

**CURRENT KOREA:  
A STUDY OF KOREA USING CURRENT EVENTS**

**GRADE LEVEL:** 9-12

**AUTHOR:** Sherry Henderson

**SUBJECT:** Geography

**TIME REQUIRED:** 3-5 class periods

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Label the major cities and physical features of Korea
2. Learn where and how to research current information about Korea
3. Use the internet for research
4. Create a news feature about Korea (either an oral presentation, video tape or a computer slide show)

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

- List of major sites in Korea
- Computer station (one per 2-3 students)
- Internet access
- Atlas/textbook for reference map of Korea

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Introduce Korea on a world map, globe or on a map of Asia. Brainstorm about its physical location by locating major cities and bodies of water. (See the list of Fundamental Places of Korea)
2. Have one or two students make an outline of a large map of Korea on butcher paper using a transparency on the overhead projector (include the nine provinces for advanced classes).
3. Introduce the research assignment: the students pose as reporters who will create a news program about Korea. The final product of the materials researched can be an oral presentation, a video tape or slide show.
4. Divide the class into groups of 2-3 students. Assign various topics pertinent to Korea. Below is a suggested list:
  - climate/natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts, tidal waves)
  - economics (e.g. bank/business failings, IMF crisis, unemployment)
  - cultural events (e.g. mask dances)
  - religions (e.g. Buddhism, Christianity)
  - North Korea-South Korea relations; North Korea-U.S. relations; South Korea-U.S. relations; Korea-Japan relations
  - North Korea issues (e.g. famine, children with medical problems)
  - Koreans in the United States(NOTE TO TEACHER: Research the topics prior to assigning)
5. Allow the students both "in-class" time and time on their own to research topics.
6. Have all students organize their material in a story board format that is conducive to all types of presentations. The following is an example of a general format:
  - Title (names included)

- General overview of researched topic
  - Main idea (story #1)
  - All supporting information for story #1
  - Main idea (story #2)
  - All supporting information for story #2
  - Conclusion
  - Bibliography (i.e. website addresses, books, newspaper, magazines, etc)
7. Monitor students' progress and offer suggestions
  8. Conclude the lesson with the students' news presentations. Make certain students' take notes on the information presented by each group
  9. Have all groups locate where their stories took place on the big map of Korea

### **PRESENTATION HINTS:**

#### **For Video Productions**

Divide the class in groups of 2-3 to gather information to be presented to the class. Provide offscreen jobs (e.g. creating a weather map, background for the news crew) for those who do not want to present on the video.

#### **For Computer Slide Shows (Multimedia)**

Station 1-2 student(s) per computer. For students who prefer to work along, make sure that they pace themselves.

### **EVALUATION:**

- Students will be evaluated on an ongoing basis. Grading will be determined by student cooperation, attitude, participation, research and written assignments (notes), and the presentation of the final product.

## **SUGGESTED WEBSITES**

**<http://www.koreaherald.co.kr>**

Korean headline news, culture/lifestyle stories, weather reports, and other information relevant to Korea can be found on this site.

**<http://firefox.postech.ac.kr/map>**

This site provides a map of South Korea with all its major cities.

**<http://firefox.postech.ac.kr/tour>**

This site provides a “tour” of South Korea using an active map.

**<http://firefox.postech.ac.kr/treasure>**

This site offers a list and description of all the National Treasures of Korea.

**<http://www.traveldocs.com/kr/index.htm>**

This site contains travel document systems, which is information comparable to the CIA fact book.

## **COUNTRIES AND OTHER SITES OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO KOREA**

### **Countries**

North Korea

South Korea

Russia

China

Japan

### **Water Bodies**

East Sea (Sea of Japan)

East China Sea

Yellow Sea

Korea Strait

Han River

### **Cities**

P'yongyang (capital of North Korea)

Wonsan

Seoul (capital of South Korea)

Inchon

Pusan

Taegu

Kyongju