

Arts are Alive in Korea!

OVERVIEW

The arts have always been important in Korea. Since early times, Koreans have demonstrated their artistic ability through dance, mask-dance, music, paintings and ceramics.

In Asia, there were many opportunities to exchange techniques and examples of works of art. Artistic ideas and technology traveled from China to Korea and then to Japan. Although the arts have been influenced by Korea's geographic proximity to the continent, the Korean artistic tradition is characterized by a creative vigor and distinct flavor that belongs only to the Koreans.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON

- Students will recognize Korea's contribution to many art forms.
- Students will experiment with art media.

MATERIALS

- worksheet #1 (pottery in Korea)
- worksheet #2 (Hahoe Masks)
- clay
- plastic knives
- tape of Korean music
- paper plates
- picture books on Korean art
- slides of artwork from Korea (optional)

Time Frame: 2 days

THE LESSON

1. Begin the class by talking about the word “arts”. Ask students to share what concepts or images come to mind when “arts” is said. Record these comments on the board. Students should know the characteristics of and differences among the following:

painting, music, dance, pottery (ceramics), sculpture, mask

A fun way to generate creative ideas and energy is to play Korean music and show slides of the arts in Korea.

Day 1: Pottery in Korea

1. If possible, use art books or slides that show examples of the Korean pottery. Many libraries have art books devoted to Asian art that include examples from Korea.
2. Distribute worksheet #1. Students can read it silently and then discuss.
3. Pass out pliable clay and have students make a bowl or vase using the coil method to begin the project (see below for directions). They can then gently carve (with a pencil, paper clip, or toothpick) a design around their vessels. Students should use worksheet #1 for ideas. Explain to the students that the raised or incised (cut into) designs are both found on Korean ceramics. Designs on the objects are usually ideas that come from everyday life or from nature.

Coil method:

- Roll clay into long, thin snake-like ropes.
- Start coiling, tightly, and gradually build up the sides of the pot.
- When all the clay is used, smooth out the sides.
- Add bits of clay for a raised result or use a knife to cut designs into the object.

4. The following activities can demonstrate to students what celadon porcelains look like.
 - Students sketch their clay object on 8"x 11" white paper.
 - Students should lightly color their drawing in very pale blue crayon and then green. Use white chalk to go over the entire object.
 - Students should put pale washes of blue and then green paint on their drawing.
 - Cover the object with a white wash of paint.
5. Have students write a paragraph about their object and what the symbols on it mean.

Day 2: Music and Dance

1. Invite the music teacher in to show students differences between Asian and western music. Asian and western music both have 12 halftones. Western music often uses many or most of those tones in a piece of music. Asian music usually chooses 5 tones to focus on in a piece of music. To the western ear, this may sound limited and repetitious. Help students to recognize that these differences make music unique.
2. Korean dance incorporates costumes, fans, long fabrics on top of hats and instruments. Show students examples of traditional Korean instruments and compare them to western instruments. Compare the sounds.
3. Show a video on traditional dances.

Mask Dance Drama

"Masks are like history books that tell many things about humanity, about knowledge and beliefs, needs and hopes, fears and courage, joys and happiness." International Mask Research Foundation, 1979.

1. Pass out worksheet # 2 (Hahoe Drama masks). Identify each mask and guess its possible meanings and significance. Share the following information with the class.

The mask dance is a popular form of folk art in Korea. The dancers wear masks as they perform. People from the audience are often selected to join in the dance drama.

2. Color in the masks on the worksheet. Ask students to create their own masks based on a story they recently read.
3. Show slides or a video of the arts in Korea.
4. Make masks using paper plates. Cut out the eyes, and attach noses and string so that students can wear them. Use a variety of materials, like beans, beads, raffia, fabrics and recycled materials. Students can develop a play based on a Korean traditional folktale, then create masks, and act it out.
5. Students can conduct research on masks and complete the following information on them. Share with the class.

Countries Using Masks	Materials for Making Masks	Reasons for Using Masks

ASSESSMENT

1. Ask students to choose an art form from Korea and write a paragraph about it.
2. Have students draw a picture of their favorite art media from those they worked with during the lesson.



This celadon vase is inlaid with designs of clouds and cranes. 12th Century



This gourd-shaped celadon wine pot is designed with lotus in underglazed copper. 13th Century



This blue and white porcelain jar is decorated with bird, flowers and bamboo. 18th Century



The flask is decorated with fish design incised on white slip. 16th Century



This is a mask of *Imae*, a fool.



This is a mask of *Bunae*, a girl.



This is a mask of Buddhist monk.



This is a mask of *Choraengi*, a servant.