

FREE UNITS ON KOREAN HISTORY FOR CALIFORNIA MIDDLE SCHOOLS THAT RESPOND TO THE CALIFORNIA HISTORY-SOCIAL SCIENCE FRAMEWORK

Korean history and culture now play a significant role in the new California History-Social Science Framework, especially in the 7th grade. Since many teachers know little about Korea, it is our hope that the *Teaching East Asia: Korea*-book will be helpful particularly to teachers of 7th grade social science. **The book also makes it possible for teachers of all grade levels and disciplines to teach Korea-related units that are factually accurate, of interest to students, and relevant to the world in which we live with a minimal investment of time and energy.** *Teaching East Asia: Korea* has received positive reviews from *Education About Asia*, the leading journal for educators who teach Asia, UCLA Center for Korean Studies, the USC-China Institute, Columbia University, University of Washington, the Korea Society and the Silicon Valley Korean School (reviews appear on the first page and final pages of the book).

By examining *Teaching East Asia: Korea*, K-12 teachers will be able to access articles, lessons, and Power Point lectures for art, history, language, literature, music, and science classes. The book also includes a chapter on Korean American history and a resource chapter that contains book reviews, an extensive list of websites, and information for educators to understand their Korean students and their families.

Articles, lessons, and Power Point lectures can be downloaded from the National Korean Studies Seminar's website: <http://koreanseminar.org>. **We are hoping that some of the following suggestions might be helpful for teachers and engaging for their seventh grade students.** If teachers have questions related to the teaching of 7th grade history or any of our resources, please email MaryConnor3838@gmail.com

We have very limited hardcopies of *Teaching East Asia: Korea*, but hope in the coming year that more copies will be available. Our annual free five-day seminar on Korean History and Culture will be held at the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (located on Wilshire Boulevard near the Los Angeles County Art Museum) in late June 2020. Fellowships will be available for teachers who live outside the Los Angeles area. More information will be posted on our website early in the new year.

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Mary Connor taught United States History, Asian Studies, and Advanced Placement Art History for 35 years. She is a co-founder and adviser of the National Korean Studies Seminar and the author of two library reference books (*The Koreas: A Global Studies Handbook* and *Asia in Focus: The Koreas*) and a resource book for educators (*Teaching East Asia: Korea*). She has been honored by the Prime Minister of South Korea, the Korean Consulate General Los Angeles, the Organization of American Historians and the Peace Corps Association. Email: MaryConnor3838@gmail.com

Information for Middle School Administrators and Teachers:

The Power Point lecture, *What Koreans want Americans to Know about Korea*, should be of interest to educators who want to know more about Korea's past and the present. This Power Point is highly recommended and provides important background for understanding Korean American students and their families.

The Power Point lecture, **Education in Korea: Past and Present**, provides information that could be of interest to faculty and students.

Korean Etiquette: Helpful Information for Educators: See pages 281-283 of the e-book.

Ideas for bringing East Asian Culture (and cultures from other regions of the world) into classrooms for middle school students: See e-book pages 272-276. Opportunities are created for students to experience East Asian cultures; lessons offer different options for students of varied abilities. These lessons could lead to adapting this approach to many cultures represented in the classroom. Parents, faculty, and members of the local community may be willing to come to classrooms and introduce some aspect of their culture, such as presenting a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, teaching calligraphy, Taekwondo, or Tai Chi. Some parents could help celebrate the Chinese New Year by bringing moon cakes or celebrating the Korean New Year by creating Korean folk art. Some students might want to learn about Feng Shui, how to use an abacus, or learn about Bonsai. Lessons on Korean folk art appear on pages 184-190. Students could teach their classmates basic greetings in languages that are spoken in their homes.

Suggestions for 7th grade World History and Geography: Medieval and Early Modern Times (500-1789)

To create immediate interest in Korea, teachers might surprise their students by playing one example of Korean Pop music for a few minutes as they enter the classroom. Since K-Pop is very popular with students, it should be an engaging start to learning about Korea. We have a Power Point lecture on K-Pop music on our website that a teacher might read for background information before playing the music to the class. **Here are 4 popular K-Pop songs found on YouTube:**

1. "Arirang" by BTS (As a result of the outstanding music performances, BTS has become a worldwide sensation, especially in Asia and the United States. This particular performance of *Arirang* is sensational. The song is known throughout the world as the quintessential Korean folk song. Its exemplary status originates from its apparent role in strengthening Korea's determination to resist Japanese occupation from 1905-1945). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvc5zTayVJw>
2. "Idol" by BTS <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBuZEGYXA6E>
3. "Ddu du ddu du" by Blackpink (this music video on YouTube was ranked as having one of the fastest view-count increase in the first 24 hours of upload on YouTube. As of now, it says it has over 534 million views) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHNz0Hi8sJs>

4. "Baam" by Momoland (this song was one of the biggest hits of summer 2018 and gained worldwide recognition for its depiction of various countries through the background scenery and traditional Korean costumes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txWmd7QKFe8>

After teachers show one Korean Pop group, they could show their students the *Teaching East Asia: Korea e-book* lesson (**Economic Development and Democratization of South Korea**) starting on page 89. The lesson will demonstrate Korea's significant work ethic, the great value that Koreans place on education, and their devotion to their country. If teachers do not spend much time on Korean Pop the first day, they should have the time to do this introductory lesson. They could summarize some of the sections to work within class time.

