

14. KOREAN CULTURAL ARTIFACT

GRADES: 4-6

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SUBJECT: Social Studies

TIME REQUIRED: One class period

OBJECTIVES:

As a result of this lesson, students will

1. Learn about objects that are common in both Korean and U.S. cultures.
2. Note the presence of both English and Korean on many items.
3. Write a brief statement that describes what they have learned about the Korean culture.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- World map
- Five sets of photocopies of contemporary Korean cultural objects

BACKGROUND:

The everyday objects used by a certain culture indicate much about a nation and its people. A close examination of popular Korean objects reveals their ties to the United States and offers insights into the everyday lives of contemporary South Koreans.

PROCEDURE:

1. Tell the students that they are going to go on a Korean culture hunt. Explain that a society's culture is represented in the people's language, customs, and in the material objects that people use everyday. Ask if anyone knows where Korea is located on a globe or world map. (Point this out.) Also ask if anyone knows what Korea's national language is (*han'gul*).
2. Explain that a person who recently traveled to Korea brought back some everyday items that can give us clues about Korean culture. Since there were not enough objects to go around, you have made photocopies of some of the objects. Divide the class into five small groups and distribute a set of photocopied cultural artifacts to each.
3. Give the students a few moments to examine the photocopied objects. Then go page-by-page through the handout and have students attempt to name each object. After students have named most of the objects, ask a series of questions such as:
 - A. Who uses these objects? Whom were they made for?
 - B. When and where would these objects be used? Does everybody use them?
 - C. Why do so many of the objects have English on them?
 - D. How are these object different from what you normally see or use?
4. Close the lesson by collecting the student's opinions about what it would be like to visit South Korea. Ask for a show of hands to see how many students would like to visit Korea some day.

EVALUATION:

Have each student write a brief paragraph that describes what he or she has learned about Korean culture.

ENRICHMENT:

Take a trip to a local Korean market. Examine the items being sold and the prices these items command. Talk with the store owner about who his customers are and what items are the most popular. Discuss why Americans don't use the items or which items they use as substitutes for these items.

Examine other aspects of Korean culture such as wedding and burial ceremonies.

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