies, no longer exists may encourage North Korea to build relationships with other countries – this could help North Korea build its economy through trade.
- c. “Korean Reunification”
- i. Some people in both South and North Korea support the idea of Korean reunification.
 - ii. When did leaders from North and South Korea meet for the first time to discuss reunification? *2000*
 - iii. Why were there no roads across the demilitarized zone? *Each side feared the other would use it to launch an attack.*
- 4. Complete “Guided Reading Workbook” assignment
 - 5. Complete “Queen Sondok” assignment
 - 6. Complete “Flags of North and South Korea” assignment
 - 7. Complete “Section Quiz” assignment
 - 8. Complete “Medieval Korea” assessment

Materials:

- “History and Culture” and “The Koreas Today” Reading Packet
- “The Koreas Today” Assignment Packet
 - “Guided Reading Workbook” assignment
 - “Queen Sondok” assignment
 - “Flags of North and South Korea” assignment
 - “Section Quiz” assignment
- “Medieval Korea” Assessment

Resources

- “History and Culture” and “The Koreas Today” Reading Packet
- “The Koreas Today” Assignment Packet
- “Medieval Korea” Assessment

History and Culture

SECTION

2

If YOU lived there...

You live in Kyoto, one of the most beautiful cities in Japan. Your class is visiting a museum to see an amazing demonstration by a sword maker. You all stare in amazement as he hammers red-hot metal into a curved sword, then plunges it into cold water. He tells you that his family has been making swords for 300 years.

What kind of craft would you like to know?

BUILDING BACKGROUND Even though Japan is an industrial nation, the Japanese still respect and admire traditional arts and crafts and the people who make them, such as this sword maker. In fact, traditions continue to shape life in Japan and the Koreas today.

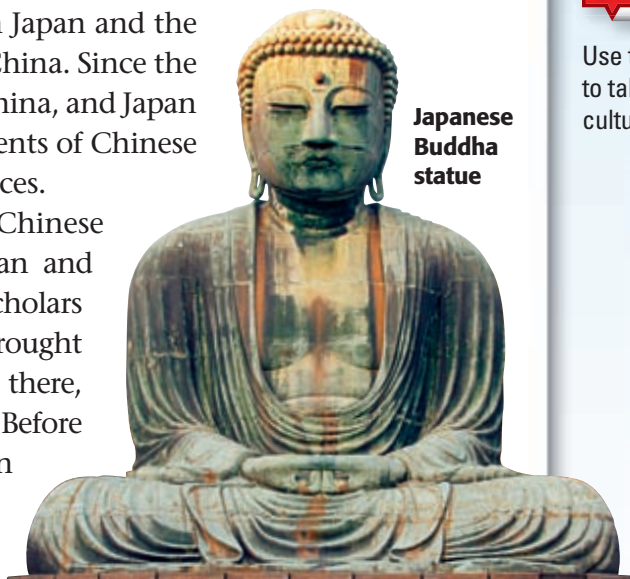
History

Both Japan and the Koreas have very long histories. Early in these histories, their cultures were intertwined. As time passed, though, Japan and the Koreas developed very differently.

Early History

Early in their histories, both Japan and the Koreas were influenced by China. Since the Korean Peninsula borders China, and Japan lies just across the sea, elements of Chinese culture seeped into both places.

Among the elements of Chinese culture that influenced Japan and Korea was Buddhism. Scholars and missionaries first brought Buddhism into Korea. From there, visitors carried it to Japan. Before long, Buddhism was the main religion in both countries.



Japanese Buddha statue

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. The early histories of Japan and Korea were closely linked, but the countries developed very differently.
2. Japanese culture blends traditional customs with modern innovations.
3. Though they share a common culture, life is very different in North and South Korea.

The Big Idea

History and tradition are very important to the people of Japan and the Koreas.

Key Terms and Places

Kyoto, p. 598
shoguns, p. 598
samurai, p. 598
kimonos, p. 600
kimchi, p. 601



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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes about the history and culture of Japan and the Koreas.

FOCUS ON READING

Where could you look to find out whether these facts are true?

Emperors, Shoguns, and Samurai

The first central government in Japan was based on China's government. For many centuries, emperors ruled in Japan just as they did in China. The imperial capital at Heian, now called **Kyoto**, was a center of art, literature, and learning. At times, some of Japan's emperors were more concerned with art than with running the country. Eventually, their power slipped away.

As the emperors' power faded, Japan fell under the control of **military leaders called shoguns**. Powerful generals, the shoguns ruled Japan in the emperor's name. Only one shogun could hold power at a time.

Serving under the shogun were armies of **samurai, or highly trained warriors**. They were fierce in battle and devoted to their leaders. As a result, the samurai were very respected in Japanese society. With their support, the shoguns continued to rule Japan well into the 1800s.

Later Japan

Not everyone was happy with the rule of the shoguns. In 1868 a group of samurai overthrew the shogun and gave power back to the emperor.

When World War II began, Japan allied itself with Germany and Italy. It wanted to build an empire in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. The Japanese drew the United States into the war in 1941 when they bombed the naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After many years of fighting, the Americans took drastic measures to end the war. They dropped devastating atomic bombs on two Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Shocked by these terrible weapons, the Japanese surrendered.

