

Unit: The Two Koreas

In this unit you will learn about the contemporary issues in North and South Korea. You will also learn about the culture in both Koreas.

You will have two class periods to learn with the librarian, and then a few blocks will be spent researching with the librarian.

Targets:

I can make connections between types of governments

I can discover interesting items about Korean Culture

I can analyze issues between the two Koreas

Important terms:

Songbun The status or caste system in North Korea. Those who are more affiliated with the Communist party are treated better. Also, if you have ancestors who were involved in the resistance to the Japanese occupation you are higher up. If you have a relative who was a minister or merchant (anything considered Western or capitalist) you are lower class. There are three main caste or class types in Songbun, but about 50 others in between the three. Songbun determines what line of work you can do.

Chaebol The name for rich and powerful families in South Korea. They are also financial cliques or corporate conglomerates made up of marriages between rich corporate families. Examples: Hyundai, or Samsung (largest Chaebol)

Jangmadang Generation The new generation of North Koreans who are slowly embracing capitalism through the system of Jangmadang. Who are embracing trade with China in secret. This little taste of capitalism is helping the new generation to go against the communism stronghold

Jangmadang local markets, farmers markets, black markets, and trade that is both illegal and legal in North Korea. The government is so isolated they can longer provide rations to their people, so they are forced to find their own way. The government does not always punish the markets, but trade with anywhere else is highly illegal.

Juche The ideal of the North Korean government. They are isolated and dependent, Juche permeates their culture and the government propaganda tells the masses that all they need is their loyalty and that North Korea can do all it needs to do on its own. It means that their president is the forever leader and that the military is before anything.

Kpop Worldwide popular music from South Korea. They are a blend of pop, hip hop and other world influences. Kpop stars are forced to conform to a rigorous schedule, maintain certain looks even if it requires plastic surgery, and they usually live together in a supervised house.

Hallyu The Korea Wave refers to the rise of South Korean popular culture. Korean pop culture is now known world wide. This is South Korean culture!

Filial piety Concept from Confucianism throughout Asia that originated in China which states one must honor, respect, and obey their parents.

Confucianism An ancient Chinese philosophy popular throughout Asia that believes in three things. **Filial piety, humanness and ritual**

Sticky activism A form of protesting popular in South Korea where sticky notes with handwritten messages are posted on a public space. Often images are uploaded to online media. Currently being used by women to protest the misogyny (anti women's rights and hatred) toward women in South Korea

Suneung test The test in South Korea which students take at age 15. The roads close down and police escorts make sure that they get to the testing site. This test determines the next stage for these students. In South Korea it is so competitive that it is very hard to get a good job. You have to be the top in all areas. Conversely, in North Korea you are forced to take jobs you do not want. Once you take the test you are tracked as academic or vocational.

Hagwon private school with tutors who help Korean students excel in school is often noted as a "cram" school to help study for the Suneung test.

Sunshine Policy, a policy that was designed to make the gap between the North and South Korea economies smaller.

The national security policy had three basic principles:

- No armed provocation by the North will be tolerated;
- The South will not attempt to absorb the North in any way;
- The South will actively seek cooperation and reconciliation.

Articles:

 **Baek, The Opening of the North Korean Mind, Foreign Affairs 112816.pdf**

Hawon Jung, "Women in South Korea Are on Strike Against Being 'Baby-Making Machines,'" *The New York Times*, January 27, 2023,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/27/opinion/south-korea-fertility-rate-feminism.html>.

Kim Tong-Hyung, "Police Seek Manslaughter Charges over Seoul Halloween Crowd Crush that Killed 158," *Los Angeles Times*, January 13, 2023,

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2023-01-13/manslaughter-charges-seoul-halloween-stampede-crush-south-korea>.

https://china.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Diepen%2C%20North%20Korea%E2%80%99s%20Feb%208%20Parade%20_0.pdf

https://china.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Noack%20and%20Lee%2C%20The%20historic%20Kim-Moon%20meeting_2.pdf

https://china.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Trump-Kim%20signed%20statement%20-%20CNNPolitics_2.pdf

<https://www.vox.com/culture/2018/2/16/16915672/what-is-kpop-history-explained>

Presentations:

Slideshow for Contemporary Issues in the Koreas

Films:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_A8dq2fA5o

https://tubitv.com/movies/702940/ode-to-my-father?start=true&tracking=google-feed&utm_source=google-feed

Videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuV2BmJ1p_I

<https://youtu.be/gQIMMD8auMs>

<https://www.nkmillennials.com/>

Assignment: After reviewing the slide show on Korean Culture and Contemporary Issues: You will teach us with a shorter slideshow of your own. If you do prefer to create a poster or display, you may do so. Each project will have 4 slides or 4 panels or areas if you choose to create offline. All projects must demonstrate the following:

1. Knowledge of at least one contemporary issue in South Korea (one slide or panel)
2. Knowledge of at least one contemporary issue in North Korea (one slide or panel)
3. Two cultural items that you want to learn more about and why? (two slides)

I will have examples for you.

All projects will have a work cited page. I will help you with Noodletools, and I will help you build your research. This project will involve a few periods of involved research time at the library.

Examples of Inquiry Questions one might research after viewing and reviewing the materials.

1. Are the issues between North and South Korea becoming better or worse and why?
2. Does North Korea have a tourist industry?
3. Is Kim Jong Un a threat to the US?
4. In what ways is the South Korean government policies, although opposite to North Korea, dangerous to its population?
5. How is Kpop a positive musical genre? How is it negative? Is it a positive influence for Korean youth or not? And why?
6. Does the US Army still have a presence in South Korea? And is the war truly over?

7. On Korean food: What are some of the types of food popular in South Korea? What food here is similar? What would you like to try? What are you skeptical about trying?
8. What are schools like in both Koreas?
9. Explain how education is important in South Korea? Examples
10. Is bullying an issue for teens in South Korea? Explore ways to manage bullying.
11. Explore the music of the Koreas. What is popular? Will you try some items and why?
12. Explore the workforce in Korea
13. Explore the militaries of both Koreas. Why is North Korea a threat?
14. What green spaces are in South Korea? Where would you go?

Note: Slideshow includes government info on north and south. And the threat in the north.

Slide show will discuss issues in both cultures and government

Slide who cover tourism green spaces

Kpop

Art

And food stats

Education

Workforce

Technology samsung and cars hyundai and kia part of hyundai

Wage gap and debt in South Korea

Gulags North Korea

Party children not hungry images

Korea films parasite squid game etc.

Women rights and contradictions

Korean military and service

38th parallel

King Jong Un

Yoon Suk Yeol

Activism

Green spaces