Korea and Its Traditions

Objectives
- Describe how geography affected life on the Korean peninsula.
- Understand the influence of China and Buddhism on Korea.
- Explain the major achievements of the Choson dynasty.
- Describe how geography affected life on the Korean peninsula.

As early as Han times, Korea’s larger neighbor to the north—China—was an influence. However, although Koreans absorbed many Chinese traditions, they also maintained a separate and distinct culture.

Geography of the Korean Peninsula
Korea is located on a peninsula that juts south from the Asian mainland and points toward Japan. At the northern end of the peninsula, mountains and the Yalu River separate Korea from China.

Living Among Mountains and Seas
An early visitor once compared Korea’s landscape to “a sea in a heavy gale.” Low but steep mountains cover nearly 70 percent of the Korean peninsula. The most important range is the T’aebaek (ta bak). It runs from north to south along the eastern coast, with smaller chains branching off to form hilly areas. Because farming is difficult on the mountains, most people live along the western coastal plains, Korea’s major farming region.

Korea has a 5,400-mile coastline with hundreds of good harbors. In addition, the offshore waters feature thousands of islands. Since early times, Koreans have depended upon seafood for most of the protein in their diet. Today, South Korea has one of the largest fishing industries in the world.

Location Affects Korea
Korea’s location on China’s eastern border has played a key role in its development. From its powerful fishing industries in the world.

Prepare to Read
Build Background Knowledge
■ WITNESS HISTORY Read the selection aloud or play the audio.

The Power of Ideas
As you teach this section, keep students focused on the following objectives to help them answer the Section Focus Question and master core content.
- Describe how geography affected life on the Korean peninsula.
- Understand the influence of China and Buddhism on Korea.
- Explain the major achievements of the Choson dynasty.

Set a Purpose
■ WITNESS HISTORY Read the selection aloud or play the audio.

Ask: What benefits does the writer suggest can come from studying Buddhism? (well-behaved, healthy people, a well-run family, good government, and peace)

■ Focus:
Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (It is about Buddhism, and shown are statues of the Buddha.)

■ Build Background Knowledge
Describe how geography affected life on the Korean peninsula.

■ Build Background Knowledge
■ Set a Purpose
■ Preview
Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.

■ Note Taking
Have students read this section using the Structured Read Aloud strategy (TE, p. T21). As they read, have students fill in a concept web with relevant information about Korea.

Vocabulary Builder
Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use word from this section.

High-Use Word: evolve
Definition and Sample Sentence:
evolve, p. 384
v. to develop gradually
The Chinese system of using examinations to staff the civil service evolved over a long period of time.
Teach

Geography of the Korean Peninsula

Instruct

■ Introduce: Vocabulary Builder Have students read the Vocabulary Builder term and definition. Ask Over what time period did Korean culture evolve? (many centuries)

■ Teach Review the impact of geography on Korean development. Ask How did Chinese influence first begin to reach Korea? (During the Han dynasty, emperor Wu帝 invaded Korea and set up a military colony there.)

■ Analyzing the Visuals Direct students’ attention to the map on this page. Ask How has Korea’s geography influenced the way of life of its peoples? (Because farming on mountains is difficult, most people live along the western coastal plains. Since it is a peninsula, seafood is abundant, and many people depend on seafood for most of the protein in their diet.)

Independent Practice

Have students access Web Code nap-1231 to take the Geography Interactive Audio Guided Tour and then answer the map skills questions in the text.

Monitor Progress

■ As students complete their concept webs, circulate to make sure they understand the key facts about Korea. For a completed version of the concept web, see Note taking Transparencies, 98

■ Check answers to map skill questions.

Answers

Map Skills

1. Review locations with students.
2. Because the interior is mountainous and the coastal plain has the best farmland
3. Japan might have chosen to invade Korea first since Korea is between Japan and China.

Because it was near China, Korea was influenced by Chinese culture and technology and sometimes came under China’s political control.

Development of the Silla and Koryo Dynasties

Between 100 B.C. and A.D. 676, powerful local rulers forged three separate kingdoms: Koguryo in the north, Paekche in the southwest, and Silla in the southeast. Although they shared the same language and cultural background, the three kingdoms often warred with one another and with China. Still, Chinese influences continued to arrive. Missonaries
spread Mahayana Buddhism, which took root among the rulers and nobles. Korean monks then traveled to China and India to learn more about Buddhism. They brought back the arts and learning of China.

Backed by the Tang emperor, the Silla kingdom defeated Paekche and Koguryo in 676 and united Korea. From this time until 1000, Korea had only three unified dynasties. The Unified Silla ruled from 668 to 935, the Koryo ruled from 918 to 1392, and the Choson ruled from 1392 to 1910.

