

Korea

Altered Books: A Self-Portrait

Middle School

Objective:

• Student will be introduced to the Korean culture through a power point presentation, focusing on the Japanese occupation in the 1930's and 40's. They will participate activities concentrating on naming and identity. Student will read sections of the book, *Lost Names*.

• Students will learn about altered books and be introduced to bookmaking as an art form. (Ohio Academic Content Standards) *Student will create a self-portraits emphasizing images that express who they are.*

Ohio Benchmark/Standards:

A. Visual Arts Standards/Benchmarks:

1. Benchmark A , Grade 7, #3: Provide insight into the factors (personal experience, interest, cultural heritage, gender) that might influence an artist's style and choice of subject matter.
2. Benchmark A, Grade Eight, #2: Apply the principles of design to construct a three-dimensional piece of artwork.

B. Non Art Standards/Benchmarks:

1. English: Incorporating a writing component into the book assignment stresses the importance of literature. Students must include some form of original writing, either lyrics, a poem, or tell a story or share an experience.

Essential Visual Art Idea:

Many times when students approach the creation of a self-portrait, they tend to ignore the concept that the picture should be more than just a likeness; it should also say something personal about the artist.

For this project students will begin by trying to determine what interests and events in our lives define us and make us who we are. The student will make an altered book that addresses these ideas. The goal is to be identified by the places and things in our lives that speak about us.

Materials:

Handout on identity

Computer and projector of Power Point presentations (on Korea and the art of altered books)

Book *Last Names* and an Audio recording

graphite pencil, or colored pencil

Pencils

Sketchbooks

Portfolios

Cardboard (pre-cut to 6"x6")

Black cloth (pre-cut to 7"x7")

Metal embossing tools

Metal: copper, tin, and gold

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Elmer's glue
Printmaking supplies: ink, linseed oil, brayer, plexiglass, 5"x5" paper
Gum Arabic solution
Photographs
Photocopies
Acrylic paints
Watercolor paints
Paper of various weights and textures (pre-cut to 5"x5")
String
Hammer
Nail
Three-dimensional objects from home

Prior Student Knowledge:

Prior to this lesson students will study the Japanese culture and the events involving America before during and after WWII so not to introduce the book on its own. This will give the students a variety of perspectives of Japanese culture and political actions.

Activity:

1. Student will discuss the idea of identity and what's in a name. They will be introduced to the book, *Lost Names*. Students will be asked to speculate what they think the book is about?
2. As a whole group they will list as many reasons as possible that names are "lost". and "Is a name important?"
3. Students will then be introduced to a brief history of Korea in the form of a power point presentation with images of the geography, architecture, art and people of Korea. Special attention will be placed on the suppression of art during the Japanese occupation.
4. As whole class Students will hear the story *Lost Names* through audio tapes.
5. Students will then complete a worksheet that will help them focus on their identity and significant event for their personal and family lives.

Art Historical Background Related To The Lesson:

Altered books were first introduced into mainstream society in the 11th century when manuscript artists recycled old manuscripts by scratching off the old ink and adding new ink. They did this because of the costly price for paper.

In the 19th century people started "scrap booking". Using old books, they would collage in photographs, recipes, and other miscellaneous objects.

Today, artists create altered books by starting off with an old book in which the copyright has run out. Artists then burn, tear, paint, embellish, decorate, collage, and add to these books to turn them into art.

Subject: Altered Books from Scratch

1. Students will be introduced to the concept of "altered books". I will show a power point, which includes visuals for the students to observe. They will examine examples and be asked to discuss similarities and differences. They will

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brainstorm ideas of symbols and images that relate to their life events and sketch these ideas in their sketchbooks. (Each student has their own sketchbook they made at the beginning of the year to use throughout the semester in art.) These images will be incorporated in each of the art process used to create their book and assembled in a sequential order to form their self-portrait book.

- A. First, they will be creating front and back covers for their books using cardboard and cloth.
- B. Then students will be creating a design or image for their front cover. This image will then be transferred to a piece of metal to serve as their front cover. They will experience using metal embossing tools during this process.
- C. Working one page at a time, students will be experimenting with different printmaking processes. First they will be required to complete one additive monotype and one subtractive monotype. Also, they will learn to transfer photocopy images using gum arabic and oil-based ink.
 - a. Printmaking- any process of making art by printing on a surface
 - b. Prints- images produced from printmaking processes
 - c. Brayer- a tool used to apply ink to a surface
 - d. Bench hook- used to control the flow of ink
 - e. Monotype- a one of a kind print that can't be reproduced
 - f. Additive- prints that are created from applying ink to a surface
 - g. Subtractive- prints that are created from the removal of ink from a surface
- C. Lastly students will be bringing in items from home to collage into their altered books. They will also have the option of painting in their books. Students will be required to bring in string that corresponds to their theme to bind their books. They will be using nails and hammers to punch holes in their books for binding.

