

## KOREAN GEOGRAPHY: INTRO TO THE THREE KINGDOMS

**GRADES:** 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

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**TOPIC/THEME:** Geography/World Civilizations

**TIME REQUIRED:** One class session (80 minute block)

**BACKGROUND:** The **Three Kingdoms (Samguk) of Korea** were the kingdoms of Koguryō, Paekche and Silla, which dominated the Korean peninsula and parts of Manchuria between the 1st century BCE and 7th century. This lesson highlights the major characteristics that helped shape these early Korean civilizations and compares them with modern North and South Korea geography today.

**CURRICULUM CONNECTION:** This lesson introduces students to early and contemporary Korea peninsula geography in preparation for further study and understanding of Korea Geography, Korea History, World Civilizations, Korean Current/World Affairs, Korea Economics, Korea Culture, and Korea Government.

**CONNECTION TO STUDENT'S LIVES:** As students locate, identify and label key Korea peninsula geographical features on maps, their knowledge of what and where Korea is in relationship to the rest of the world is enhanced. As students examine, compare and contrast Old Korea to New Korea and North Korea to South Korea, they will discover and report major similarities and differences that assist them in understanding modern Korean society today. Furthermore, each student will independently select one fact or idea gathered from this lesson (**The Three Kingdoms**) and will propose why this fact or idea will significantly sustain further study of ancient and modern Korea.

### **NATIONAL AND STATE STANDARDS:**

**NCSS Standard:** Theme III: PEOPLE, PLACES AND ENVIRONMENTS

Learners will understand the relationship between human populations and the physical world.

**UT Standard:** 6200-0103-2: Apply the geographic mode of inquiry to world regions.

### **Common Core Standards:**

SL 1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions

RH 2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source

### **MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

- Copy of colored Three Kingdom Map for display
- Colored pencils for each student
- Copy of blank world map for each student

- Copy of Korean Peninsula map (purple/white) for each student
- Contemporary Korean Peninsula map (North and South Korea) from class geography textbook or internet source. Sources may vary depending on class media resources.
- Copy of 5<sup>th</sup> Century Koguryo map for each student
- Classroom size world map
- Three Kingdoms (Samguk) of Korea Reading
- Piece of lined paper for each student
- Document Camera or Overhead Projector
- Three Kingdoms of Korea Geography Quiz for each student
- Quiz Answer Sheet

### **INTRODUCTION and EXPLORATION (10 minutes):**

- (2 minute Intro): Give each student a blank map of the world. Ask them to find the Korean Peninsula and circle it. After each student has attempted to do so, show them where it is located on a larger world map. If they incorrectly identify it, have them circle the correct location.
- (8 minute Inquiry): Develop a Brainstorm Discussion using the following questions: Are any of you of Korean ancestry? Do any of you know someone who is a Korean National? Have you or anyone you know traveled to Korea? What do you know about the Korean civilization? Explain that during the next 80 minutes, they are going to be introduced to the Three Kingdoms: Goguryeo (Koguryo), Baekje (Paekche) and Silla through a Korea geography learning activity.

### **PROCEDURE:**

#### **THE DELIVERY OF THE CONTENT (70 Minutes):**

- (3 minutes) Instructor will pass out colored pencils, The Three Kingdom (Samguk) of Korea reading and a purple/white Korea peninsula map to each student.
- (20 minutes) Teacher should direct the reading of *The Three Kingdoms (Samguk) of Korea*. **Stop** reading at **yellow-highlighted** geographical locations. Students should locate, record and color each highlighted location (using the Three Kingdom display map as a guide) on their personal Korean peninsula map.
- (25 minutes) Pair Share Activity: Divide the class into several pair of students and distribute 5<sup>th</sup> Century Koguryo map to each pair. Each pair of students will compare the 5<sup>th</sup> Century Koguryo map with a contemporary Korean peninsula map (North and South Korea). Give them 10 minutes to list 5 similarities and 5 differences on a piece of blank paper. After 10 minutes, have them find a new partner to compare, share and list more similarities and differences. After 5 minutes, repeat the rotation. Have them continue, until every student has 15 similarities and 15 differences listed.
- (10 minutes) Select a student who has completed the Pair Share activity to present his list to the rest of the class. A document camera or projector works well. At the conclusion of the student's presentation, ask students to share other similarities and differences with the class. All students will add the information to their lists.

- (2 minutes) Teacher will collect all maps, lists, colored pencils and pass out individual assessment tool.
- (10 minutes) Assessment Activity. Please see **Assessment Instructions below**.

