



**TASHKENT STATE INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL STUDIES**

**FACULTY OF FAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA LANGUAGES**

# **SELFWORK**

**THEME: KOREAN CULTURE**

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## Plan:

- About Korea
- Korean language
- Religion
- Hanbok
- Cuisine
- Painting
- The main holiday



Korean culture is very interesting and full of wonderful traditions. It is a magical place where you find both perfect peace and harmony,,

Korea is a small peninsula on the far East side of Asia. It is between China and Japan. It is connected to mainland Asia in the North. It is separated from China and Russia by the Yalu River and the Tuman River. Between Korea and Japan is the East Sea. To the West between Korea and China is the Yellow Sea. The size of Korea is roughly 1,000 kilometers in length.





Korea is a divided country. At the End of World War II in 1948, Korea was divided at the 38th parallel. This resulted in North Korea and South Korea. North Korea became communist, while South Korea did not.

Seoul is the capital and most important city of South Korea. It is very city-like and could be compared to New York City. There is plenty to do there, especially at night.

There are also five other major cities; Pusan, Incheon, Kwangju, Taejon, and Taegu. Seoul is a highly populated city with 11 million people. Within a very small area near Seoul and surrounding cities, there is approximately 20 million people.



## Korean language

The Korean language is shared between both North and South Korea and is part of the Altaic language family.

The language is considered one of the best and most well planned languages in history. Hangul is the Korean name of the language. The alphabet was created by King Sejong in 1446. The alphabet is extremely easy to learn, which gives Korea one of the highest literacy rates in the World.



### ●Consonants:

ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ
\k, g\ kiyok	\n\ niun	\t, d\ tikut	\r, l\ riul	\m\ mium	\p, b\ piup	\s, sh\ siot	\ng\ iung	\ch, j\ chiut
ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ				
\ch\ ch'iut	\k\ k'iuk	\t\ t'iut	\p, f\ p'iup	\h\ hiut				

### ●Vowels

ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ	ㅡ	ㅣ
\a\ la\	\ya\ ya\	\eo\ leo\	\yeo\ yeo\	\o\ lo\	\yo\ yo\	\u\ lu\	\yu\ yu\	\eu\ eu\	\ee\ ee\

## Religion

Buddhism is one of the older religions in South Korea. It comes from the Mahayana branch of Buddhism, similar to China and Japan. Its influence in society has declined recently, but there are still many Koreans that practice Buddhism.

Christianity has become more and more popular in recent years in South Korea. Christianity was introduced to Korea by the Jesuits in China. Catholics spread very quickly, but were persecuted by the King who perceived it as a threat. Protestants began to enter Korea in the late 19th century. Some of the world's largest churches will be found in Korea





## Traditional dress

The traditional dress known as *hanbok* (한복, 韓服) (known as *joseonot* [조선옷] in the DPRK) has been worn since ancient times. The *hanbok* consists of a shirt (*jeogori*) and a skirt (*chima*). The traditional hat is called *gwanmo* and special meaning is attached to this piece of clothing. According to social status, Koreans used to dress differently, making clothing an important mark of social rank. Impressive, but sometimes cumbersome, costumes were worn by the ruling class and the royal family. These upper classes also used jewellery to distance themselves from the ordinary people. A traditional item of jewellery for women was a pendant in the shape of certain elements<sup>[which?]</sup> of nature which was made of precious gemstones, to which a tassel of silk was connected.



During the winter people wore cotton-wadded dresses. Fur was also common. Because ordinary people normally wore pure white undyed materials, the people were sometimes referred to as the *white-clad people*.

*Hanbok* are classified according to their purposes: everyday dress, ceremonial dress and special dress. Ceremonial dresses are worn on formal occasions, including a child's first birthday (doljanchi), a wedding or a funeral. Special dresses are made for purposes such as shamans, officials.

Today the *hanbok* is still worn during formal occasions.





## Cuisine

Rice is the staple food of Korea. Having been an almost exclusively agricultural country until recently, the essential recipes in Korea are shaped by this experience. The main crops in Korea are rice, barley, and beans, but many supplementary crops are used. Fish and other seafood are also important because Korea is a peninsula.

Kimchi is one of the famous foods of Korea. Kimchi is pickled vegetables which contain vitamins A and C, thiamine, riboflavin, iron, calcium, carotene, etc. There are many types of kimchi including cabbage kimchi, string onion kimchi, cucumber kimchi, radish kimchi, and sesame kimchi.



Today, surasang (traditional court cuisine) is available to the whole population. In the past vegetable dishes were essential, but meat consumption has increased. Traditional dishes include *ssambap*, *bulgogi*, *sinseollo*, *kimchi*, *bibimbap*, and *gujeolpan*.





## Painting

The earliest paintings found on the Korean peninsula are petroglyphs of prehistoric times. With the arrival of Buddhism from India via China, different techniques were introduced. These techniques quickly established themselves as the mainstream techniques, but indigenous techniques still survived.

There is a tendency towards naturalism with subjects such as realistic landscapes, flowers and birds being particularly popular. Ink is the most common material used, and it is painted on mulberry paper or silk.





## Korean New Year

The Korean New Years based on the Western calendar is similar to our New Years in the United States. It is a big national holiday in Korea as well, and occurs on January 1st just like it does here. During this holiday, many relatives get together to share time together and talk. In Korea, there are some old traditions that some people will still follow. One is to visit the oldest member of the family and bow toward them to show respect and to wish them a long life (this would occur on New Years Eve). The following day on January 1st people will pay respect to ancestors by offering food and wine. This ceremony is called Jaesa. At the beginning of the ceremony, the names of the ancestors are pinned to a board. The oldest family members bows and offers the wine to the ancestors who have passed away. Then, the names are burned. Later in the day, relatives talk about old times and eat food. The traditional food usually eaten on New Years Day is Duk Gook, a type of soup. Kimchi is always present.



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