PROCEDURE:

Day 1: Introduce Altered books with a power point. Introduce assignment.

Day 2: Demonstrate wrapping the front and back book covers. As a class, step-by-step, create book covers.

Day 3: Distribute newspaper for students to design a pattern or image for their front cover.

Day 4: Demonstrate metal embossing. Finish design ideas.

Day 5: Emboss metal covers.

Day 6: Printmaking Introduction. Demonstration.

Day 7: Print additive monotype.

Day 8: Demonstration & sketchbooks.

Day 9: Print subtractive monotype.

Day 10: Allow optional 3rd print. Some students may want to "antique" front covers with ink.

Day 11: Introduce photocopy transfer process. Demonstration.

Day 12: Printing.

Day 13: Second round of printing.

Day 14: Bring in items from home to collage.

Day 15: Incorporate paint into books.

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Day 16: Assemble books and punch holes for binding. Glue metal to front covers.

Day 17: Keep assembling books.

Day 18: Bring in items from home to collage into books. (With glue only)

*Somewhere within downtime, have students start writing rough-drafts for literature to be included in books. Students may incorporate the writing in the form of poetry, lyrics or a narrative description of who they are, What makes me “me”, How am I changing from day to day or year to year, Who do I want to become. I want students to keep in mind the basic question: *Who am I? While a mirror or a photograph can tell a person what he or she looks like, that physical image does not reflect the whole self. (National Gallery of Art Washington, DC)*

Korean Cultural Background

History

The Prehistoric Age

Archaeological findings have indicated that the first settlements on the Korean Peninsula occurred 700,000 years ago

Go-Joseon (2333 - 108 B.C)

According to legend, the mythical figure Dan-gun founded Go-Joseon, the first Korean Kingdom, in 2333 B.C. Subsequently, several tribes moved from the southern part of Manchuria to the Korean Peninsula.

The Three Kingdoms Period (57 B.C. - A.D. 676)

The three kingdoms, Goguryeo, Baekje and Silla, were established in the 1st century A.D. During this period, the kingdom's political systems, religions (Buddhism and Confucianism), and cultures developed.

The Unified Silla Kingdom and Balhae

The Unified Silla(676-935)

The Unified Silla Kingdom promoted the development of culture and arts, and the popularity of Buddhism reached its peak during this period. The Unified Silla Kingdom declined because of contention for supremacy among the noble classes, and was annexed by Goryeo in 935.

Balhae(698-926)

The Balhae Kingdom began to emerge just as the Goguryeo Dynasty was on the verge of collapsing. Goguryeo General, Dae Joyeong founded Balhae along with his army of displaced peoples. At one point, Balhae became so powerful that it was able to acquire territories in northern and eastern parts of China, as well as many other developments within the kingdom. At those times, the Tang Dynasty of China referred to Balhae as 'the strong country by the sea in the east.' The significance of the Balhae Kingdom is greatly inherited from Goguryeo, including the land that it was able to retrieve.

The Goryeo Dynasty (918 - 1392)

The Goryeo Dynasty was established in 918. Buddhism became the state religion during this time and greatly influenced politics and culture. Famous items produced during this

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time include Goryeo celadon and the Tripitaka Koreana. During the Goryeo Dynasty, Jikji, the world's oldest movable metal type was published. It was invented 78 years before the German movable metal type created by Gutenberg. The Goryeo Dynasty's strength decreased gradually in the latter half of the 14th century.

The Joseon Dynasty (1392 - 1910)

The Joseon Dynasty was formed at the end of the 14th century. Confucianism became the state ideology and exerted a massive influence over the whole of society. The Joseon Dynasty produced Hangeul, the Korean alphabet, which was invented in 1443, during the reign of King Sejong. The dynasty's power declined sharply later because of foreign invasions, beginning with the Japanese invasion of 1592.