Korea

Like Japan, the Korean Peninsula has long been influenced by China. Although Korea remained independent, it was considered part of China's empire. Later, the Japanese invaded the Korean Peninsula. They were harsh rulers, and the Korean people grew to resent the Japanese.

After World War II, Korea was taken away from Japan and once again made independent. Rather than forming one country, though, the Koreans formed two. Aided by the Soviet Union, North Korea created a Communist government. In South Korea, the United States helped build a democratic government.

In 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea, starting the Korean War. The North Koreans wanted to unify all of Korea under a Communist government. With the aid of many other countries, including the United States, the South Koreans drove the invaders back. The Korean War was costly, and its effects linger in the Koreas today.

BIOGRAPHY

Hirohito (1901–1989)

Hirohito was Japan's emperor for most of the 1900s. As such, he led the country through periods of great crisis and change. He was emperor when Japan launched wars against China and Russia in the 1930s. He was also in power in 1945 when the United States bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After World War II ended, Hirohito led Japan through changes in its government and economy. Many of these changes affected Hirohito personally. For example, he gave up much of the power he had once held as emperor in favor of a democratic government.

Drawing Conclusions Why might a ruler give up much of his power?



Traditional Dress

These Korean dancers are wearing traditional costumes to perform a fan dance. Most of the time, people in both South Korea and North Korea wear Western-style clothes.

Customs and Traditions

Japan's history lives on in its customs and traditions. For example, many Japanese wear **traditional robes called kimonos** on special occasions, just as samurai did long ago. Most of the time, though, people in Japan wear Western-style clothing.

Traditional forms of art are also still popular in Japan. Among these art forms are two types of drama, Noh and Kabuki. Noh plays use music and dance to tell a story. Actors do not move much and wear masks, using their gestures to convey their tale. Kabuki actors, on the other hand, are much more active. Kabuki plays tell stories, but they often teach lessons about duty and other **abstract** ideas as well.

READING CHECK Summarizing How did Japan's history affect its culture today?

Korean Culture

Like Japan's, Korea's culture reflects the peninsula's long history. Traditional ways of life influence how people act and think.

Language and Religion

People in both North Korea and South Korea speak Korean. Unlike Japanese, Korean is written with an alphabet. People combine letters to form words, rather than using symbols to represent entire words or syllables as in Japanese.

In the past, most people in Korea were Buddhists and Confucianists. Recently, though, Christianity has also become widespread. About one-fourth of South Korea's people are Christian. North Korea, like many Communist countries, discourages people from practicing any religion.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

abstract
expressing a quality or idea without reference to an actual thing



Kimonos are the traditional clothing style in Japan. Both men and women wear kimonos for special occasions, such as weddings.

Customs and Traditions

Like the Japanese, the people of Korea have kept many ancient traditions alive. Many Korean foods, for example, have been part of the Korean diet for centuries.

One example of a long-lasting Korean food is **kimchi**, a dish made from pickled cabbage and various spices. First created in the 1100s, kimchi is still served at many Korean meals. In fact, many people think of it as Korea's national dish.

Traditional art forms have also remained popular in parts of the Koreas. This is true especially in North Korea. Since World War II, the Communist government of North Korea has encouraged people to retain many of their old customs and traditions. The Communists think that Korean culture is the best in the world and do everything they can to preserve it.

In South Korea, urbanization and the spread of modern lifestyles have led to a decline in some traditional customs. Rural areas are still very traditional, but people in urban areas have adopted new ways of life. Many of these ways are combinations of old and new ideas. For example, Korean art today combines traditional themes such as nature with modern forms, like film.

READING CHECK **Contrasting** How are North and South Korea's cultures different?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW In this section, you learned that the cultures of Japan and the Koreas have been shaped by the countries' histories. In the next section you will see how traditional cultures continue to influence life in Japan today.

Section 2 Assessment



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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

1. **a. Define** Who were **shoguns**?
b. Elaborate How did World War II affect life in Japan?
2. **a. Identify** What is one traditional style of clothing in Japan? What do people wear most of the time?
b. Elaborate How does Japan's religion reflect its history?
3. **a. Recall** What is **kimchi**? Why is it important in Korea?
b. Explain What has led to many of the differences between modern culture in North and South Korea?

Critical Thinking

4. **Analyzing** Draw a diagram like this one. Using your notes, list two features of Japanese culture in the left box and of Korean culture in the right box. Below each box, write a sentence about how each country's culture reflects its history.

Japanese Culture	Korean Culture

FOCUS ON WRITING

5. **Analyzing Cultures** Traditions and customs are central to life in Japan and the Koreas. How can you reflect this importance in your poem?

The Koreas Today

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. The people of South Korea today have freedom and economic opportunities.
2. The people of North Korea today have little freedom or economic opportunity.
3. Some people in both South and North Korea support the idea of Korean reunification.

The Big Idea

Though they share a common history and culture, the two Koreas have very different governments and economies.

Key Terms and Places

Seoul, p. 609

demilitarized zone, p. 609

Pyongyang, p. 611



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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes about South Korea and North Korea.

If YOU lived there...

You live in Incheon, one of South Korea's largest cities. Sometimes your grandparents tell you about the other family members who still live in North Korea. You have never met them, of course, and your grandparents have not seen them since they were children, more than 50 years ago. After hearing stories about these family members, you are curious about their lives.

Would you like to visit North Korea?

