

Celebration Time?

LEARNING TARGETS

Understand the joy of Sookan’s family when they are free to “be Korean” again.
Describe how family identity is expressed in celebrations.

PREPARATION

Materials for making Korean flags (paper versions).

Suggestion: If possible, assemble Korean foods for tasting; white rice, kimchee (available in some supermarkets).

Photo of the traditional outfit of Korean women, the “hanbok.”

Recordings of Brahms lullabies, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, Mozart Sonatas, “Home on the Range,” “My Darling Clementine.”

GETTING STARTED

Ask the students if the Japanese school was as they expected. Discuss the details of Sookan’s experience. Ask students to predict what will happen next.

DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING

Add the school information to the charts comparing Choson Korea with Korea:1910-1945.

Provide additional sheets as necessary. Discuss elements of the celebration of liberation. How did the family become Korean again? Play Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony in rousing volume.

How do our families express heritage in celebrations? What music do we play? Are family heirlooms displayed?

ACTIVELY ENGAGING THE LEARNER

Arrange several learning centers for student choice. At the flag center, students could create Korean flags to decorate the room. At a food center, students could sample white rice and kimchee. At a listening center with headphones, students could listen to the music that Sookan loved. At a calligraphy center, students could practice artful writing. At an art center, students could create portraits of Sookan and her family in traditional clothing at the celebration.

Ask students to write journal entries. They could write about their reasons for center choices, celebrations of their own families, their own ethnic traditions, and their reactions to Sookan's experience in the Japanese school.

ASSESSMENT

Conclude the lesson by making additions to the KWL charts.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

This is a time for a Korean or Korean-American to be invited to model the traditional costumes of Korea. Students could interview the guest to confirm information about family celebrations. Customs related to particular Korean holidays would be interesting for the students.