### **THE APPLICATION OF THE CONTENT:**

### **ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTIONS:**

- ✓ Pre-Knowledge: Refer to the **Introduction and Exploration** above.
- ✓ Conceptual Learning: Students will process and organize information in logical mental classifications of facts and ideas through frequent textual and cartographical activities.
- ✓ Final Application: Summative evaluation of facts and ideas will complete the lesson plan. (see **Evaluation Attachment**)

### **RESOURCES:**

Eckert, Carter J., Ki-baik Lee, Young Ick Lew, Michael Robinson, Edward W. Wagner. Korea Old and New A History. Korea Institute, Harvard University, Ilchokak Publishers. 1990.

<http://www.socialstudies.org/standards>

<http://www.uen.org/core/core.do?courseNum=6200>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Three\\_Kingdoms\\_of\\_Korea\\_Map.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Three_Kingdoms_of_Korea_Map.png)

<http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/worldpac.htm>

[http://3.bp.blogspot.com/\\_GywVI3y1wdk/TDZZQdCVPQI/AAAAAAAAAAM/3bsMpCAKQRQ/s1600/Korea.jpg](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_GywVI3y1wdk/TDZZQdCVPQI/AAAAAAAAAAM/3bsMpCAKQRQ/s1600/Korea.jpg)

<http://www.economicexpert.com/a/Three:Kingdoms:of:Korea.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three\\_Kingdoms\\_of\\_Korea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Kingdoms_of_Korea)







The **Three Kingdoms (Samguk) of Korea** were the kingdoms of Goguryeo, Baekje and Silla, which dominated the Korean peninsula and parts of Manchuria between the 1st century BCE and 7th century. For centuries, several areas of the world have sought to control the Korean Peninsula. One of these was the China Kingdom of Wei (220-265).

Koguryō emerged on the north and south banks of Yalu River (Amnok River in Korean) around 37 BCE. The first reference to the name "Goguryeo" as a local district in 75 BC is found in Chinese records. Evidence indicates Goguryeo was the largest and the most advanced of the Three Kingdoms. Section by section, it conquered the vast territories of Manchuria and finally defeated the Chinese control of Nangrang in 313 AD. It had several capitals in alternation: two capitals in the upper Yalu area, and later Nangrang which is now part of Pyongyang (current capital of North Korea). The cultural influence from China continued and Buddhism from China was adopted as the official religion in 372 AD.

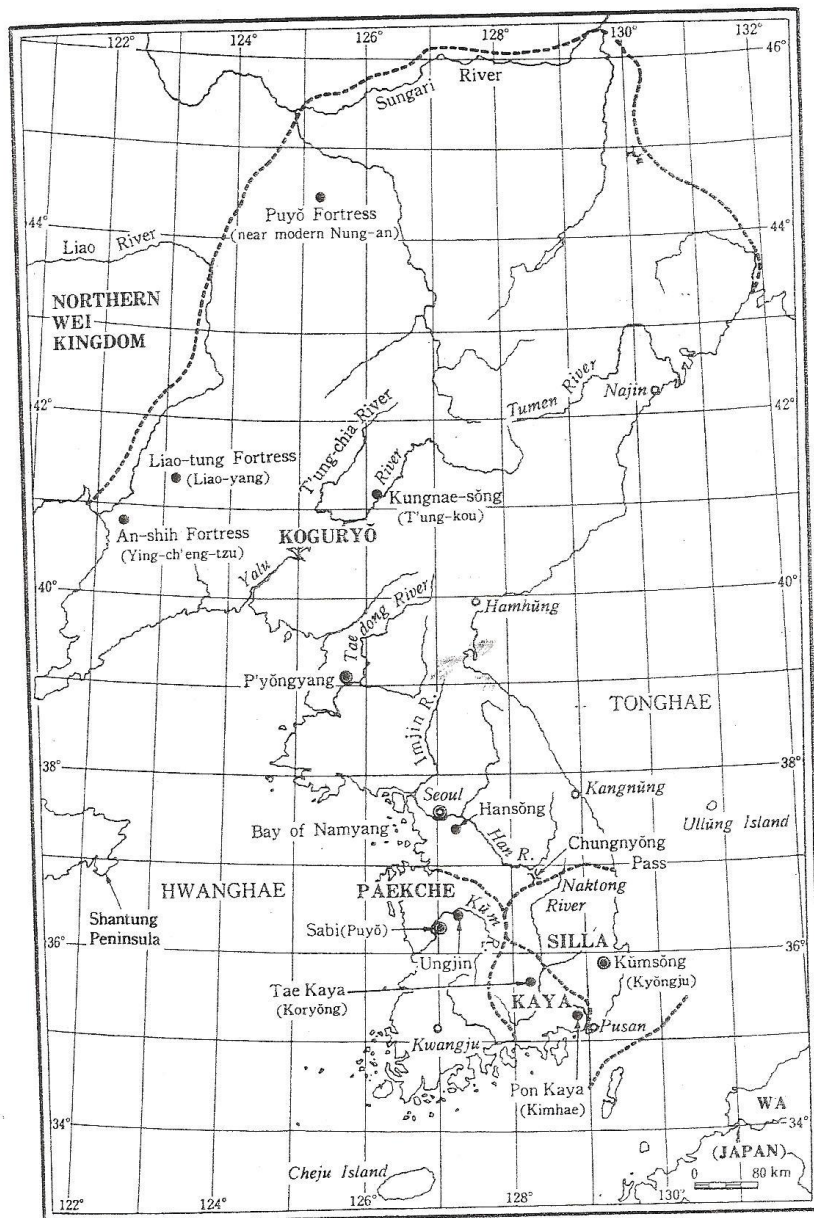
Although Chinese sources claim that Paekche Kingdom was not established until the 4<sup>th</sup> century as part of the Mahan Confederacy, Korean sources record the establishment of Baekje as early as 18 BCE. As tradition tells it, two Goguryeo princes fled succession conflict and established Baekje in the southwest area of the peninsula. The capital was first located near today's Seoul, later, as it was under attack from Goguryeo, the capital moved south to Ungjin (present-day [Gongju](#)) and later further south to [Sabi](#) (present-day [Buyeo](#)). Eventually, Baekje absorbed or conquered other Mahan chiefdoms and, at its peak in the 4th century, controlled most of the south-western Korean peninsula. Buddhism was introduced to Baekje in 384 from Goguryeo, which Baekje welcomed.