BUILDING BACKGROUND A truce ended the Korean War in 1953, but it left the Korean Peninsula divided into two very different countries. The conflict separated families from their relatives on the other side of the zone that divides South Korea from North Korea. Since then, the countries have developed in very different ways.

South Korea Today

Japan's closest neighbor is both a major economic rival and a key trading partner. That neighbor is South Korea. Like Japan, South Korea is a democratic country with a strong economy. Unlike Japan, South Korea shares a border with a hostile neighbor—North Korea.

Government and Economy

The official name of South Korea is the Republic of Korea. As the name suggests, South Korea's government is a republic. It is headed by a president and an assembly elected by the people, much like the United States is. In fact, the United States helped create South Korea's government after World War II.

The United States also helped make South Korea's economy one of the strongest in East Asia. In addition, Korean business leaders and government officials have worked together to ensure that the economy stays strong. In recent years, South Korea has become a major manufacturing country, exporting goods to places all around the world.

The Demilitarized Zone



The demilitarized zone separates the countries of South and North Korea. It is about 2.5 miles (4 km) wide and 150 miles (240 km) long. Armed guards patrol both sides of the zone.

Daily Life

Like Japan, South Korea is very densely populated. The capital city, **Seoul** (SOHL), is one of the most densely populated cities in the world. It has more than 44,000 people per square mile (17,000/sq km).

Although parts of South Korea are densely populated, very few people live in the mountainous interior. Most people live near the coast. A coastal plain in western South Korea is the most crowded part of the country.

In South Korea's cities, most people live in small apartments. Because space is scarce, housing is expensive. Also, cities sometimes suffer from pollution from the many factories, cars, and coal-fired heating systems found there. In some cities, industrial waste has also polluted the water.

Outside the cities, many South Koreans still follow traditional ways of life. Most of them are farmers who grow rice, beans, and cabbage they can use to make kimchi. They usually live on small farms.

Issues and Challenges

Government policies and international politics have led to some challenges for South Korea. Although South Korea has a successful economy, some people feel that its government is corrupt. For many years, four families have controlled much of the country's industry. As a result, wealth and power became concentrated in the hands of big business. This led to corruption of government officials, but efforts are being made to reform business practices.

A bigger challenge to South Korea is its relationship with North Korea. Since the end of the Korean War in the 1950s, the two countries have been separated. Between them is a **demilitarized zone**, an empty buffer zone created to keep the two countries from fighting. Although troops are not allowed in the demilitarized zone, guards patrol both sides.

READING CHECK Summarizing What issues face South Korea today?

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**ANIMATED
GEOGRAPHY**
Present-Day
Korean
Peninsula

North Korea Today

The official name of North Korea is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Its name, however, is misleading. North Korea is neither a democracy nor a republic. It is a totalitarian state, and the Communist Party controls both the government and the economy.

Government and Economy

The Communist government of North Korea was created soon after World War II. Its first leader was Kim Il Sung. He ruled the country from 1948 until his death in 1994. During this time, he created many policies that are still in effect today.

Kim ruled North Korea as a dictator. According to North Korea's constitution, most power rests in an elected legislature.

In truth, though, the legislature never had much power. Advised by members of the Communist Party, Kim ruled alone.

When Kim Il Sung died in 1994, his son Kim Jong Il took over. Like his father, the younger Kim rules as a dictator. He was elected by the North Korean legislature. The people had no say in his election.

As a Communist country, North Korea has a command economy. This means that the government plans the economy and decides what is produced. It also owns all land and controls access to jobs.

Unlike Japan and South Korea, North Korea is rich in mineral resources. With these resources, factories in North Korea make machinery and military supplies. However, most factories use out-of-date technology. As a result, North Korea is much poorer than Japan and South Korea.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

policy rule, course of action

Life in Korea



Because it is so rocky, very little of North Korea's land can be farmed. The farmland that does exist is owned by the government. It is farmed by cooperatives—large groups of farmers who work the land together. These cooperatives are not able to grow enough food for the country. As a result, the government has to import food. This can be a difficult task because North Korea's relations with most other countries are strained.

Daily Life

Like Japan and South Korea, North Korea is largely an urban society. Most people live in cities. The largest city is the capital, **Pyongyang** (PYUHNG-YAHNG), in the west. Pyongyang is a crowded urban area. More than 3 million people live in the city.



The differences between life in South Korea and North Korea can be seen in their capitals. Seoul, South Korea (shown to the left), is a busy, modern city and a major commercial center. In comparison, North Korea's capital, Pyongyang (shown above), has little traffic or commercial development.

ANALYZING VISUALS What do these photos suggest about life in Seoul and Pyongyang?

Life in Pyongyang is very different from life in Tokyo or Seoul. For example, few people in Pyongyang own private cars. The North Korean government allows only top Communist officials to own cars. Most residents have to use buses or the subway to get around. At night, many streets are dark because of electricity shortages.

The people of North Korea have fewer rights than the people of Japan or South Korea. For example, the government controls individual speech as well as the press. Because the government feels that religion conflicts with many Communist ideas, it also discourages people from practicing any religions.

Issues and Challenges

Why does North Korea, which is rich in resources, have shortages of electricity and food? These problems are due in part to choices the government has made. For years, North Korea had ties mostly with other Communist countries. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, North Korea has been largely isolated from the rest of the world. It has closed its markets to foreign goods, which means that other countries cannot sell their goods there. At the same time, North Korea lacks the technology to take advantage of its resources. As a result, many people suffer and resources go unused.

