

OLD AND NEW IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

GRADE LEVEL: Three

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SUBJECT: Social Studies integrated with Language Arts

TIME REQUIRED: Two class periods

OBJECTIVES:

As a result of this lesson, students will:

1. Recognize key concepts about Seoul in the related article by highlighting important phrases.
2. Compare and contrast life in Seoul with life in their own community.
3. Construct a diorama or poster of Seoul based on research.
4. Explain the model in writing (or in oral presentations to classmates.)

APPLICABLE NCSS STANDARDS:

1. Culture
 - a. Explore and describe similarities and differences in the ways groups, societies and cultures address similar human needs and concerns.
 - b. Compare ways in which people from different cultures think about and deal with their physical environment and social conditions.
2. People, Places and Environments
 - c. Interpret, use and distinguish various representations of the earth.
 - d. Use appropriate resources, data sources and geographic tools to generate, manipulate and interpret information

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

World Map, handouts, resource material on Korea and home community (can use computers with Internet connection and list of websites that focus on Korea and home community.)

PROCEDURE:

1. Brainstorm answers to the question, "What is it like in Korea?" with your students. Have them brainstorm as a class briefly. Make lists of their responses.
2. Then give the students a basic description of Korea. Locate Korea on a world map (physical, if possible) and/or read aloud from an information/picture book. Point out Korea's location, a peninsula on the Asian continent, its many mountains and rivers, its political neighbors, etc. Explain how Korea has a history of five thousand years and has been known by many names. Its capital, since 1394, is Seoul, which means "center of everything," because it was thought to be the best spot on the Peninsula. Korea is divided politically between the North and South. Today, some of the products we receive from South Korea come from the Samsung, Hyundai, and LG Corporations. There are many US military men and women working in South Korea, and many people of Korean descent live in the U.S.
3. Tell students that they are going to visit Seoul, Korea and need to know more information to prepare for their trip. Provide students with the handout "Old and New in Seoul, Korea" with the paper folded so only the title is exposed. On the top of paper folded over the article, have students write words and phrases they think may be found in the article.

4. Have students open the flap exposing the article and begin to read together, underlining key words and phrases. (You may wish to introduce vocabulary words, such as peninsula, society, tradition, modern and ancient before reading the article).

5. After reading the article together, students can read it again silently with a partner, or in a group. They may also use a dictionary to find the meanings of these words: peninsula, society, tradition, modern, ancient.

6. Now that they know a little bit more about what to expect in Seoul, students can do some further research to gather facts. Where else can you go to learn and find an adventure in Seoul? What clothes should you pack? What type of food would you eat? Find one indoor (cultural institution/landmark) and one outdoor place you wish to visit. Possible resources include:

Let's Visit Seoul by Suzanne Crowder Han,

Let's Visit Korea by Susan Crowder Han,

Tour guide books from the library

Travel brochures from the Korean National Tourism Bureau (New Jersey Tel: 201-585-0909; CA Tel: 213-382-3435) websites, such as:

<http://www.intranet.csupomona.edu/~tassi/korea.htm>

http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/public_html/lesson_plans.htm

<http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/korea/teacher.htm>

<http://english.seoul.go.kr/>

http://www.visitseoul.net/english_new/sub_main/submain07.htm

7. After their research, your students will be ready to return to developing the class lists of information.

8. Discuss how Seoul is similar and different from our own community. Has your community always been the same? Is there evidence of old and new in our own community? What are the highlights of our community? Where in our own community would we take a foreign visitor?

9. Present the research findings: oral report with a project (3-D display, shoe-box diorama, mural, clothes-hanger mobile, travel brochure, poster, Power Point presentation, etc.)

EVALUATION:

The oral report and project can be graded using a rubric:

Presentation (three points each): Gave an introduction and a closing, used a strong, fluid voice, made eye contact with the audience, information was accurate.

Project (three points each): creativity, use of color, organization, use of design, neatness.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY:

Use the graphic organizer (handout number two) to list places in your own community that you would show a visitor.

"Old and New in Seoul, Korea"

Seoul, the capital of Korea since 1394, is known around the world as one of the most exciting cities in Asia. Seoul is a very modern city within an ancient city. Ancient palaces can be seen next to high rise buildings with huge video-screens on them. During the 1960s, after the Korean War, South Korea made great economic progress and Seoul became known as the "Miracle on the Han River." The government set out to make Korea into a modern industrial nation and soon, new industry sprang up around Seoul, causing the population to soar to 10.6 million. Today, a quarter of South Korea's population lives in Seoul, which has three times the population of Pusan, the country's second largest city. As the capital, Seoul is the financial, political, commercial, recreational, educational and cultural center of Korea.