The Japanese Colonial Period (1910 - 1945)

In 1876, the Joseon Dynasty was forced to adopt an open-door policy regarding Japan. The Japanese annexation of Korea concluded in 1910, and Korean people had to accept Japanese colonial rule until the surrender of Japan, which ended World War II.

The Republic of Korea (1945 - Present)

In 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allies and withdrew from the Korean Peninsula. The Korean Peninsula was then divided into two zones, South and North Korea. The Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950 and fighting ended when an armistice was signed on July 27, 1953. In 2000, an historic summit took place between South and North Korea in Pyeongyang, the capital of North Korea.

http://www.koreanculture.org/06about_korea/history.htm

Geography

Korea is situated on the Korean Peninsula, which spans 1,100 kilometers north to south. The Korean Peninsula lies on the northeastern section of the Asian continent, where Korean waters are joined by the western-most parts of the Pacific. The peninsula shares its northern border with China and Russia. To its east is the East Sea, beyond which neighboring Japan lies. In addition to the mainland peninsula, Korea includes some 3,000 islands.

Korea encompasses a total of 222,154 square kilometers-almost the same size as Britain or Rumania. Some 45 percent of this area, or 99,000 square kilometers, is considered cultivatable area, excluding reclaimed land areas. Mountainous terrain accounts for some two-thirds of the territory like Portugal, Hungary or Ireland.

The Mt. Taebaeksan range runs the full length of the east coast, where the lashing waves of the East Sea have carved out sheer cliffs and rocky islets. The western and southern slopes are rather gentle, forming plains and many offshore islands honeycombed with inlets.

The peninsula features so many scenic mountains and rivers that Koreans have often likened their country to a beautifully embroidered brocade. The highest peak is Mt.

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Baekdusan in North Korea, which rises up 2,744 meters above sea level along the northern border facing China. Mt. Baekdusan is an extinct volcano where a large volcanic lake, named Cheonji, has been formed. The mountain is regarded as an especially important symbol of the Korean spirit and is mentioned in Korea's national anthem.

Considering its territorial size, Korea has a relatively large number of rivers and streams. These waterways played crucial roles in shaping the lifestyle of Koreans, and in the nation's industrialization. The two longest rivers in North Korea are the Amnokgang River (Yalu, 790 kilometers) and the Dumangang River (Tumen, 521 kilometers). These rivers originate from Mt. Baekdusan and flow to the west and the east, respectively. They form the peninsula's northern border.

In the southern part of the peninsula, the Nakdonggang River (525 kilometers) and the Hangang River (514 kilometers) are the two major waterways. The Hangang river flows through Seoul, the capital of Korea, and serves as a lifeline for the heavily concentrated population in the central region of modern Korea, just as it did for the people of the ancient kingdoms that developed along its banks.

Surrounding the peninsula on three sides, the ocean has played an integral role in the life of the Koreans since ancient times, contributing to the early development of shipbuilding and navigational skills.

People

Koreans are one ethnic family and speak one language. Sharing distinct physical characteristics, they are believed to be descendants of several Mongol tribes that migrated onto the Korean Peninsula from Central Asia.

In the seventh century, the various states of the peninsula were unified for the first time under the Silla Kingdom (57 B.C.-A.D. 935). Such homogeneity has enabled Koreans to be relatively free from ethnic problems and to maintain a firm solidarity with one another.

As of the end of 2002, Korea's total population was estimated at 47,640,000 with a density of 479 people per square kilometer. The population of North Korea is estimated to be 22,253,000.

Korea saw its population grow by an annual rate of 3 percent during the 1960s, but growth slowed to 2 percent over the next decade. Today, the rate stands at 0.6 percent, and is expected to further decline to 0.06 percent by 2020.

A notable trend in Korea's demographics is that it is growing older with each passing year. Statistics show that 6.9 percent of the total population of Korea was 65 years or older in 1999 and 7.9 percent of the total in 2002.

In the 1960s, Korea's population distribution formed a pyramid shape, with a high birth rate and relatively short life expectancy. However, the structure is now shaped more like

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a bell with a low birth rate and extended life expectancy. Youth (under the age of 15 years) will make up a decreasing portion of the total, while senior citizens (65 years or older) will account for some 15.1 percent of the total by the year 2020.