In addition, many countries worry about North Korea's ability to make and use nuclear weapons. In 2002 North Korea announced that it had enough materials to build six nuclear bombs. Then in 2006 and again in 2009, it conducted nuclear weapons tests. These developments worried countries in Asia and around the world.

READING CHECK **Generalizing** What is North Korea's relationship with the world?



Young people at a political rally express support for reunification. The flag in the background shows a united Korea.

The governments of both South Korea and North Korea have also expressed their support for reunification. Leaders from the two countries met in 2000 for the first time since the Korean War. As part of their meeting, they discussed ways to improve relations and communication between the two countries. For example, they agreed to build a road through the demilitarized zone to connect the two Koreas.

The chief obstacle to the reunification of Korea is the question of government. South Koreans want a unified Korea to be a democracy. North Korean leaders, on the other hand, have insisted that Korea should be Communist. Until this issue is resolved, the countries will remain separate.

READING CHECK Summarizing What issues stand in the way of Korean reunification?

Korean Reunification

FOCUS ON READING

What opinion do many Koreans hold toward reunification?

For years, people from both South and North Korea have called for their countries to be reunited. Because the two Koreas share a common history and culture, these people believe they should be one country. As time has passed, more and more people have voiced support for reunification.

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW

In this chapter you learned about the history, cultures, and people of Japan and the Koreas. In the next chapter, you will examine a region that lies farther south, a region called Southeast Asia.

Section 4 Assessment



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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

- a. Define** What is the **demilitarized zone**? Why does it exist?

b. Summarize What factors have helped South Korea develop a strong economy?
- a. Identify** What is the capital of North Korea? What is life like there?

b. Contrast How is North Korea's government different from South Korea's?
- a. Recall** Why do many Koreans support the idea of reunification?

b. Evaluate If you lived in North or South Korea, do you think you would support the reunification of the countries? Why or why not?

Critical Thinking

- Analyze** Draw a diagram like the one below. In the left box, write three statements about South Korea. In the right box, write three statements about North Korea. In the oval, list one factor that supports reunification and one that hinders it.

South Korea

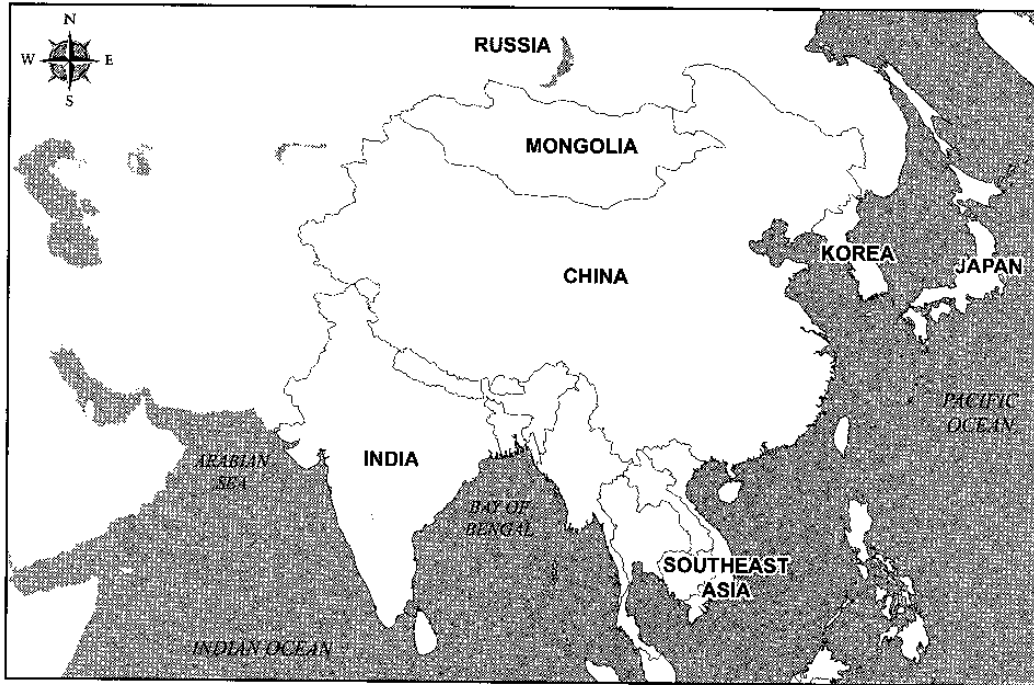
Reunification

North Korea

FOCUS ON WRITING

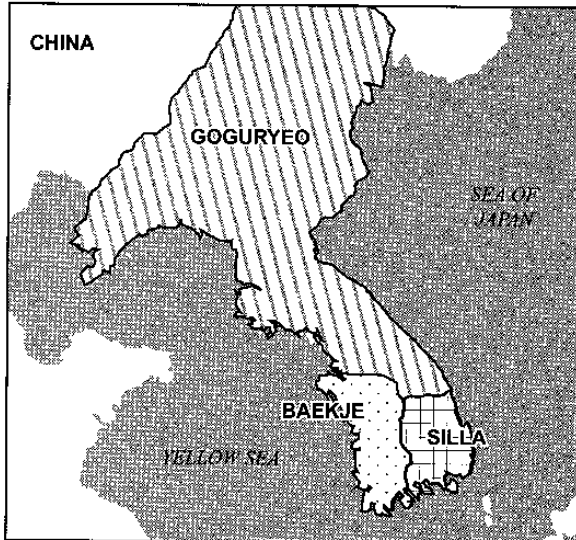
- Considering Korea** As you read about the Koreas, did you think of an image, or picture, that would work in a poem? List your ideas.

