

9. DIVERSE KOREAN COMMUNITIES

GRADES: 4-6

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SUBJECT: Geography

TIME REQUIRED: Two class periods

OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify the geographic regions of Korea used for human settlement.
2. Analyze the physical systems and how they have affected the human life.
3. Explain how scarcity and choice have shaped the Korean culture.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Classroom atlas
- Handout: Korean community scenarios — duplicated on card stock, one for each group
- Poster board
- Markers
- Resource material on Korea

PROCEDURE:

(Korea: It's in the Bag, the second lesson, is a springboard lesson that can be used as an introductory activity before this lesson.)

1. Divide the class into five groups. Each group will represent a Korean community; if the class is larger repeat a Korean community group.
2. Give each Korean community group poster board, markers, resource material, and one of the Korean community scenario cards. Explain that each group will need to follow the scenario on their card. They will be recreating an environment that would be the optimum living situation for their geographic region and its available natural resources.
3. After groups have recreated their communities, have each group present their Korean community to the class. Compare and contrast the geographic regions and natural resources.

EVALUATION:

Ask each group to choose another Korean community (or communities) that would make a good trading partner. How far would they have to travel to trade? What means of transportation would be best—road, rail, etc.? Discuss the future of these communities based on what is happening economically. Physically meet with this other group and draft an economic policy, and share with other groups.

KOREAN COMMUNITY SCENARIO 1

1. You and your family live in the western North Cholla Province. Here most of the land is fertile rolling plains, and a few mountains lie to the north. The coastline is rocky but beautiful. Draw an outline of this region; include a coastline, mountains, and rolling hills.
2. Ten new families decide to move into the area; they need housing. Draw housing for these ten families.
3. The art of basket weaving is popular here in Chollabuk-do. Baskets are woven with bamboo. Draw a grove of bamboo.
4. The families need food. Draw the favorite foods of this community.
5. Several hot springs were discovered in the thirteenth century. Draw the springs and facilities for bathing.
6. Many people in Korea are Buddhists. Draw a Buddhist temple in the western mountains.
7. An old Korean saying goes, "A tower built with care doesn't fall." There are several towers in this region (known as pagodas). Draw a three-story pagoda.
8. Chonju is the provincial capital of Chollabuk-Do. Most Koreans get here by bus. Draw a bus terminal for the capital.
9. During the winter people travel to Muju, a resort town near Mt. Togyu, to ski. Draw this peak and a snow lodge.

KOREAN COMMUNITY SCENARIO 2

1. You and your family live in the island of Cheju, located at the southern tip of the Korean peninsula. Draw the island of Cheju using an atlas. Be sure to include Mt. Halla, South Korea's highest mountain.
2. Cheju-do is a honeymoon destination. Japanese tourists arrive daily at the flashy international airport. Draw an airport and a landing strip.
3. Many Koreans arrive in Cheju-do by ferry. Draw the ferry you would ride when visiting the mainland.
4. Tangerines are grown in Cheju-do. Draw an orchard or two where you could go to pick tangerines.
5. Grandfather stones are huge carved stones that are found scattered around the island. The early inhabitants of the island of Cheju did the carvings. Draw a series of carvings that might be found at the entrance to your village.
6. Volcanic activity shaped much of the physical geography of Cheju-do. Your favorite sites on the island are the lava tubes. Draw the entrance to a lava tube, and be sure to include the numerous stalactites hanging from the ceiling of the caves.

KOREAN COMMUNITY SCENARIO 3

1. You and your family live in the city of Seoul. Draw an outline map of Korea; include the city of Seoul and North Korea's capital city P'yongyang.
2. Draw a line across Korea at the thirty-eighth parallel. This line is roughly the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). This razor-wired border area is home to many of Korea's flora and fauna. Draw some of the animals that might be found in the DMZ.
3. Your city is home to twelve million people. Apartment complexes of twenty to thirty buildings dot the city and its fringes. Create a city of apartments. Include places for the children to play.
4. Going to Namdaemun market is everyone's favorite activity. Draw in the many items that can be purchased at the market. Don't forget a snack of chicken on a stick or sliced Korean melon.
5. Traveling to school, work, or a park is easy and cheap in Seoul. Just jump on the subway. Create a subway stop and the train on which you would like to travel; have it stop near Namdaemun gate; draw it using Korean colors: green, blue, red, and yellow.
6. Korea's president lives in the Blue House, near Kyongbok Palace. Draw a picture of the flag that would fly over the house.

KOREAN COMMUNITY SCENARIO 4

1. You and your family live in the city of Kyongju, located in south east Korea. Lush green mountains surround Kyongju. Draw your city, the mountains, and lots of trees.
2. Five miles east of you is the resort area of Pomun Lake. Draw a large lake with restaurants, hotels, and a golf course. Many of your family's friends like to visit you so that they can see Lake Pomun and ride in a duck boat.
3. Kyongju is a museum without walls. Show where the tombs of the Silla Kingdom are located.
4. Members of the Silla Kingdom used large earthen jars to store food and water. Draw a Korean jar and put designs on the surface that reflect Korean life.
5. Many of the Silla kings wore crowns of gold. Create a crown that people might wear in present-day Korea.
6. In the fall your family likes to visit Pulguk-sa, which was built in 757 CE. Stone lanterns lit at night lead the way to the temple. Draw a stone lantern that you might see at a Buddhist temple.

KOREAN COMMUNITY SCENARIO 5

1. You and your family live in the city of Pohang. It is a city on Korea's east coast. Draw this region of Korea.
2. Your father works at the Pohang steel mills. To make steel, pig iron ore is used. Barges ship it to the Pohang port. Draw a barge that would bring pig iron to the mill.
3. Along the coast are many small villages that sell locally caught fish. Draw four kinds of seafood that your family likes to eat.
4. The rocky tomb of King Munmu (reigned 661-681 CE) is perhaps the only underwater tomb in the world, and at low tide it can be seen through the clear water of the pool in the center of the islet. The king was buried here to protect the kingdom from the Japanese. Draw the Japanese islands off the coast of Pohang.
5. Even in Pohang, kimch'i is served at most meals. Find the recipe of your mother's kimch'i and write it on this map and include an illustration.