

Language Lizard Unit: *Teaching about Korea*

## **Korea**

*Culture, Language and Customs*

### **Language Lizard Books Used:**

[The Crow King](#) in Korean/English

\*\*Lessons can be adapted to use different Language Lizard books in Korean/English

**Focus Languages:** Korean, English

**Grades:** 1-3

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### *Teaching about Korea:*

These two lessons have been designed to help students

- learn about different cultures and customs of people in Korea and in the United States;
- hear and see new languages and text;
- build an appreciation of the diverse languages present in the world and in the United States;
- introduce important Social Studies concepts such as Culture and Geography;
- build positive relationships among students in the classroom to promote the acceptance of diversity among students as a part of the classroom environment while demonstrating teacher support of linguistic diversity.

The Language Lizard books used in these lessons is [The Crow King](#). Additional books in Korean/English may be substituted for or used in addition to the book used in these lessons.

These lessons are easily aligned with state standards, and national standards in Social Studies and Language Arts. The National Council for the Social Studies Themes that these lessons support include: Culture, People, Places and Environment, Individual Development and Identity, Global Connections and Individuals, Groups and Institutions.

## *Lesson Plan One: Korean Language and Symbols*

### **Rationale:**

It is important for students to see the difference between another country and their own. This will allow them to see beyond what they know and understand that the world has many differences and similarities that should be embraced.

### **Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to write different symbols in Korean and know their meanings.
2. After discussing and drawing the South Korean flag, students will be able to make their own flag with their name in the middle and symbols representing who they are or what they enjoy.

### **Lesson Introduction/Anticipatory Set:**

To get the students interested in learning about Korea, either have someone who is from Korea come in and talk about their life in Korean schools or read a book that speaks about life in Korean schools. Afterward, discuss how their experiences are the same or different from the ones they heard/read. Next, the students and teacher will discuss what they know about Korea and if they know where Korea is located on the map. The teacher will encourage students to use globes and maps to locate Korea and compare it to where they live. Finally, have students place a sticker on Korea and on the country where they live. Use the map scale to measure how far Korea is from their home.

### **Procedure:**

1. The Korean alphabet will then be introduced to the students and they will be able to see the differences between the Korean alphabet and the English alphabet.
2. If you can write a Korean word for the students to see the difference or if you have someone who can write in Korean, write that word. Then the students should discuss the difference between the Korean word(s) and English word(s).
3. Next, introduce the South Korean flag to the children and describe what the yin and the yang illustration in the middle of flag means. Then describe the symbols that surround the yin and the yang.
4. Then write on the board the different symbols in Korean and what they mean. Have the students brainstorm the different symbols they see in the US or in other countries, describing what they mean. For example, a heart may mean love.
5. The students will then draw the Korean flag and write the symbols that are on that flag. They will do this in order to practice how to write the symbols in Korean.
6. The students will then create their own flag with their name in the middle and either Korean or English symbols surrounding their name.

7. Once the students have been given an exposure to the different language and the different location, the book [The Crow King](#) can then be read.
8. This book can be read in Korean and English. This can help the students orally hear the language and visually see the country and the traditional Korean clothes depicted in this tale.

**Closure:**

Discuss with students what they learned about Korea. Use the following questions to guide the discussion:

Where is Korea located on the world map?

Where is Korea compared to your country?

What is the main language of Korea?

Describe the Korean flag. What symbols are represented on the flag, and what do they mean?

How is the Korean language similar to, or different than the languages you speak in school and/or at home?

**Assessment:**

1. The Korean flags that the students made will be collected and checked to see how well the students created the symbols.
2. Observe student responses to the questions in the lesson closure to check their understanding of Korean symbols.

**Materials:**

3. Several different maps; globe, flat, and large maps
4. Korean Alphabet and symbols
5. South Korean Flag
6. [The Crow King](#)
7. Markers & Sturdy paper for flag
8. Korea symbol chart

Name	Symbolism	Nature	Animal	Body	Family	Shape
<i>Keonkwai</i>	Positive	Sky	Horse	Head	Father	
<i>T'aekwai</i>	Negative	Pond	Sheep	Mouth	Youngest daughter	
<i>Ikwai</i>	Negative	Fire	Pheasant	Eye	Middle daughter	
<i>Jinkwai</i>	Positive	Thunder	Dragon	Foot	Oldest son	
<i>Sonkwai</i>	Negative	Wind	Chicken	Leg	Oldest daughter	
<i>Kamkwai</i>	Positive	Water	Pig	Ear	Middle son	
<i>Kankwai</i>	Positive	Mountain	Dog	Hand	Youngest son	
<i>Konkwai</i>	Negative	Earth	Cow	Stomach	Mother	