To further stress the importance of education in Korea, the **Values Lesson: Four Famous Koreans** might be introduced the next day. U.S. currency has images of American heroes – politicians and military people. In South Korea, the currency reflects the value placed on education. Three famous Koreans are introduced – two men and one woman. They are all scholars. The lesson begins on page 51 and ends on page 53. Viewing the Power Point, **Pre-Modern Korea (California version)** will be helpful background information for teachers of 7th grade history. Parts of this Power Point covers information included in the framework and appropriate for 7th graders. The first slides relate to the present followed by information about early Korea until 1910.

To give some students the opportunity to become actively involved in Korea, a teacher might ask three or four members of the class to read the first person accounts of four famous Koreans. As the students speak, their classmates will be attentive. The lesson begins on page 45. The new California history textbooks approved by the Department of Education include Queen Sejong, King Sejong, and Admiral Yi Sun-Shin. Yu Kwan-Sun is a 20th century teenage girl who sacrificed her life to protest Japanese occupation. Her story is historically accurate and very touching.

Another possibility is a lesson in *Teaching East Asia: Korea* along with a Power Point lecture titled **Silla Korea and the Silk Road** that is located on the Korea Society website: www.koreasociety.org. Click on the bar on the right and then click on Education. Mary Connor created the original Power Point lecture, but shortened it for 7th and 10th grade World History students. Her Power Point lecture is on our website and titled **Silla Korea and the Silk Road: Globalization Then and Now**. This lecture together with the lesson (pages 30-38) in *Teaching East Asia: Korea* will allow for a discussion about the benefits and challenges of globalization. Seventh and 10th graders should be able to handle this learning opportunity. Ask them to check where their cell phones, clothing, computers, shoes, and household possessions are made and what languages are spoken in their homes and neighborhoods. What are the benefits and challenges of these developments in terms of their own lives and for the United States? This could be homework in preparation for the showing of *Silla Korea and the Silk Road: Globalization Then and Now*. The visuals on the Power Point are impressive and truly beautiful. The homework assignment should be very helpful for a meaningful discussion of the Silla Korea Power Point lecture. The e-book lesson that begins on page 30 will also be helpful.

Students will want to learn about North Korea. The Power Point lecture (**Pre-Modern Korea: California Version**) provides current information and comparisons between South Korea and North Korea, followed by information on ancient Korea that is included in the new California History-Social Science Framework. An additional Power Point, **Inside North Korea**, asks students to

draw conclusions about life in North Korea by viewing many images from photographs taken by author Mary Connor during her tour of North Korea.

Korea is the most Confucian nation in East Asia. While 7th graders in California were introduced to Confucianism in 6th grade, a review of this philosophy will be helpful for understanding Korea and Korean American students and their families. Examine the lesson, *Korea and Confucianism*, on e-book pages 222-226 in *Teaching East Asia: Korea*.

All Korean students know the song, *Arirang*. It is beautiful and touches the hearts of all Koreans throughout the world. The music chapter (pages 204-206) in *Teaching East Asia: Korea* gives background on the song and provides a link to the New York Philharmonic's extraordinary and moving performance of *Arirang* in Pyongyang, North Korea. If teachers introduce the *Arirang*, Korean students and their parents will be very appreciative. Showing the performance in Pyongyang will also provoke curiosity about North Korea. The Power Point lecture (***Pre-Modern Korea: California Version***) provides current information on North and South Korea and their differences.

Suggestions for 8TH Grade United States History

Grade Eight – United States History and Geography: Growth and Conflict

The New Nation's Westward Expansion

Standard 8.12 (7) Identify the new sources of large-scale immigration and the contributions of immigrants to the building of cities and the economy; explain the ways in which new social and economic patterns encouraged assimilation of newcomers into the mainstream amidst growing cultural diversity; and discuss the new wave of nativism.

The Framework discusses the waves of immigrants and migrants to the American West in the late 19th and early 20th century.

They also encountered immigrants from Asia, including China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and India, in search of labor in gold mines and farming.

Teaching East Asia: Korea has a chapter on Korean American history (pages 249-256) that contains information on the early Korean settlers in Hawaii and two famous Koreans, such as Ahn Chang Ho (Korean Independence Movement) and Young Oak Kim (World War II hero who led the famous 100th Infantry Battalion of the U.S. Army). The National Korean Studies website has a Power Point lecture on famous Korean Americans.

The following link includes Korean American history from 1903 to the Los Angeles Riots of 1992. The You Tube video provides images and information that might of considerable interest to Korean American students. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jELVFvva720&feature=youtu.be>

If districts or schools would like their faculty to receive this information by an e-mail attachment, please e-mail MaryConnor3838@gmail.com