The nation's rapid industrialization and urbanization in the 1960s and 1970s has been accompanied by continuing migration of rural residents into the cities, particularly Seoul, resulting in heavily populated metropolitan areas. However, in recent years, an increasing number of people have begun moving to suburban areas of Seoul.

http://www.koreanculture.org/06about_korea/geography_people.htm

Land & Climate

The Korean Peninsula, located in Northeast Asia, is bordered on the north by China and Vladivostok, Russia. To the southeast, it juts toward the lower islands of Japan. The northernmost point is Yeopojin in Onseong-gun, Hamgyeongbuk Province, and the southernmost point is Mara Island, Cheju Province. The westernmost point is Maan Island in Yongcheon-gun, Pyeonganbuk Province, and the easternmost is Dok Island in Ulleung-gun, Gyeongsangbuk Province. The Korean Peninsula is 222,154 square kilometers, almost the same size as the U.K. or Romania. The administrative area of the Republic of Korea is 99,392 square kilometers, slightly larger than Hungary or Portugal and a little smaller than Ireland.

The Republic of Korea is composed of nine provinces. Its capital city is Seoul. Other major cities include Busan, Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, Daejeon, and Ulsan. The landscape of the country is spectacular in its variations, about 70 percent of it being mountainous. More than 3,000 islands dot the coastline. The largest, about 60 km off the southwestern tip of the peninsula, is semi-tropical Jeju Island, among Koreans a popular honeymoon destination. There are several major rivers in the south, the greatest of them being the Han, which cuts through Seoul as it winds its way toward the East Sea.

Like other countries in the temperate zone, Korea has four distinct seasons. In spring and autumn, the weather is superb: clear, blue skies and warm, gentle sunshine. Summer is hot and humid, with heavy rainfall occurring during the monsoon season. Winter is cold and dry, with occasional snow. However, these cold spells alternate with periods of milder weather held to occur with more or less predictable frequency.

Spring of Korea

Spring lasts from late March to May and is warm. Various flowers, including the picturesque cherry blossom, cover the nation's mountains and fields during this time.

Summer of Korea

Summer lasts from June to early September. It is a hot and humid time of the year.

Autumn of Korea

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Autumn lasts from September to November, and produces mild weather. It is the best season for visiting Korea.

Winter of Korea

Winter lasts from December to mid-March. It can be bitterly cold during this time due to the influx of cold Siberian air. Heavy snow in the northern and eastern parts of Korea makes favorable skiing conditions.

In fact, the lunar calendar, still in use in Korea, divides the four main seasons of the year into a total of twenty-four sub-seasons. These account for smaller climatic patterns akin to our "Dog Days" of summer. While by no means unvarying, these patterns occur with such a surprising degree of regularity, that it is not unusual for a Korean calendar to pinpoint, as if they were holidays, the hottest and coldest days of the year.

About Korean Language (Hangul)

Koreans have developed and use a unique alphabet called Hangeul. It is considered to be one of the most efficient alphabets in the world and has garnered unanimous praise from language experts for its scientific design and excellence.

Hangeul was created under King Sejong during the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910). In 1446, the first Korean alphabet was proclaimed under the name Hunminjeongeum, which literally meant "the Correct Sounds for the Instruction of the People."

King Sejong, the motivating force behind Hangeul, is considered to be one of the greatest rulers in the history of Korea. Highly respected for his benevolent disposition and diligence, King Sejong was also a passionate scholar whose knowledge and natural talent in all fields of study astounded even the most learned experts.

When King Sejong was not performing his official duties, he enjoyed reading and meditating. He could also be very tenacious at times and would never yield on what he thought was right. Love for the people was the cornerstone of his reign (1418-1450), and he was always ready to listen to the voices of the common folk. He was a ruler of virtue, with the welfare of the people dictating all policy formulations.

King Sejong also established the Jiphyeonjeon, an academic research institute, inside the palace. Noted scholars from all academic disciplines gathered here to engage in lively discussions and also to publish a variety of scholarly books.

During his reign, King Sejong always deplored the fact that the common people, ignorant of the complicated Chinese characters that were being used by the educated, were not able to read and write. He understood their frustration in not being able to read or to communicate their thoughts and feelings in written words.

The Chinese script was used by the intelligentsia of the country, but being of foreign origin, it could not fully express the words and meaning of Korean thoughts and spoken language. Therefore, common people with legitimate complaints had no way of submitting their grievances to the appropriate authorities, other than through oral communication, and they had no way to record for posterity the agricultural wisdom and knowledge they had gained through years of experience.

