

COMPARING TWO KOREAN HOLIDAYS

GRADES: 3-5

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SUBJECT: Society/Culture

TIME REQUIRED: Five to seven class periods

OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify and describe traditional foods, clothing and activities associated with *Sollal* and *Ch'usok*.
2. Understand and explain the meaning behind *Sollal* and *Ch'usok*.
3. Understand the significance of respecting elders and ancestors in Korean culture.
4. Demonstrate or teach one activity related to either Korean holiday.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Various reading material about Korean holidays/customs (see Suggested Resources)
- Internet websites (see Possible Websites)
- Culture kit items (spinning top, boy and girl traditional clothing, CD-ROM, music CD, audio tapes of Korean music, Yutnori game and directions) are helpful
- Korean recipe books or access to Korean recipes on Internet
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Pencils, paper

BACKGROUND:

Korean traditions are strongly felt through celebrating holidays. The holidays *Sollal* and *Ch'usok* are times during which Koreans pay respect to their ancestors, dress in traditional clothing, and participate in other traditional activities and games. For this reason, these two holidays work well when comparing similarities and differences. In addition, students can draw on knowledge of their own family's celebrations and customs. Further information on these two holidays can be found on the completed Gathering Grid that follows.

This lesson is to be done after an initial study of Korea's geographic and relative location. The book *Count Your Way through Korea* provides a nice introduction to Korea, and the teacher can refer back to it when the students learn about traditional clothing. Learning about these two holidays will help students to gain a better understanding of traditions in Korea, such as ancestral worship and respecting elders. In addition, students should be able to draw similarities between Korean customs and their own customs, as well as gain an appreciation for Korea's unique culture and holidays.

PROCEDURE:

1. Have the students recall information they previously learned about Korea's geography, location and other specific facts.
2. Introduce the lesson. Read aloud *Let's Learn about Korea: Customs of Korea*. Focus the discussion on memorial rites and on showing respect for elders and ancestors.

3. Have the students share information concerning some celebrations they take part in, and discuss briefly the significance of food, clothing and activities, as well as the purpose for the celebration. Make a class chart of a few examples.
4. Explain the activity:
 - Students will be divided into groups of 3 or 4. Half of the class groups will learn about *Sollal*, while the other half will research *Ch'usok*.
 - Students use resources (trade books, articles, Internet websites) to gather information in their own words on the Gathering Grid. (See examples)
 - Students then decide how to go about completing 2 projects. Each group is responsible for a book or poster describing their holiday, and each group will demonstrate or teach a dance, craft or other activity significant to their holiday.
5. Book/Poster Sharing: groups trade books and fill out remaining columns on the Gathering Grid, and they may add to their own notes if necessary.
6. Demonstrations/Activity Sharing

<u>Suggested Book Pages</u>	<u>Suggested Project Ideas</u>
Title page	Circle Dance/Farmer's Dance
Table of Contents	Illustrate or make Hanbok
At least 1 page per topic	Make/fly kites
Summary page (children's own ideas about the holiday, comparisons, reactions)	Demonstrate top spinning, Korean seesaw
	Teach class to play Yutnori or hand-clap games
	Prepare traditional food for sampling

EVALUATION:

1. Each group will hand in a completed book or poster. Individuals will submit their Gathering Grids. Check grids and books/posters for accuracy and completeness.
2. Each group will demonstrate its chosen activity. Look for equal participation among all group members.
3. Students will complete a Venn diagram, comparing either *Sollal* to *Ch'usok* or one of the Korean holidays to one that is celebrated in their home.

SUGGESTED TEACHER RESOURCES:

- Franco, Betsy. *South Korea: A Literature-Based Multicultural Unit*. Monterey: Evan-Moor Educational Publishers, 1995.
- http://www.marimari.com/content/korea/best_of/games/games.html (info. on yutnori)

SUGGESTED STUDENT RESOURCES:

Books:

- Han, Susan Crowder. *Let's Learn About Korea: Customs of Korea*. Seoul: Hollym Corporation, 1992.
- Han, Susan Crowder. *Let's Visit Korea*. Seoul: Hollym Corporation, 2002.
- Haskins, Jim. *Count Your Way through Korea*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 1989.
- Korean Overseas Information Service. *Facts about Korea*. Seoul: Samhwa Printing Company, 1995.

- Korean Overseas Information Service. *Korea Basics*. Seoul: The Federation of Korean Industries, 1995.
- Landau, Elaine. *A True Book: Korea*. New York: Children's Press, 1999.
- Nahm, Andrew C., B.J. Jones and Gi-eun Lee, ed. *I Love Korea!* Seoul: Hollym Corporation, 2002.
- Shalant, Phyllis. *Look What We've Brought You from Korea*. Morristown: Julian Messner, 1995.

CD-ROM:

- Korean Overseas Information Service. *A Window on Korea*. Seoul: Seoul Systems Co., Ltd., 1994.
- *Chongdong Theater: Korean Traditional Stage "Pangut."*

Possible Websites:

- <http://www.ktnet.co.kr/enghome/culture/customs.html>
- <http://www.lifeinkorea.com/culture/clothes/clothes.cfm> (great info. on Hanbok)
- http://www.korea.net/korea/kor_loca.asp?code=G0501 (Sollal and Ch'usok)
- <http://www.clickasia.co.kr/about/h815.htm> (nice info. on Ch'usok, recipe link for songpyeon)
- <http://jls-web.pausd.palo-alto.ca.us/~kchapin/wd/Willis6/sung-j/thanks/TGT.html> (Ch'usok)
- <http://eng.joy2food.com/etiquette/etiquette.asp> (to learn about Korean Table Etiquette)