64. Medieval Korea

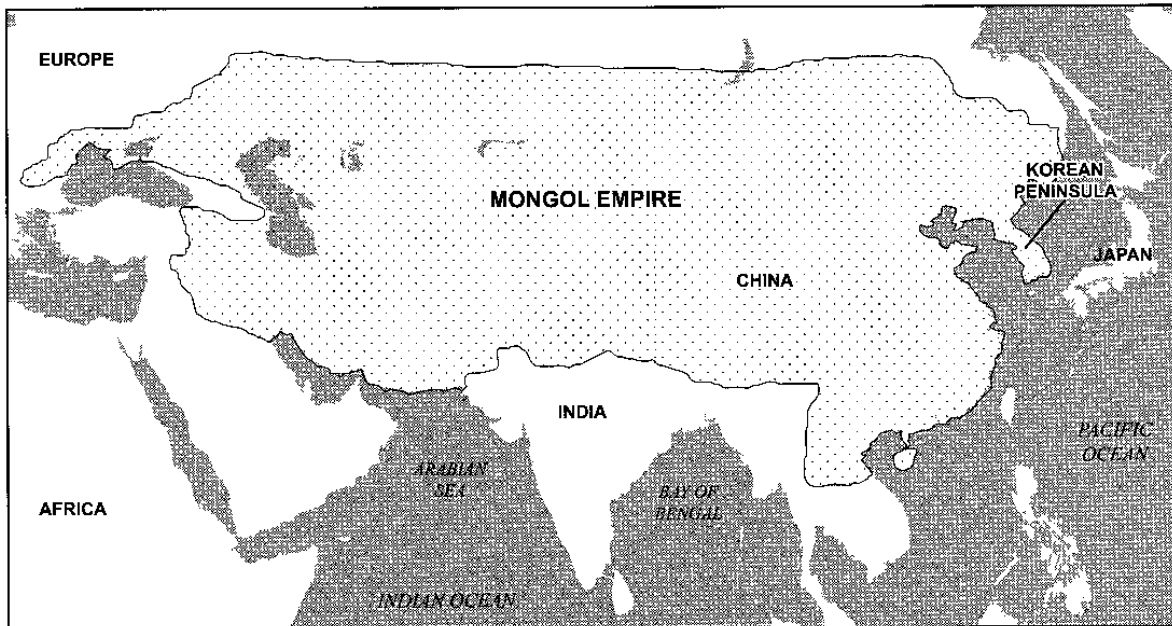


A ¹Korea is a peninsula in eastern Asia. ²It borders China and is only 79 miles from the shore of Japan. ³Both China and Japan invaded Korea and influenced its culture.

The Three Kingdoms, 668



B ⁴In 4000 B.C. the Stone Age people inhabiting the Korean peninsula were farmers. ⁵By 300 B.C. these people had learned to use weapons and the tribes had evolved into kingdoms. ⁶By A.D. 668, through conquests, Korea was divided into three kingdoms: Goguryeo, Baekje, and Silla. ⁷All three of these kingdoms were considered advanced and heavily influenced by Chinese. ⁸Confucianism and Buddhism were the two most common religions during the time of The Three Kingdoms. ⁹In 675, with the help of the Chinese Tang Dynasty, the Silla and Chinese conquered the other two kingdoms. ¹⁰The Tang had hoped that this victory would lead to its control of the conquered territories, so they set up military outposts. ¹¹The Silla also wanted the conquered territories, so they encouraged citizens within those territories to resist and rebel against the Tang. ¹²By 735, the Silla united nearly all of Korea under its control.



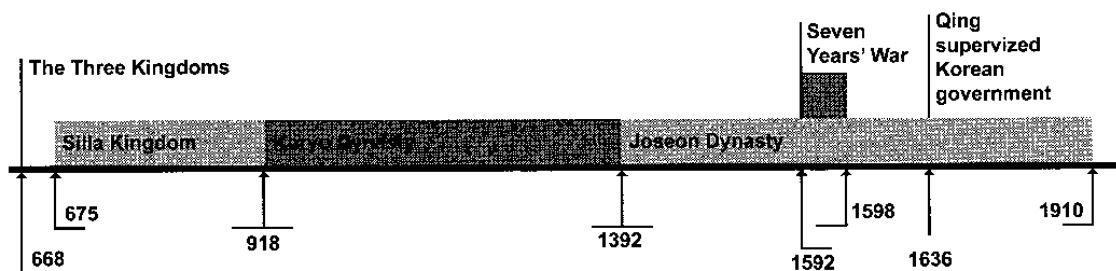
Mongol Empire Included Control of the Korean Peninsula, 1290

C ¹³In 918 Korean rebels conquered the Silla and established the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392), which gave Korea its name. ¹⁴The Koryo faced six Mongol attempts to invade Korea from 1231-1259. ¹⁵Many Koreans were killed in these attacks. ¹⁶Unable to defeat the Mongols, the Koryo agreed to pay a heavy tribute to the Mongols, which included many goods along with craftsmen and children to serve as slaves to the Mongols. ¹⁷The Koryo dynasty survived under Mongol control, and beginning in the 1350s regained part of Korea from the Mongols as the Mongolian Empire began to weaken.