King Sejong felt great sympathy for the people. As a wise ruler strongly dedicated to national identity and cultural independence, he immediately searched for solutions. What

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he envisioned was an alphabet that was uniquely Korean and easily learnable, rendering it accessible and usable for the common people.

Thus, the Hunminjeongeum was born. In the preface of its proclamation, King Sejong states as follows:

"Being of foreign origin, Chinese characters are incapable of capturing uniquely Korean meanings. Therefore, many common people have no way to express their thoughts and feelings. Out of my sympathy for their difficulties, I have invented a set of 28 letters. The letters are very easy to learn, and it is my fervent hope that they improve the quality of life of all people." The statement captures the essence of King Sejong's determination and dedication to cultural independence and commitment to the welfare of the people.

When first proclaimed by King Sejong, Hunminjeongeum had 28 letters in all, of which only 24 are in use today. The 24 letters are as follows.

Consonants:

(g, k), (n), (d, t), (r or l), (m), (b, p), (s),
(ng), (j), (ch), (k), (t), (p), (h)

Vowels:

(a), (ya), (eo), (yeo), (o), (yo), (u), (yu), (eu), (i)

The basic letters of the alphabet when *Hunminjeongeum* was first created numbered eight; they were the consonants " , , , " and the vowels " . , , "

The reason consonants and vowels were separated was due to their differing functions when two letters were combined to form a syllable. Hunminjeongeum is basically a type of hieroglyph. Consonants, the initial sound letters, resemble a person's speech organs. The shape of each letter is based on the form of different sound articulation units.

"(giyeok)": To pronounce this letter, part of the tongue touches the molar teeth and sticks near the uvula. The shape of the letter is based on the lateral form of this process.

"(nieun)": To pronounce this letter, the front of the tongue curves and the tip of the tongue sticks to the upper gums. The shape of the letter is based on the lateral form of this process.

"(mieum)": To pronounce this letter, the upper and lower lips are joined. The shape of the letter is based on the form of the joined lips.

"(siot)": To pronounce this letter, the tip of the tongue and the upper teeth are brought close together, and sound is created by blowing through the narrowed passage. The shape of the letter is based on the form of the teeth during the process.

"(ieung)": To pronounce this letter that is created by stimulating the uvula, the throat assumes a round shape, hence the form of the consonant. Nine additional letters were made by adding additional strokes to the five basic consonants based on the strength of the sounds, as follows.

However, " is no longer used.

The vowels, on the other hand, were created in the image of the sky, land, and man. That is, " . " resembles the roundness of the sky, " represents the flat land and " is the image of a standing man. The other vowels "(a), (ya), (eo), (yeo), (o), (yo), (u), (yu)" are variations of their three basic vowels. " . " is not used today.

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The creation of the Hunminjeongeum was a remarkable accomplishment. Creating consonants based on a person's speech organs and vowels based on the shapes of the sky, land, and man was truly a revolutionary and unprecedented process.

King Sejong and the scholars of the Jiphyeonjeon, inventors of the Korean alphabet, considered human sounds as being more than mere physical phenomena. They assumed that an invisible yet more powerful principle was the controlling force behind these phenomena. They adhered to the principle that human sounds and all universal phenomena are based on eum-yang (negative-positive) and ohaeng (the five primary elements: metal, wood, water, fire and earth). Hence, they thought it natural that there be a common link between sounds and the changing of the seasons and between sounds and music.

A Korean syllable is divided into three parts: choseong (initial consonant), jungseong (vowel), and jongseong (final consonant). This is the basic framework that King Sejong and the Jiphyeonjeon scholars adhered to when creating the letters. Jongseong was not separately created and was a repetition of the choseong. Therefore, Hangeul is capable of creating thousands of words by combining the consonants and vowels.

As the above examples clearly show, Hangeul, with only 14 consonants and 10 vowels, is capable of expressing virtually any sound.

The Korean language has a well-developed and expansive vocabulary, and therefore, it is very difficult to express fully in foreign script. However, due to its scientific design, it is quite easy to approximate the sounds of foreign words in the Korean alphabet. Following are some examples of English words expressed in Hangeul.

London -

New York -

Hong Kong -

I am a boy -

Good morning -

In particular, because of its simplicity and the rather small number of letters, Hangeul is very easy for children or speakers of other languages to learn.

Most children are capable of expressing their feelings and thoughts by the ages of two or three, albeit in primitive form. However, most Korean children by the time they reach school age, have mastered Hangeul, which is unusual. This fact clearly attests to the easy learnability and accessibility of the Korean alphabet.