**Resources:**

South Korean Flag and its meaning: [www.nationaltangsoodo.org/korean%20flag.htm](http://www.nationaltangsoodo.org/korean%20flag.htm) or <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/flags/ks-flag.html>

Korean Language/Alphabet: [www.omniglot.com/writing/korean.htm](http://www.omniglot.com/writing/korean.htm)

Mid-Atlantic States Picture: <http://www.glasbyinc.com/images/mid-atlantic.gif>

## *Lesson Plan Two: Korean Holidays*

### **Rationale:**

This lesson is important for students to understand that children and adults in other countries do celebrate holidays that may be the same or different compared to what they celebrate. The children will also be able to use their critical thinking skills and think of a holiday and how they would celebrate that holiday.

### **Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to create a list of holidays and traditions they know of and participate in.
2. Students will be able to play a traditional Korean game to represent what children and adults do on Sol-Nal.

### **Lesson Introduction/Anticipatory Set:**

Re-visit the map and locate where Korea is again and refresh their memory about the language of Korea. Describe how important family is in the Korean culture. Lead into a discussion about how holidays are often celebrated by families and that families have different customs even when they are celebrating the same holiday. Next, have the children brainstorm, with a partner, as many holidays as they can. Have students list traditions that families may participate in during those holidays. The students will then present with their partner what they came up with and tell us a little about what their family does for the holidays they celebrate. Then hand out a teacher made note sheet of the holidays that people in Korea celebrate and why. Go over the note sheet with the students for those who have difficulty reading.

### **Procedure:**

1. If possible, have someone who is from Korea come and talk about the holiday Sol-Nal and Children's Day. If not, teacher can use the information listed below.
  - These holidays are celebrated in Korea and are really interesting for students and teachers. They have different traditions and eat different types of food than what American children may have experienced.
2. Ask the students what they find similar or different about these holidays and if they would like to celebrate them.
3. Group the students into pairs or threes (depending on the amount of children in the class) and describe to them the game (Yut) they are about to play.
  - With the help of the teacher the students will play the game.
  - After they finish the game, we will ask them what they thought of the game and if they would play it at home with their family or friends. Instructions for the game can be found online. The games can be purchased at Korean stores and internationally.

**Closure:** Ask the students to make up their own holiday and the traditions they would follow if it were a real holiday. They will then present it to their peers and get feedback

on their holiday. Have students review their learning about Korean holidays including how they are similar to or different than the holidays they celebrate in their homes.

**Assessment:**

1. Observe the student writing their list of holidays and discussing the Korean holidays (similarities and differences to their own.)
2. Observe students playing the game Yut and see if they need any help with the game.

**Materials:**

- Large map of the world
- Lined Paper
- Pencils
- Directions on how to play Yut
- The sticks, board, and pieces for Yut
- Teacher made notes (See websites below)

**Resources:**

Sol Nal and How to Play Yut on this Website:

<http://www.clickasia.co.kr/about/h0101.htm>

Article on Sol Nal:

<http://www.2camels.com/korean-new-year.php>

**Sol – Nal: Korean New Years**

People in Korea celebrate new years by first dressing up in a Han-Bok, traditional clothing that they wear for special occasions, such as Chu-suk (Thanksgiving, or Harvest Day) and Chinese New years. Then they take the time to visit relatives or grandparents if they don't live with their family. They take a bow on their knees (jol) to the elders and children receive money (Sae-bet-don) or candies in exchange. They also get together and eat rice cake soup called Dduk-guk, and that way, they believe that they become one year older. Children get together and play various games. Boys play Jae-gi-cha-gi, game similar to kicking hacky sacks and girls play with a jumping seesaw called Nul-ddwee-gi. Adults also play a stick throwing game called Yut-nol-ee and fly kites with the children.

Children's Day Article:

[http://english.ohmynews.com/articleview/article\\_view.asp?at\\_code=408337](http://english.ohmynews.com/articleview/article_view.asp?at_code=408337)

Children's Day:

<http://www.kidlink.org/KIDPROJ/MCC/mcc0948.html>

**Children's Day**

Children's Day is celebrated on May 5<sup>th</sup>. This day is celebrated with various programs for children, and they enjoy their time with their parents. The amusements parks, zoos, and national parks become crowded with families enjoying the holiday in the beautiful spring weather. The children have a day off from school to enjoy the day with their family by flying kites, playing games and eating with them at a picnic.