D ¹⁸By 1392 the Koreans had completely ousted the Mongols and the Joseon (Choson) Dynasty began. ¹⁹This dynasty lasted to 1910. ²⁰The Joseon established the capital of Seoul. ²¹During

the Joseon Dynasty the Japanese invaded Korea twice from 1592-1598, but Korea, with the help of the Chinese, defeated the invaders. ²²These invasions are known as the Seven Years' War.

E ²³From 1627-1636 the Qing Dynasty of China invaded Korea twice. ²⁴The Koreans (Joseon Dynasty) stopped the first invasion, but were defeated by the Chinese in the second. ²⁵The Koreans paid tribute (payments) to the Qing until the late 1800s in exchange for the right to rule Korea under the oversight (supervision) of the Qing. ²⁶During this period Korea isolated itself from much of the world. ²⁷This isolation kept Korean technology and industry behind the developing world around them.



1. During the Joseon Dynasty, the relationship Korea had with China was one of:
- a. subservience
 - b. slavery
 - c. superiority
 - d. partnership

Which sentence best supports the answer?

2. The Qing Dynasty:
- a. invaded Korea.
 - b. oversaw the Korean government.
 - c. caused the Koreans to cut themselves off from many nations.
 - d. all of the above

Which sentences best support the answer?

_____, _____, _____

3. The purpose of this lesson is to:
- a. describe how Korea fought with Japan throughout its history
 - b. show how Mongols controlled the Japanese
 - c. show how China used Korea to fight Japan
 - d. show how Korea's relations with its neighbors affected its history

4. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.
- a. _____ The Three Kingdoms were Islamic.
- Which sentence best supports the answer?
- _____

- b. _____ Korea is nearly surrounded by water.
- Which sentence best supports the answer?
- _____

- c. _____ The Koryo Dynasty defeated the Mongol invasion.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

- d. _____ Under Chinese control, the Koreans kept to themselves and did not advance as quickly as some other nations.

Which sentences best support the answer?

_____, _____

5. What can we infer about the Koryo Dynasty?
- a. It was weaker than the Silla Dynasty.
 - b. It was ruled by the Tang Dynasty.
 - c. It had a poor army.
 - d. It was weaker than the Mongols.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

6. Based on the lesson, what is the main reason Korea faced challenges from outside forces?
- a. It was weak.
 - b. Korea had products to trade.
 - c. Its had powerful invading neighbors.
 - d. Korea was aggressive.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

7. Number the events in chronological order.
- a. _____ The Qing conquered Korea.
 - b. _____ Koryo Dynasty established.
 - c. _____ Seven Years' War
 - d. _____ Silla rules Korea.

8. Mark each statement F for fact or O for opinion.
- a. _____ Koreans are great fighters.
 - b. _____ Foreigners controlled Korea for many years.
 - c. _____ Japan was envious of Korea's farmland.
 - d. _____ The Mongols received payments from the Koreans.

9. What two religions were practiced during the Three Kingdoms?
- a. Buddhism
 - b. Christianity
 - c. Confucianism
 - d. Islam

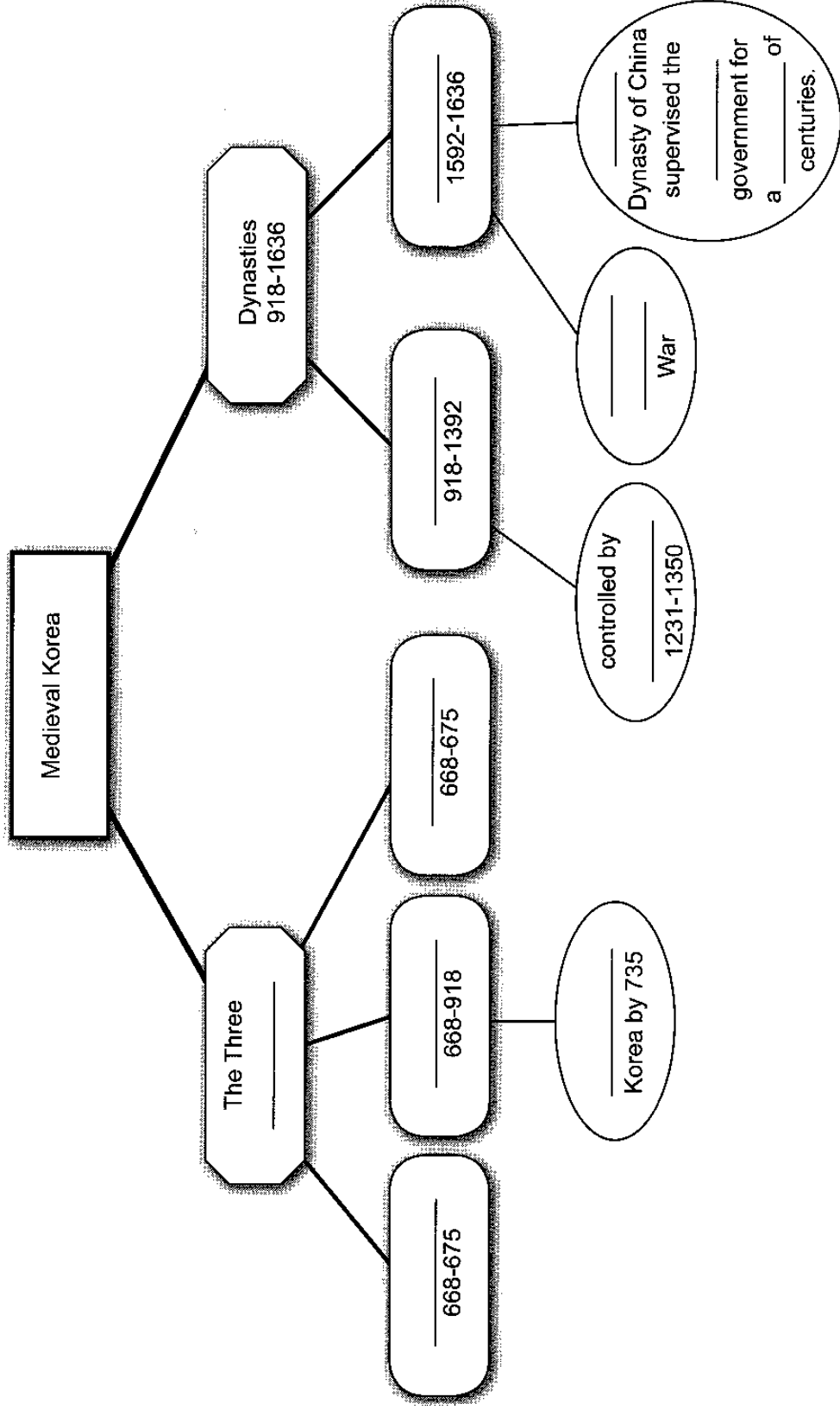
Which sentence best supports the answer?