It is ironic that the strongest proof of the easy learnability of the alphabet came from the critics who argued against the creation of Hunminjeongeum. Some scholars vehemently railed against the "new" alphabet because of its learnability, and in derision, they called it Achimgeul (morning letters) or Amgeul (women's letters).

Achimgeul meant that it could be learned in one morning. For those scholars who had spent years learning the complicated ideographs of the Chinese language, Hangeul did not appear to be worthy of learning. Amgeul meant that even women who had no academic training or background at the time Hangeul was invented could easily learn the alphabet. At that time, there were those who considered the pursuit of academic studies and the subject of reading and writing to be the sole domain of a few privileged scholars.

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Such misconceptions were the result of confusing simple linguistic learning with more advanced academic studies. Without learning the basic alphabet, reading and writing would be impossible, let alone the study of more advanced subjects. Without being able to read and write, there can be no indirect communication of one's feelings and thoughts. Surely, King Sejong's intent was to enrich the lives of the people by introducing Hangeul, and not to make scholars out of all his subjects.

In its subsequent history, Hangeul has been a mainstay of Korean culture, helping preserve the country's national identity and independence.

Illiteracy is virtually nonexistent in Korea. This is another fact that attests to the easy learnability of Hangeul. It is not uncommon for a foreigner to gain a working knowledge of Hangeul after one or two hours of intensive studying. In addition, because of its scientific design, Hangeul lends itself to easy mechanization. In this age of computers, many people now are able to incorporate computers into their lives without difficulties, thanks to a large number of programs written in Hangeul.

http://www.koreanculture.org/06about_korea/language.htm

Learn Korean Through English

>> www.mct.go.kr/koreanthroughenglish/chapter01_1.htm

Constitution & Government

The Republic of Korea exercises a democratic form of government based on a system of checks and balances. The Constitution was first adopted in 1948, when the Republic was established, and has since been revised nine times as the country has struggled to refine and strengthen its democracy. In its present form, the Constitution guarantees all Korean citizens the same basic rights and freedoms. These include, but are not limited to, equality before the law, freedom from arbitrary arrest, freedom of residence, the right to vote and hold public office, the right to privacy, and freedoms of religion, speech, and assembly, as well as the right to a clean environment and to the pursuit of happiness. It also provides for various economic rights, such as the right to own property, the right (as well as the duty) to work, freedom of occupation, and the right of workers to engage in collective bargaining so as to obtain optimum wages and working conditions.

The most recent revision of the Constitution provided, among other things, for the direct election of the President for a single five-year term and for the institution of a system of local autonomy, which had been absent for 30 years. These two provisions are vital to the strengthening of democratic institutions in the Republic. The revision also reinstated the right of the National Assembly to conduct regular inspections of all state affairs, as a legislative check against the power of the executive branch. Finally, it charges the Government to seek to reunify the Korean Peninsula, which mandate has been vigorously pursued under the administration of President Roh, Moo-hyun.

The Government consists of three branches: the legislature, in the form of a unicameral National Assembly; the judiciary, consisting of a system of district and appellate courts

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under the umbrella of the Supreme Court; and the executive, headed by the President, who is both Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. The President is assisted by the Prime Minister and the State Council.

http://www.koreanculture.org/06about_korea/constitution_gov.htm

Korea recently pulled through an economic storm that began in late 1997. This crisis, which roiled markets all across Asia, had threatened Korea's remarkable economic achievements. However, thanks to the faithful implementation of an IMF agreement the Korean government's strong resolve for reform, and successful negotiation of foreign debt restructuring with creditor banks the nation is currently on track to resume economic growth. Since the onset of the crisis, Korea has been rapidly integrating itself into the world economy. The goal of the nation is to overcome problems rooted in the past by creating an economic structure suitable for an advanced economy.

Korea, once known to be one of the world's poorest agrarian societies, has undertaken economic development in earnest since 1962. In less than four decades, it achieved what has become known as the "Miracle on the Hangang River" - an incredible process that dramatically transformed the Korean economy while marking a turning point in Korea's history.

Gross National Income

Per Capita GNI

An outward-oriented economic development strategy, which used exports as the engine of growth, contributed greatly to the radical economic transformation of Korea. Based on such a strategy, many successful development programs were implemented. As a result, from 1962 to 2005, Korea's Gross National Income (GNI) increased from US\$2.3 billion to US\$786.8 billion, with its per capita GNI soaring from \$87 to about \$16,291. These impressive figures clearly indicate the magnitude of success that these economic programs have brought about.

