

THE LEGENDS OF TAN'GUN AND THE SUN GIRL AND MOON BOY

GRADES: 1-5

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SUBJECT: Language Arts, Social Studies

TIME REQUIRED: Two class periods, may be extended

OBJECTIVES:

1. Have students learn the story of Tan'gun and other Korean creation stories or folktales.
2. Have students compare the story of Tan'gun to the creation stories of Mayan civilization.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Copies of the stories of Tan'gun and Sun Girl and Moon Boy
- A collection of Korean folktales and creation stories for children to borrow from the library as part of their assignment

BACKGROUND:

The school librarian will conduct an initial lesson explaining what a creation story is and read a creation story about the ancient Mayan civilization. At this time students will be told that we will be doing a series on Korea which will include a creation story and other Korean folktales.

For grades one and two, the story used for the library lesson will be that of Sun Girl and the Moon Boy. For grades three through five, the story used for the library lesson will be that of Tan'gun.

PROCEDURES:

1. Students will discuss what defines a culture and the issue in some schools of referring to all Asian-Americans as Chinese. Students will then discuss why stereotyping and generalizing is harmful to everyone.
2. Students will listen as either the story of Tan'gun or the story of Sun Girl and the Moon Boy is read to them.
3. Students will be required to borrow a book on Korean folktales from the library and, either in pairs or as a class project, create a folktale using characters they've read about. They should incorporate elements such as foods or other aspects of Korean culture they have learned in the library discussion and the additional resource materials provided.

EVALUATION:

Evaluates folktales and/or creation stories on how successfully they reflect elements of the reading and resource materials.

ENRICHMENT:

- Have parents and community members come in and share the activities.
- Have the music teacher and the Korean American staff prepare a series of Korean songs

for students to sing.

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