Written Response Question

10. List two ways that Korean isolation in the 1500s hurt the Korean people. Please use complete sentences to answer the question.

Complete the concept map by using the words from the choice box below.

Seven Years' War Silla couple Mongols united
Joseon Kingdoms Qing Korean Koryo Baekje



Japan and the Koreas

Section 4



MAIN IDEAS

1. The people of South Korea today have freedom and economic opportunities.
2. The people of North Korea today have little freedom or economic opportunity.
3. Some people in both South and North Korea support the idea of Korean reunification.

Key Terms and Places

Seoul the capital of South Korea

demilitarized zone an empty buffer zone created to keep two countries from fighting

Pyongyang the capital of North Korea

Section Summary

SOUTH KOREA TODAY

The official name of South Korea is the Republic of Korea. It is headed by a president and assembly elected by the people. The United States helped create South Korea's government after World War II.

Like Japan, South Korea is densely populated. Its capital, **Seoul**, is a prosperous and modern city with some 40,000 people per square mile. Many people live near the western coastal plain, preferring it to the mountainous interior. In the cities, people live in small apartments and enjoy an extensive subway system. In the country, many South Koreans live on small farms, grow rice, beans, and cabbage, and follow traditional ways of life.

Although South Korea has a strong economy, in the past, the country's industry was controlled by only four families, and some members of these families were corrupt. New laws and greater foreign investment have brought reforms. South Korea is also challenged by its relationship with North Korea. Since the end of the Korean War in the 1950s, the countries have been separated by a **demilitarized** zone, a buffer zone patrolled by soldiers on both sides.

What is the population density of Seoul?

Underline the sentence that explains what a demilitarized zone is.

Section 4, *continued*

NORTH KOREA TODAY

North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is misleading. The country is a totalitarian state controlled by the Communist Party. From 1948 until 1994 it was led by the dictator Kim Il Sung. Since then his son Kim Jong Il has ruled. North Korea has a command economy in which the government makes all economic decisions. North Korea uses much of its rich mineral resources to make machinery and military supplies in out-of-date factories. Farms are run as cooperatives, but there is little good farmland and some food must be imported.

Although most North Koreans live in cities, such as the capital **Pyongyang**, their life is different from that of their neighbors to the south. Most people are poor and they are denied the rights of freedom of the press, speech, and religion.

Communist North Korea has been very isolated since the fall of the Soviet Union. Its economy has caused shortages and poverty. Also, many countries worry about North Korea's ability to make and use nuclear weapons. Negotiations are underway to resolve this issue.

What years did Kim Il Sung rule North Korea?

Circle the rights that are denied to North Koreans.

KOREAN REUNIFICATION

Both North and South Korean governments have expressed support for reunification. In 2000, leaders met for the first time since the Korean War. They agreed to build a road connecting the two Koreas. However, they don't agree on the type of government the reunified country would have. South Korea prefers democracy, and North Korea prefers communism.

Underline the sentence that explains the greatest obstacle to the reunification of Korea.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**Critical Thinking: Comparing and Contrasting**

Draw a Venn diagram to compare and contrast South Korea and North Korea.

Section 4, *continued*

cooperative

demilitarized zone

policy

Pyongyang

Seoul

DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and choose the correct term from the word bank to replace the underlined phrase. Write the term in the space provided and then define the term in your own words.