The Kingdom of Saro (later Silla) began in 57 BCE in the southeast of the peninsula when it obtained autonomy from China under the Han dynasty and established a centralized government. Silla would eventually unify the Three Kingdoms. Renamed from Saro to Silla in 503, the kingdom annexed the Gaya Confederacy (confederacy of territories in the Nakdong River basin of southern Korea.) Goguryeo and Baekje responded by forming an alliance. To cope with invasions from Goguryeo and Baekje, Silla deepened its relations with the Tang Dynasty. With her newly gained access to the Yellow Sea it made direct contact with the Tang possible. Allied with China under the Tang dynasty, Silla conquered Goguryeo in 668 AD, after having already conquered Baekje in 660 AD, thus ushering in the Unified Silla period and effectively putting an end to the Three Kingdoms Period. The capital of Silla was Seorabeol (now Gyeongju). Buddhism became the official religion in 528.

The end of China's Han dynasty, at the beginning of the 3rd century, allowed the development of the three Kingdoms to continue unhindered. All three kingdoms shared the same culture, based on Confucianism.

The name "Samguk", or "Three Kingdoms", was used in the Korean titles of the classic texts *Samguk Sagi* and *Samguk Yusa*, both written in the 12th century.





KOREA AT THE HEIGHT OF KOGURYŎ EXPANSION  
IN THE 5<sup>th</sup> CENTURY



## Three Kingdoms of Korea Geography Quiz (30 pts)

1. (3 points) List the Three Kingdoms that dominated the Korean Peninsula between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries:

- A)
- B)
- C)

2. Name 2 Rivers (2 points) that were essential for early civilization on the Korean Peninsula:

- A)
- B)

3. What is another name (2 point) for the Three Kingdoms, as used for titles of Korean classic texts?

4. What religion (1 point) eventually dominated all three kingdoms of the Korean Peninsula?

5. Which of the three kingdoms (1 point) eventually unified the entire Korean Peninsula by 660 AD?

6. What major Chinese cultural influence (1 point) was adopted during the Three Kingdom period and remains on the Korean Peninsula today?

7. List 5 physical geographical similarities and 5 physical geographical differences you discovered from analyzing both contemporary and ancient Korean maps?

Similarities (5 points):

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

Differences (5 points):

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

8. **Identify one (10 points) important fact or idea that you have learned today that will help you better understand Korea Civilization. Why did you choose this single fact or idea?**

## Three Kingdoms of Korea Geography Quiz (30 pts)

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- A) Goguryea (Koguryo)
- B) Baekje (Paekche)
- C) Silla

2. Name 2 Rivers (2 points) that were essential for early civilization on the Korean Peninsula:  
answers will vary, may include☺

- A) Yalu
- B) Han

3. What is another name (2 points) for the Three Kingdoms, as used for titles of Korean classic texts? **Samguk**

4. What religion (1 point) eventually dominated all three kingdoms of the Korean Peninsula?  
**Buddhism**

5. Which of the three kingdoms (1 points) eventually unified the entire Korean Peninsula by 660 AD? **Silla**

6. What major Chinese cultural influence (1 point) was adopted during the Three Kingdom period and remains on the Korean Peninsula today? **Confucianism**

7. List 5 physical geographical similarities and 5 physical geographical differences you discovered from analyzing both contemporary and ancient Korean maps? (answers will vary)

Similarities (5 points):

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