

13. KOREA ONLINE

GRADE LEVEL: 9-12

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SUBJECT: Global Cultures, Social Studies

TIME REQUIRED: 1-2 class periods

OBJECTIVES:

1. Access new Web sites available on Korea.
2. Learn about current events in Korea.
3. Compare Korean and American issues, perspectives, and priorities in various political and cultural arenas.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Internet access
- Printer

PROCEDURE:

1. Introduce the students to the availability of news via the Internet. Students should be told that U.S. news Web sites of daily papers, weekly magazines, television networks, and other journals are available. They should also be told that Korean news and events are also easily accessible via the Internet. Numerous English language Web sites exist that provide a window into the current Korean lifestyle (as suggested by related lesson plans in cultural studies and religious studies).
2. Assign various topics as suggested in the sample lesson plan. If a computer lab is available, research can be done during class time. If the lesson is assigned as homework, students can bring their research into class and discuss their findings.
3. Assign the students the task of locating and copying down summaries of the three lead stories on the Web site of their choice on the day of the assignment. Have students do the same thing for the American Web site of their choice. Then, have them locate the culture pages for the two sites and copy or summarize the lead story.
4. Have the students summarize their findings in terms of the following questions:
 - What seem to be the main interests portrayed in the newspapers' lead stories?
 - Do you think readers in each country are aware of the headlines in the other country?
 - Do the cultural stories reveal any difference in cultural interests? (Note: examine more cultural stories to answer this more fully.)
 - What did you learn about South Korean concerns in reading these stories?

EVALUATION:

Grade the students' written summaries and responses to questions. Assess the students' group work and participation in discussion.

RESOURCES ON WEB SITES:

Assignment 1: Lead Stories on Korea

Research lead stories about Korea using the Internet.

A. South Korean News

(A listing of a few of the key English language sites from Korea)

The Korea Herald.....<http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/>
The Chosun Ibo.....<http://www.chosun.com/>
JoongAng Ibo.....<http://english.joins.com/>
The Korea Times.....<http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/>

B. North Korean News

News from North Korea is difficult to obtain because the country is very isolationist. To see the perspective from the North Korean government, look up NEWS FROM KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY OF DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) at <http://www.kcna.co.jp/>. This Web site contains news stories that may be considered as biased propaganda, but it still gives access to the North Korean public positions on various topics.

C. News in the United States

(A listing of four of the thousands of news Web sites available in the United States. A Web site for your city, town, or region may be available and located via various search engines)

The New York Times.....<http://www.nytimes.com>
ABC News.....<http://www.abcnews.com>
The Los Angeles Times.....<http://www.latimes.com>
Boston.com.....<http://www.boston.com>

Assignment 2: Korean Culture

Pick a cultural topic to research on the Internet. Locate three articles on the topic. Summarize each article and produce a report on the topic. Possible topics include Korean marriage rites and rituals, Korean dance, Korean art, Korean film. (Following is a list of key Korean culture Web sites.)

Korean Culture Pages.....<http://www.sogang.ac.kr/~burns/cultindex.html>
Gateway to Korea.....<http://www.han.com/gateway.html>
Korean Materials.....<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~asiaref/korea/subjguides.htm>
Library of Congress Study.....<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/krtoc.html>

ENRICHMENT:

Research Korean Religion

Pick a religion or religious issue to research on the Internet. Locate three sites with substantial content on your topic and produce a report. Possible topics include Buddhism in Korea, Confucianism in Korea, Taoism in Korea, Christianity in Korea, Shamanism in Korea, Korean temples, and Korean Christian martyrs.

(Here is a list of key Korean religion Web sites)

Korean Religions.....<http://loki.stockton.edu/~gilmorew/consorti/1qeasia.htm>
Korean Buddhism:.....<http://www.buddhapia.com/eng/>
Confucianism.....<http://www.friesian.com/confuci.htm>
Confucianism.....<http://www.wam.umd.edu/~tkang/>
Taoism Information Page.....<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/taoism/>
Shamanism.....<http://ccsun7.sogang.ac.kr/~burns/cult951/shaman.html>