1. North Korea is mostly farmed by these groups who work the

land together. _____

Your definition: _____

2. This densely populated city is the capital of South Korea. _____

Your definition: _____

3. This area lies between North and South Korea to keep the two countries from

fighting. _____

Your definition: _____

4. Few people in this crowded city own private cars because the North Korean

government allows only top Communist officials to own cars. _____

Your definition: _____

Japan and the Koreas**Biography**

Queen Sondok

c. 581–647



HOW SHE AFFECTED THE REGION Queen Sondok was the first woman to become Queen of Korea. She ruled Korea from 634–647.



As you read the biography below, think about how Queen Sondok's intelligence helped her rule Korea.

VOCABULARY

ambassador government official

forbade told not to do something

devout strong believer

Did you know that almost 1,500 years ago, a woman ruled Korea? At that time, the Korean peninsula was ruled by three separate kingdoms. In the Silla kingdom, the king had no sons to inherit his throne. So in 634, his throne was passed on to his oldest daughter, Sondok Yo Ju.

Even before Sondok became queen, she showed signs of breaking out of Korea's traditional roles for girls and women. She was very interested in astronomy at a young age. She asked an **ambassador** from China to teach her astronomy, but he refused. He did not think a woman should learn such things.

But Sondok studied on her own. Eventually, she made a calculation predicting when a solar eclipse would take place. Her prediction was different from the ambassador's, and her prediction was correct. This made the ambassador angry. After this, Sondok's father **forbade** her from studying astronomy, but she continued anyway.

When Sondok became queen in 634, the Silla Kingdom was the most peaceful of the three kingdoms in the Korean Peninsula. Still, Queen Sondok had to deal with threats from neighboring kingdoms during her reign. She almost lost her

throne to a group of rebels who would not accept a woman ruler. They were stopped by Queen Sondok's loyal general.

After that, Queen Sondok worked harder to promote peace throughout the Korean peninsula. She built alliances with China. China then had to help her defend Korea from attacking kingdoms. These alliances also paved the way for future rulers to defeat neighboring kingdoms and unite Korea.

Sondok was a **devout** Buddhist, and she had many temples built while she was queen. She also built one of the first space observatories. Queen Sondok was considered a kind and wise ruler. She died in 647, but remains an important part of Korean history.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. Recall What were some of Queen Sondok's major achievements?

2. Express and Support a Point of View What do you think was Queen Sondok's greatest accomplishment? Provide reasons to support your point of view.

ACTIVITY

Use library and Internet sources to find pictures of temples and other buildings Queen Sondok had built during her reign. Create a poster displaying examples of these buildings. Include captions that describe each picture on your poster.

Flags of North and South Korea



ABOUT THE SOURCE After World War II, Korea became two independent countries. North Korea formed a Communist government, and South Korea became a democracy. Below are the flags each country adopted.

FLAG OF NORTH KOREA

On the North Korean flag, the red star represents the country's revolutionary traditions created by Kim Il Sung. It also symbolizes North Korea's goal of reuniting with South Korea. The white in the flag symbolizes the culture of Korea. The blue bands on the top and bottom represent Korea's determination to unite people around the world in the fight for independence, peace, and friendship.



Source: Central Intelligence Agency, online source:
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/flags/>

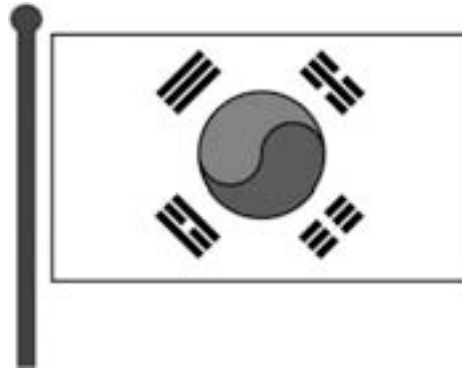
WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. What does the red star represent on the North Korean flag?

2. What overall theme or message is symbolized in the North Korean flag?

FLAG OF SOUTH KOREA

On the South Korean flag, the white background symbolizes peace. The red and blue circle in the center is called a yin-yang. This is a symbol from ancient Chinese philosophy that represents the balance between positive and negative forces. The flag also includes four trigrams from the ancient *I Ching*, or *Book of Changes*. These represent heaven; fire, sun, and yang; water and moon; and earth.



Source: Central Intelligence Agency, online source:
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/flags/>

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. What does the circle in the center of the flag represent?

2. What overall theme or message is symbolized in the South Korean flag?

MAKE A COMPARISON

1. Compare and contrast what the color white represents in each flag.

2. Compare and contrast the overall themes represented in each flag.

Japan and the Koreas**Section Quiz****Section 4**

FILL IN THE BLANK For each of the following statements, fill in the blank with the appropriate word, phrase, or name.

1. _____ Korea is rich in mineral resources.
2. Since the end of World War II North and South Korea have been separated by a _____.
3. The official name of South Korea is the _____ of Korea.
4. North Korea is ruled by a dictator who is advised by members of the _____ Party.
5. The chief obstacle to the reunification of Korea is the disagreement over the form of _____.
6. _____ took over as the dictator of North Korea after the death of his father, Kim Il Sung.
7. South Korea's economy is one of the _____ in East Asia.
8. The South Korean government hopes to put an end to _____ through reform programs.
9. Many countries worry about North Korea's ability to make _____ weapons.
10. The capital of South Korea is _____.