GNI and per capita GNI drastically dropped to \$340.4 billion and \$7,335 in 1998 due to the fluctuation in foreign exchange rates but these figures returned to the pre-economic crisis level in 2002.

Overall Exports and Imports

Korean imports have steadily increased thanks to the nation's liberalization policy and increasing per capita income levels. As one of the largest import markets in the world, the volume of Korea's imports exceeded those of China in 1995, and were comparable to the imports of Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines combined.

Major import items included industrial raw materials such as crude oil and natural minerals, general consumer products, foodstuffs and goods such as machinery, electronic equipment and transportation equipment.

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Korea developed rapidly from the 1960s, fueled by high savings and investment rates, and a strong emphasis on education. The nation became the 29th member country of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1996.

With a history as one of the fastest growing economies in the world, Korea is working to become the focal point of a powerful Asian economic bloc during the 21st century. The Northeast Asian region commands a superior pool of essential resources that are the necessary ingredients for economic development. These include a population of 1.5 billion people, abundant natural resources, and large-scale consumer markets.

Culture & the Art

Music and Dance

Painting

Ceramics

Literature

While in some ways quintessentially East Asian, the canon of Korean art does much to distinguish itself from neighboring traditions. In doing so, it often reveals what is unique in the Korean people, as well.

From a broad view, Korean art reflects a yearning for serenity spiced with the motions and colors of struggle and life. Scenes where all of nature seems as poised as a Chinese character stand in contrast to the grim humor of a leering, avuncular tiger. Korea's world-renowned ceramics, steeped in calm colors and repetitive motifs, play it cool amid the controlled chaos of Samulnori, a dance of shamanistic intensity. Ancient legend and folklore have been brightly trussed in a theatrical tradition embroidered with satire, melodrama, and morality play.

To encounter the art of Korea is to encounter fresh and sometimes startling variations on universal themes - variations that continue to flourish under the direction of many talented living artists.

Music and Dance

Throughout their long history, Koreans have nourished an ardent love of music and dance. In the distant past, villagers gathered to celebrate plantings and harvests. Such festivities were probably the origin of folk songs and dances that are still widely enjoyed.

Korean traditional music can be divided into two major types: jeongak for the noble class, and sogak for the common people. Jeongak, performed at court, tended to be slow, solemn, and elaborately melodic. Sogak drew from a variety of influences, including Buddhist and shamanistic rituals. The songs are often dramatic, depicting love stories and folk tales. Performances are vibrant, full of strong emotion. Western music was introduced at the end of the 19th century and gained rapid acceptance. There are a number of Korean musicians performing and competing internationally today.

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Traditional Korean dance may be divided into court dance, folk dance, ritual dance, and the dance of professional entertainers. Court dances are slow, stately, and elegant, the movements balanced and restrained. Folk dance includes farmers' dances, mask dance-dramas, and various group dances meant to accompany work. Ritual dance appears in Confucian, shamanistic, and Buddhist ceremonies. Professional entertainers performed both court and folk dances, often combining features of the two. Many traditional dances were forgotten during the Japanese colonial period (1910-45) and the chaotic early years of the Republic, but in the 1980s, interest in these long-forgotten dances revived. Several were designated Intangible Cultural Properties by the Korean government, while their most notable performers were recognized as Human Cultural Treasures.

Painting

The earliest known Korean paintings were murals painted on the walls of tombs of the Three Kingdoms period (53 B.C. ? A.D. 668). The paintings of Goguryeo were generally dynamic and rhythmic, those of Baekje elegant and refined, and those of Silla somewhat speculative and meticulous. Little is known of the painting of the Unified Silla period (668-935), as only one example survives, but it is believed that painting developed a great deal during this culturally rich and harmonious era. In the Goryeo period (918-1392), painting flourished in rich variety, with heavy Buddhist influences reflected in temple murals and scroll paintings. Many master painters produced works of the so-called "Four Gentlemen": the plum, the orchid, the chrysanthemum, and the bamboo. Early Joseon (1392-1910) painters seemed unable to free themselves from what had become conservative styles, but their descendents grew in creativity and originality, relaxing classical tropes and depicting scenes from everyday life. Understandably, traditional painting suffered under the policies of the Japanese colonial period. Meanwhile, Western styles were introduced and gained a degree of prevalence. After liberation in 1945, interest in both Korean and Western styles of painting grew rapidly. Today, Korean artists engage in both traditions, often fusing them in new and surprising ways.