Silla Dynasty Unites Kingdoms Under the Silla dynasty, Korea prospered and the arts flourished. Silla civilization was among the most advanced in the world. Buddhism grew to become a powerful force, and hundreds of Buddhist temples were built. A brisk trade was conducted with China. Chinese culture, written language, and political institutions continued to be extremely important influences on Korea.

Much of this great cultural and technical flowering centered at the Silla capital, Kyongju, which was modeled on the Tang capital at Chang’an. Kyongju was renowned as the “city of gold,” where the aristocracy pursued a life of high culture and extravagance. Medicine, astronomy, metal casting, sculpture, and textile manufacturing reached especially high levels.

In 676, the Silla set up a national Confucian academy to train high officials and later instituted a civil-service examination modeled on that of China. But in China, even a peasant could win political influence by passing the exam. In Korea, only aristocrats were permitted to take the test. Eventually, conflicts between peasants and the aristocrats led to the overthrow of the Silla dynasty.

The Koryo Dynasty The Koryo dynasty, from which the modern word Korea is derived, replaced the Silla in 918. A new capital was established at Songak, present-day Kaesong.

Confucianism and Buddhism were both influential and widespread during this time. Koreans used woodblock printing from China to produce a flood of Buddhist texts. Later, Korean inventors took the Chinese invention one step further and created movable metal type to print large numbers of books. Koreans also improved on other Chinese inventions. They learned to make porcelain from China, and then perfected the technique for making celadon, or porcelain with an unusual blue-green glaze. Korean porcelain vases and jars were prized throughout Asia. In the 1200s, when conquered by the Mongols, ceramic-making, by inventing celadon.

The Pulguksa Temple, completed during the Silla dynasty, is considered to be the most famous Buddhist temple in Korea.

Development of the Silla and Koryo Dynasties The Choson Dynasty Rules for Over 500 Years

Instruct

■ Introduce: Key Terms Direct students’ attention to the key term hangeul (in blue) in the text. Ask What is the difference between hangeul and Chinese characters? Guide students to see that hangeul is based on sounds, whereas Chinese characters represent ideas. Point to the English alphabet as an example of a system of writing that is based on sounds.

■ Teach Review with students the similarities and differences between Korean and Chinese culture. Ask What religion came to Korea from China? (Mahayana Buddhism) How did the Chinese capital influence Korean rulers? (Korean rulers patterned their capital after China’s.) What Chinese practices did Koreans improve upon? (How? printing, by making movable metal type instead of woodblocks; ceramic-making, by inventing celadon)

■ Quick Activity Direct students’ attention to the Primary Source and image on this page. Ask students to jot down several words to describe the image of the Pulguksa Temple. Students will probably write “beautiful” or “ornate.” Explain that the temple was built to honor the Buddha in the present world. By following the teachings of the Buddha, people could be released from the suffering of life. Therefore, Pulguksa, or “Land of Happiness,” was built to be a temple of bliss and beauty.

Independent Practice

■ Biogaphy To help students better understand the Choson ruler of Korea, have them read the biography King Sejong and complete the worksheet.

■ Have students fill in the Outline Map of Korea’s Early Kingdoms.

Monitor Progress

Circulate to make sure students are filling in their Outline Maps correctly, labeling Korea’s three early kingdoms—the Koguryo, Paekche, and Silla.
Assess and Reteach

Assess Progress
- Have students complete the Section Assessment.
- Administer the Section Quiz. Teaching Resources, Unit 2, p. 103
- To further assess student understanding use Progress Monitoring Transparencies, 50

Reteach
If students need more instruction, have them read the section summary.
- Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112
- Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112
- Spanish Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112

Extend
Ask students to reread the sections on the artistic advances during the Silla and Koryo dynasties. Have them write an essay in which they discuss the connections between a prosperous economy and flourishing art forms.

Answers
- Achievements included movable metal type and the technique for making celadon.
- The adoption of a Korean alphabet helped preserve Korean identity.
- Caption to preserve its own identity as well as simplify the complex Chinese system

Section 3 Assessment
1. They all have to do with Korea's history and culture.
2. Korea was influenced by many cultural and technological achievements in China and served as a cultural bridge that linked China and Japan. It also came under the political control of China at times and had to fight off a Japanese invasion.
3. Sample: Its location next to China gives it access to that country.
4. Sample: Koreans adapted the Chinese civil service examination so that only aristocrats could take the exam. They made books using movable metal type to make it easier to print books. They adapted Chinese ceramic techniques to make celadon.
5. Sample: It is a symbol of their unique identity.

