

NCTA – OSU  
Winter 2006  
Barbara Wookey

Korean lesson plan

# **Culture Sharing:**

## **Geography, Climate, Symbols**

### **Background:**

This is an open-enrollment ESOL class for adults. It is free, non-graded and the students are intermediate to low-advanced level from many different countries and cultures. They meet twice a week for two hours. Their objective is to learn English skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. There are about 20 students representing 14 or so countries; the majority is Asian.

### **Purpose:**

This lesson will give students an opportunity to share their unique culture with others in the class and to also learn about different cultures from others. They will use their English skills to work with other students from the same, or nearby, country. They will prepare and do a class presentation.

### **Rational:**

Students come to this class to learn English, but they learn much more. They represent their native country; they are like ambassadors. They will have the opportunity to present aspects of their culture, so that others will understand, respect and appreciate them.

### **Materials:**

Provided by instructor: handouts of instructions, presentation schedule.

Available to the students: whiteboard and markers, overhead projector and transparencies.

Students can use paper, poster board, photographs, books and any other supplies needed for their presentation.

**Activities:**

1. Introduce the lesson with questions and discussion of how countries are different in location, size, terrain, seasons, weather, etc. Encourage discussion of differences and similarities among countries. Have students talk to their partner about these factors of their country.
2. Give students the handout explaining the lesson. Go over the directions. (See handout.)
3. Put students in groups: 5 Japanese, 2 Koreans, 2 Chinese, 2 from Thailand, 3 from Europe (Poland, Ukraine), 2 from the Middle East (Iran, Jordan), 3 from Africa (Sierra Leone, Somalia, Ethiopia), 3 from South America (Chili, Columbia) and 2 from Mexico.
4. Students will work together to begin to plan for their presentation.
5. Groups will choose a day to present, and add the date to the Presentation Schedule (attached).
6. Students will be given some class time to work on their presentation and they are encouraged to meet before or after class to plan.

**Assessment:**

Students will write a response to these questions:

- What did you learn about this country's geography or climate?
- What similarities or differences did you see between your country and the country presented?

**Grade Adaptation:**

These students are not given letter grades. They do, however, take standardize pre- and post-tests when they begin the program and when they exit. They will be given feedback on the answers to the above questions. They will edit grammar errors. They will share their writings with other students.

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**Geography, Climate & Symbols**

**Handout for students**

## Getting To Know You....

Do you know about your classmates? Do you know about the country they came from? Do you know where it is, what the weather is like, what their flag looks like? Do you know its history? Do you know about their holidays and special days? Well, here's your opportunity to find out.

Each continent, each country, each region is unique, and yet they all have similarities and differences. You are all ambassadors for your home countries. You have a right and an obligation to enlighten others about your country, to promote it and to spread understanding and appreciation to help eliminate preconceived notions. This is your opportunity to teach your classmates about where you are from.

Some of you are from the same country; others are from the same continent. You will work in groups to plan and prepare a class presentation to teach us about your countries' geography, climate and symbols.

- You may include information about such things as its location, size, population, cities, villages, rivers, mountains, seasons, weather, etc.
- It would also be nice to share your national flag and your national anthem or other symbols of your country.
- Each person in your group should have equal time to present.
- You can use the whiteboard and the overhead projector and transparencies.
- Your presentation can include maps, photos, books, posters, information from the Internet, etc.
- You can provide handouts for the class.
- Your group will have 10-20 minutes for your presentation.

Decide with your group when you want to present and sign up on the [Presentation Schedule](#).

You will have time to work some in class, and you should also set up times to get together before or after class to prepare.

## **Presentation Schedule**

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### **Geography, Climate & Symbols**

Mon. May 1

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Wed. May 3

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Mon. May 8

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Wed. May 10

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Mon. May 15

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Wed. May 17

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Mon. May 22

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## **An Example of a Korean Lesson**

Korean students may wish to represent a symbol of their country by showing and explaining their national flag. This presentation will also involve the Korean students demonstrating how they prepared their flag information and showing the other students how to present their country's flag.

Korean students get together and

1. make a large flag from construction paper (white, red, blue and black)
2. prepare an information sheet on the meanings of the colors in the flag (see website below)
3. prepare a presentation speech so that each member of the group has a part
4. decide how the group will explain to the class how they will prepare their country's flag and information (colored construction paper will be available to the students)

Students can get information from the Library of Congress – Federal Research Division website, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/>

Below is the Library of Congress information about the South Korean flag.

Library of Congress – Federal Research Division Country Profile: South Korea, May 2005  
**COUNTRY PROFILE: SOUTH KOREA**

**May 2005**

**COUNTRY**

**Formal Name:** Republic of Korea (Taehan Min'guk). 대한 민국

**Short Form:** South Korea (Han'guk, the term South Koreans use to refer to their country). 한 국

**Term for Citizen(s):** Korean(s) (Han'gugin). 한 국 인

**Capital:** Seoul. 서울

**Major Cities:** The largest cities are Seoul (11 million), Pusan (3.9 million), Taegu (2.5 million), Inch'ŏn (2.4 million), Kwangju (1.4 million), and Taejŏn (1.3 million).

**Independence:** August 15, 1945, from Japanese occupation; Republic of Korea founded August 15, 1948.

**Public Holidays:** New Year's Day (January 1), Lunar New Year (movable date in January or February), Independence Movement Day (March 1), Arbor Day (April 5), Children's Day (May 5), Birth of Buddha (movable date in April or May), Memorial Day (June 6), Constitution Day (July 17), Independence Day (August 15), Ch'usŏk (an autumnal harvest festival and day of thanksgiving, movable date in September or October), National Foundation Day (October 3), and Christmas Day (December 25).

**Flag:**

A white rectangle with a red (top) and blue T'aeguk (Great Absolute) symbol in the center. The white background symbolizes light and purity and reflects a traditional affinity for peace. The yin-yang circle, divided

equally into a blue portion below and a red portion above, represents the dual cosmic forces of yin (blue) and yang (red), which symbolize universal harmony. The circle is surrounded by four black *kwe* (or trigrams) from the *Yi Ching* (Book of Changes). At the upper left and lower right are heaven and earth, and at lower left and upper right are fire and water. Collectively, the circle and trigrams represent universal harmony and unity.