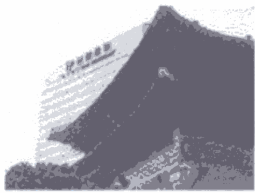
In 1394, King T'aejo chose Seoul as his capital because the area is surrounded by four inner mountains and four outer mountains. For thousands of years, Asian people have thought of mountains as living creatures and built their cities

near them in order to borrow their life force. The outer mountains were even given animal names, such as the Blue Dragon and White Tiger. Both the mountains and the Han River are believed to be responsible for keeping the life-force inside Seoul. It is nature, surrounding Seoul on all sides, that makes the large capital city feel like a warm and cozy nest.

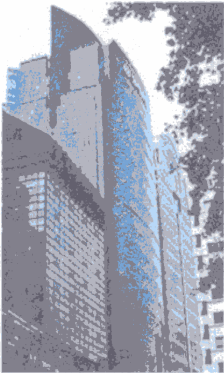
Seoul is a city filled with both old and new objects; curved roof tops and beautiful doorways from long ago can be easily found and modern roads run through old buildings. Old palaces still stand among high rise buildings. There is a place for both the old and the modern. The curved roof tops are what make Korean palaces different from palaces in China or Japan. One of the biggest tourist attractions in Seoul is the main royal palace (called the Kyongbok Palace). Harmony between nature and people was an important part of this 390-room palace.

Insa-dong is another famous Seoul tourist attraction. The stores are full of antiques telling stories of Seoul's past. Insa-dong is, as someone put it, a "street museum." You can always find plenty of objects and clues from the past. Other attractions in this area include the many art galleries and tea houses. Street festivals are held every Sunday in Insa-dong.

Since its founding in 1394, Seoul has evolved from a royal residence into an international city and a center of political, economic and cultural activity. During this transition, it devoted resources to cultural institutions, building museums, and restoring old palaces. It developed into a center for the arts and education and boasts Korea's top universities. For both visitors and residents, it offers a range of goods in department stores, galleries, craft shops and specialty lounges. Today, Koreans live in harmony with their history, even as they quickly absorb new, modern culture. Their culture, and Seoul's, are open to the world.

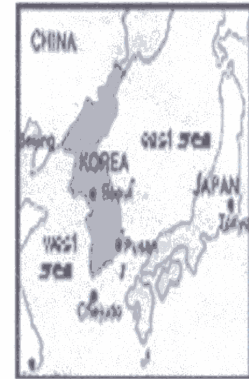
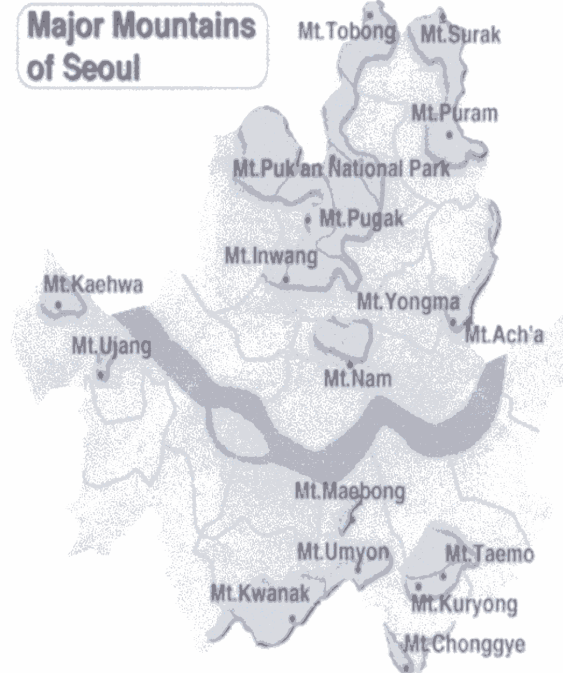


Curved roof top



Tall high rise building

Major Mountains of Seoul



PLAN A COMMUNITY FIELD TRIP

A visitor from out of town needs a tour guide for the day. You have been chosen for this task, so you must plan an exciting day of learning and adventure in our community. During your day, you must take your visitor to one indoor place, one outdoor place and one restaurant.

After reviewing the resource material provided by your teacher, you will choose three places from the following categories to take your visitor. When you’ve made your final decisions, complete the graphic organizer below.

My Indoor Place (Cultural Institution/ Landmark) is:	At this place, you can...	At this place, you can...	At this place, you can...
My Outdoor place (Recreational Area) is:	At this place, you can...	At this place, you can...	At this place, you can...
My Restaurant Is:	The 2 menu items I would order for myself and guest would be because		