

# **PATTERN PUZZLE: CHANGING ROLES OF WOMEN IN KOREA**

**GRADES:** 9-12

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**SUBJECT:** Social Studies

**TIME REQUIRED:** One to two class periods

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To recognize the differences between women in traditional and contemporary Korean society.
2. Identify changes in how women were included in Korean economic, political, and social/cultural life over time.
3. Assemble a pattern puzzle by putting, words, phrases and sentences in order or grouping similar things together.

## **MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

- Pattern puzzle. To create a pattern puzzle, cut the included list of topics and details into strips, with one fact or sub-topic on each strip. Mix the strips up randomly, divide them into groups and distribute them to students.
- Notes on Women's Forum by Yeou Sook Lee, June 2006.
- *Facts About Korea*, Korean Overseas Information Service, 2006 Edition: Pages 107-110.
- *Korea Old and New: A History* by Carter J Eckert, Ki-baik Lee, Young Ick Lew, Michael Robinson and Edward W. Wagner: Ilchokak, Publishers Seoul, Korea 1990. Pages 125, 131, 176, 183, 191, 194, and 228.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The purpose of this activity is to introduce students to one aspect of Korean culture and society. We will concentrate on the role of women in traditional and contemporary Korea. We will examine women's changing roles in the economy, politics and society.

## **PROCEDURE:**

1. Use the Pattern puzzle as a bell-ringer/brainstorming activity. See what the students know about the role of Korean women before the lecture. Have them put the Pattern puzzle together as best they can. Warn them it might be a frustrating activity. Have them put the details under the appropriate sub-topics.
2. Body: Use the above mentioned materials to put together a brief lecture on the topic. Have the students take notes.
3. After the lecture have the students get back into their groups and see if they have an easier time putting the details of the pattern puzzle under the appropriate sub-topics.
4. Have a key made up, and then share the correct structure of the pattern puzzle.

## **EVALUATION:**

Ask students to draw parallels between women's roles in Korea and women's roles in the United States.

## **HANDOUT 1: PATTERN PUZZLE**

### List of Subtopics:

- Women's Roles in Traditional Korea
- Women's Roles in Traditional Industries
- Women's Roles in Industry in Contemporary Korea
- Women's Roles in Education in Contemporary Korea
- Groups and organizations Used to Promote Gender Equality in Korea
- Laws Passed to Promote Gender Equality in Korea
- Women's Roles in Social/Cultural Life in Korea
- Women's Roles in Politics

### Details:

- Women confined to the home
- Women taught ideas of subordination to prepare for roles as wives and mothers
- Women's roles limited to household matters
- During late nineteenth century women engaged in the arts, teaching, and volunteer work
- Women led an active role in the independence movement
- 1948: The Republic of Korea was established, women were given constitutional rights for equal opportunities to pursue education, work and roles in public life
- March 2005: the government abolished the "Head of Household" system
- Women found husbands by using matchmakers
- A woman could not make decisions, unless the information was brought before her husband first
- As industrialization increased so did the number of women in the workforce
- Percentage of women in the workforce: 37.2%
- Percentage of women in the workforce: 50.1%. 17.5% of women work in professional or managerial positions
- Female members of parliament: 41
- Bar exams: 32% of all candidates are women

- 1998: The Presidential Commission on Women's Affairs started to handle issues involving women. The commission then became the Ministry of Gender Equality in January 2001.