Ceramics

Ceramics are by far the most famous Korean art objects among the world's art historians and connoisseurs. Neolithic ceramic pots had narrow, rounded bases and were decorated with parallel lines and dots. Early Silla ceramics, free and original in style, varied in color from gray to black and sometimes held brown tones resulting from oxidation in the kiln. Ceramics in Korea reached an apex during the 12th century of the Goryeo Dynasty with the attainment of a mysterious bluish-green celadon glaze and the innovation of a decorative inlay technique. Sung Chinese influences diminished, replaced by features more distinctly Korean. Most of these techniques were lost during the Mongol invasions, so that modern potters can only approximate the glorious achievements of their Goryeo forebears. In the Joseon period, Korean ceramics tended toward austerity. Much favored among the Chinese and Korean aristocracies were plain porcelain vessels of a luminous white. At the same time, however, the lower classes were producing for their own use a colorful variety of cruder porcelain vessels, later prized by collectors for their artless charm.

Literature

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Early Korean literature was heavily influenced by shamanism, Buddhism and Confucianism. The early literature, which began as an oral tradition, depicted a love of nature and man and held that man was a part of nature. Good was rewarded and evil was punished, and values like loyalty to the King, filial piety, respect for one's elders, true friendship and chastity were emphasized. Some of the earliest extant Korean writings are poems, called *hyangga*, written during the Unified Silla period (A.D. 668-935) using Chinese characters phonetically to represent the sounds of the Korean language, which as yet lacked a native alphabet. Only 25 remain. During the Goryeo period and the later Joseon period, Korean literature of the upper class, mostly written in classical Chinese, was characterized by an emphasis on philosophic expositions on the Chinese classics, an art that was essential for government service, the only respectable avenue to success outside of teaching. Scholarly essays and the diaries of scholars and court ladies compose one strain of the literature of this time. Also during this period, *hansi*, poems in Chinese characters, developed to maturity, and toward the end of the dynasty, a new form of poetry called *sijo* gained wide acceptance. The *sijo*, a short three line poem written in Hangeul (the Korean alphabet), remained popular throughout the Joseon Dynasty, as did the later *gasa*, a new vernacular verse genre which was more descriptive and expository. The Joseon period also saw a great outpouring of literature written in Hangeul which often centered on the concept that all men are equal and attacked social inequality, spurred by the introduction of *Silhak* (Practical Learning) in the 17th century. The predecessor of this genre was *The Story of Hong Gildong*, generally considered to be the first Korean novel, written in the early 17th century to criticize the inequalities of Joseon society. This trend was reinforced during the late 19th century by the introduction of Western influences, as writers were inspired by ideas of enlightenment, freedom and independence. Modern writers have also focused on social injustice, particularly under the authoritarian regimes, as well as the dehumanizing influence of industrialization and modernization.

http://www.koreanculture.org/06about_korea/culture_art.htm

Symbols of Korea

Korea is a land of spectacular landscapes, rich culinary arts, and a profound historical legacy. An almost unbelievable array of artifacts and living culture awaits your discovery. From meditations on a stone Buddha to the raucous shouts of masked dancers, it is a source of pride to share with readers this exploration of Korean culture.

Korea's World Cultural & Textual Heritage

During the past several decades, the world has witnessed the meteoric rise of the Republic of Korea as a major player on the international stage—a feat all the more impressive considering the utter devastation wrought by the Korean War (1950-1953). Many are aware of the "Miracle on the Han River", Korea's remarkable economic transformation from a subsistence-level economy into an advanced industrial nation, one of the "Four Asian Dragons". Korea also left a shining impression on the world with its successful staging of the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul. Few, though, are aware of its

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less famous treasures: its breath-taking scenery and diverse climate, its rich cultural heritage and artistic life, its peace-loving yet passionate populace, and its continuous devotion to the Confucian ideals of filial reverence, social harmony, education, and self-enrichment. The Koreans are a proud people who have weathered many hardships with a strong sense of unity and stoicism, never losing their identity or pride as a people. Korea has much to offer to the international community. It is our hope that these pages will reveal to the reader some of the hidden beauty of the "Land of the Morning Calm".

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Korean Cultural Services <http://www.koreanculture.org/>

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