Assess and Reteach

Assess Progress
- Have students complete the Section Assessment.
- Administer the Section Quiz. Teaching Resources, Unit 2, p. 103
- To further assess student understanding use Progress Monitoring Transparencies, 50

Reteach
If students need more instruction, have them read the section summary.
- Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112
- Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112
- Spanish Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112

Extend
Ask students to reread the sections on the artistic advances during the Silla and Koryo dynasties. Have them write an essay in which they discuss the connections between a prosperous economy and flourishing art forms.

Answers
- Achievements included movable metal type and the technique for making celadon.
- The adoption of a Korean alphabet helped preserve Korean identity.
- Caption to preserve its own identity as well as simplify the complex Chinese system

Section 3 Assessment
1. They all have to do with Korea’s history and culture.
2. Korea was influenced by many cultural and technological achievements in China and served as a cultural bridge that linked China and Japan. It also came under the political control of China at times and had to fight off a Japanese invasion.
3. Sample: Its location next to China gives it access to that country.
4. Sample: Koreans adapted the Chinese civil service examination so that only aristocrats could take the exam. They made books using movable metal type to make it easier to print books. They adapted Chinese ceramic techniques to make celadon.
5. Sample: It is a symbol of their unique identity.

Assess and Reteach

Assess Progress
- Have students complete the Section Assessment.
- Administer the Section Quiz. Teaching Resources, Unit 2, p. 103
- To further assess student understanding use Progress Monitoring Transparencies, 50

Reteach
If students need more instruction, have them read the section summary.
- Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112
- Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112
- Spanish Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112

Extend
Ask students to reread the sections on the artistic advances during the Silla and Koryo dynasties. Have them write an essay in which they discuss the connections between a prosperous economy and flourishing art forms.

Answers
- Achievements included movable metal type and the technique for making celadon.
- The adoption of a Korean alphabet helped preserve Korean identity.
- Caption to preserve its own identity as well as simplify the complex Chinese system

Section 3 Assessment
1. They all have to do with Korea’s history and culture.
2. Korea was influenced by many cultural and technological achievements in China and served as a cultural bridge that linked China and Japan. It also came under the political control of China at times and had to fight off a Japanese invasion.
3. Sample: Its location next to China gives it access to that country.
4. Sample: Koreans adapted the Chinese civil service examination so that only aristocrats could take the exam. They made books using movable metal type to make it easier to print books. They adapted Chinese ceramic techniques to make celadon.
5. Sample: It is a symbol of their unique identity.

Assess and Reteach

Assess Progress
- Have students complete the Section Assessment.
- Administer the Section Quiz. Teaching Resources, Unit 2, p. 103
- To further assess student understanding use Progress Monitoring Transparencies, 50

Reteach
If students need more instruction, have them read the section summary.
- Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112
- Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112
- Spanish Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112

Extend
Ask students to reread the sections on the artistic advances during the Silla and Koryo dynasties. Have them write an essay in which they discuss the connections between a prosperous economy and flourishing art forms.

Answers
- Achievements included movable metal type and the technique for making celadon.
- The adoption of a Korean alphabet helped preserve Korean identity.
- Caption to preserve its own identity as well as simplify the complex Chinese system

Section 3 Assessment
1. They all have to do with Korea’s history and culture.
2. Korea was influenced by many cultural and technological achievements in China and served as a cultural bridge that linked China and Japan. It also came under the political control of China at times and had to fight off a Japanese invasion.
3. Sample: Its location next to China gives it access to that country.
4. Sample: Koreans adapted the Chinese civil service examination so that only aristocrats could take the exam. They made books using movable metal type to make it easier to print books. They adapted Chinese ceramic techniques to make celadon.
5. Sample: It is a symbol of their unique identity.

Assess and Reteach

Assess Progress
- Have students complete the Section Assessment.
- Administer the Section Quiz. Teaching Resources, Unit 2, p. 103
- To further assess student understanding use Progress Monitoring Transparencies, 50

Reteach
If students need more instruction, have them read the section summary.
- Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112
- Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112
- Spanish Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 112

Extend
Ask students to reread the sections on the artistic advances during the Silla and Koryo dynasties. Have them write an essay in which they discuss the connections between a prosperous economy and flourishing art forms.

Answers
- Achievements included movable metal type and the technique for making celadon.
- The adoption of a Korean alphabet helped preserve Korean identity.
- Caption to preserve its own identity as well as simplify the complex Chinese system

Section 3 Assessment
1. They all have to do with Korea’s history and culture.
2. Korea was influenced by many cultural and technological achievements in China and served as a cultural bridge that linked China and Japan. It also came under the political control of China at times and had to fight off a Japanese invasion.
3. Sample: Its location next to China gives it access to that country.
4. Sample: Koreans adapted the Chinese civil service examination so that only aristocrats could take the exam. They made books using movable metal type to make it easier to print books. They adapted Chinese ceramic techniques to make celadon.
5. Sample: It is a symbol of their unique identity.