

# BASEBALL IN KOREA

**GRADES:** 7-12

**AUTHOR:** Heather M. Dengel

**SUBJECT:** Social Studies (Learning Support)

**TIME REQUIRED:** Two to three class periods

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Describe the origin of baseball in Korea.
2. Compare baseball teams within Korean Baseball Organization (KBO).
3. Plot each team/stadium on a map of Korea.
4. Conduct Internet research

## **MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

- Photographs and video clips from Korean baseball game (personal collection).
- Web sites on the history of Korean baseball: <http://www.koreabaseball.com/>, [http://en.wikipedia.org/Korean Baseball Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/Korean_Baseball_Organization)
- Blank map of South Korea and atlases.
- Web sites with labeled and unlabeled maps of Korea:
- <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas/index.html>
- Graphic organizer
- Additional readings and resources:  
<http://sports.espn.go.com/mlb/worldclassic2006/news/story?id=2290110>,  
<http://www.athomeplate.com/southkorea.shtml>,  
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4715763>
- (Extension Activity) Resources on Korean baseball in the U.S.:  
<http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051111/BUSINESS/511110380>
- Regional resource:  
[http://pittsburgh.pirates.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/news/article.jsp?ymd=20060216&content\\_id=1313094&vkey=spt2006news&fext=.jsp&c\\_id=pit](http://pittsburgh.pirates.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/news/article.jsp?ymd=20060216&content_id=1313094&vkey=spt2006news&fext=.jsp&c_id=pit)

## **BACKGROUND:**

Although introduced by an American missionary in 1905, professional baseball did not fully develop in Korea until 1981. In the early stages of the game in Korea, baseball was mostly played among Christian groups. During the colonial period, which lasted from 1910–1945, Koreans were exposed to baseball again by the Japanese. Since its inception, baseball has become a beloved pastime for many and continues to grow. The original six teams created in 1981 have grown to eight.

The rationale for this thematic lesson is for students to make comparisons of what is already familiar to them about American baseball and transfer this knowledge to Korean baseball. Through searches on the Internet they will also become more acquainted with the overall

organization and locations of where baseball is played throughout Korea. My inspiration for these lessons stems from my trip to South Korea. Fortunately, I was able to attend a baseball game between the Doosan Bears and Hyundai Unicorns.

## **PROCEDURE:**

### **Part 1:**

1. At the beginning of class show students photographs of snacks from vendors at Korean baseball games. Ask the students to identify them. (Dried squid, octopus, cuttlefish) Show the students additional pictures of Korean cheerleaders and pennants. Ask the students where these photos were taken and what kind of event might this be.
2. Have a brief discussion about American baseball and the types of things one would expect to see or experience while attending a game in the U.S.
3. Explain to the students that although American baseball was introduced to Korean in 1905, it was not until 1981 that the planning began for the formation of the Korean Baseball Organization.
4. Inform the students that they will be learning about the different teams within the Korean Baseball Organization by utilizing the computer lab, guided questions and a graphic organizer.

### **Part 2:**

1. Students will be given a list of Web sites, along with questions and a graphic organizer to complete while searching for the specific web addresses.
2. Students will print out labeled and unlabeled maps of South Korea and correctly identify locations of baseball teams/stadiums throughout the Peninsula (see materials/worksheet).
3. After reviewing the materials, students will view video clips taken from the game along with additional pictures not related to food vending. Lastly, students will listen to a recording from NPR regarding the recent ban on cabbage in the KBO (see materials).

## **EVALUATION:**

After students have completed their questions, mapping and graphic organizer the class will reconvene to discuss the subject. Work will be collected and points will be awarded based on how well the assigned tasks were completed.

## **ENRICHMENT:**

- Construct pennants that represent the eight teams of the Korean Baseball Organization.
- Have could role-play a broadcast of a Korean baseball game or conduct mock interviews of players.
- Have students locate and keep statistics on Korean baseball players within American Major League Baseball.

## **FIELD TRIP SUGGESTIONS:**

Take students to an Asian market to locate snacks sold by concessionaires at Korean Baseball Stadiums. Additionally, make arrangements to attend an American baseball game and dine at a

Korean restaurant following the game. If possible, have students sample Korean snacks while watching the game.

# HANDOUT 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Korean Baseball Activity

Use the sites below to find information and fill in the chart.

Korean Baseball Organization: <http://www.koreabaseball.com/>

### General Information about Korean Baseball:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/Korean\\_Baseball\\_Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/Korean_Baseball_Organization)

[illegible]

## HANDOUT 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Korean Baseball Activity–Mapping

Write the name of the stadium on the blank map where the team is based. Use the Web site listed below to locate a map. Print both a blank and completed map of South Korea:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas/index.html?Parent=asia&Rootmap=skorea&Mode=d&SubMode=w>

Using the Web sites from the graphic organizer worksheet and below, find the answers to the following questions. You may use the Google search engine for assistance with this assignment.

<http://www.koreabaseball.com/>, [http://en.wikipedia.org/Korean\\_Baseball\\_Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/Korean_Baseball_Organization),  
<http://sports.espn.go.com/mlb/worldclassic2006/news/story?id=2290110>  
<http://www.athomeplate.com/southkorea.shtml>

- When was the first official game played in the Korean Baseball Organization? Where was it played? Which teams played?
- How many teams were in the original Korean Baseball Organization?
- How many games are played during the regular season in Korea?

Complete the following chart

Team Name	Sponsor	Products Produced

- Who was the first Korean-born player to play Major League Baseball in the U.S.? Year? Team?
- How many Korean players have played in American Major League Baseball from 1994–2006?
- BONUS: What is the Korean name for baseball?