

- Tae kwon do is one form of unarmed self-defense known as martial arts. Have your students use books and the Internet to find other styles of martial arts. Using this information, prepare a classroom chart offering the name, definition, origin and pictures of various martial arts.

### Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at [www.LibraryVideo.com](http://www.LibraryVideo.com)

- [user.chol.com/~taei/korea/seol.html](http://user.chol.com/~taei/korea/seol.html)  
Explore the customs of the Korean New Year holiday, Seol-ral, at this web site.
- [www.indiana.edu/~easc/resources/korea\\_slides/index.htm](http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/resources/korea_slides/index.htm)  
This web site, supported by Indiana University, offers audio tracks, slide shows and printable information on the land, history, art and culture of Korea.
- [library.thinkquest.org/25568/yeon/kites.html](http://library.thinkquest.org/25568/yeon/kites.html)  
Find information about the history of kites, as well as beautiful color pictures of Korean kites, at this ThinkQuest web site.

### Suggested Print Resources

- Climo, Shirley. *The Korean Cinderella*. HarperCollins Publishers, New York, NY; 1993.
- Han, Suzanne Crowder. *The Rabbit's Tail: A Story from Korea*. Henry Holt, New York, NY; 1999.
- Hill, Valerie. *Korea*. Mason Crest Publishers, Broomall, PA; 2003.
- Randall, Pamela. *Tae Kwon Do*. PowerKid Press, New York, NY; 1999.
- Yi, Ok-pae. *Sori's Harvest Moon Day: A Story of Korea*. Soundprints, Norwalk, CT; 1999.



## Korean-American Heritage

Grades K-4

The United States has always been a country of immigrants, rich with the customs and traditions of the many countries they represent. *American Cultures for Children* introduces students to the heritage of some of the immigrant groups that make up this diverse land. Through songs, play food, holidays and history, students are provided with an understanding of and appreciation for the cultural differences they see every day in their classrooms and neighborhoods. Everyone has at least one culture to celebrate, and this series gives children a chance to explore their heritage and share it with others.

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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### TITLES IN THIS SERIES

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## Program Summary

*Korean-American Heritage* introduces students to some of the customs and traditions of the people from the Korean peninsula who now make their home in the United States. Students learn the location, geography and climate of the Korean peninsula and visit Seoul, the capital of South Korea. The historical and social background for Korean immigration to the United States is discussed. Students learn to say a few words and to count to ten in Korean. On a field trip, students experience the sights, sounds and foods found in the *Koreatown* section of Los Angeles. The Korean folktale and song “The Magic Gourd” is retold, and the Korean folksong “Arirang” is sung. In an arts & crafts segment, students are given a lesson in making a traditional Korean kite.

*Program note: The Korean Peninsula is divided into two countries: North Korea and South Korea. For the purposes of this program, an immigrant to the United States from either country is considered a Korean American.*

## Vocabulary

**tae kwon do** — The Korean art of unarmed self-defense. It is characterized by the extensive use of high standing and jump kicks, as well as punches, and is practiced for sport, self-defense and spiritual development.

**peninsula** — A body of land surrounded by water on three sides.

**Asia** — One of the seven continents on Earth.

**Seoul** — The capital of South Korea.

**immigrant** — A person who makes a new home in a country other than his or her own.

**kimchi** — The spicy, fermented cabbage dish which accompanies many Korean meals.

**Seol-ral** — The Korean New Year holiday celebrated on the first day of the year on the lunar calendar.

**Lunar calendar** — A method of calculating the days in one year based on the phases of the moon.

**Hangul** — The alphabet used to write the Korean language.

**Changgo** — A double-headed drum with a body shaped like an hourglass. The changgo is often heard in Korean music.

## Words in Korean

Hello = Annyong

Friend = Chingu

Thank you = Kohmanhwuh

Good-bye = Annyong

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## Numbers in Korean

One = Hana

Two = Tul

Three = Set

Four = Net

Five = Tasot

Six = Yosot

Seven = Ilgop

Eight = Yodol

Nine = Ahop

Ten = Yol

## Focus Questions

1. What is the name of the Korean alphabet?
2. Name the spicy cabbage dish often served at a Korean meal.
3. How do you say “thank you” in Korean?
4. What is an immigrant?
5. Why would someone want to learn tae kwon do?
6. Why did many Koreans immigrate to the United States?
7. What is the capital city of South Korea?
8. Count to three in Korean.
9. What is the main ingredient in most Korean cakes and cookies?
10. What is a peninsula?
11. Name the Korean New Year holiday.
12. Name the two countries that share the Korean peninsula.

## Follow-up Discussion

- Have your students recall the Korean folktale “The Magic Gourd.” What important lessons can be learned from the story? Discuss other stories that offer a similar moral of generosity, kindness, acceptance and understanding.
- A long time ago, most immigrants came to the United States across the ocean by ship, a trip that often took several months. Today immigrants fly across the ocean in several hours to reach the United States. Brainstorm with your students the similarities and differences between the hardships and issues of the journey today and those of the journey in times past.
- Many New Year and birthday celebrations include traditions that reflect a family’s heritage. Ask your students to share with the class how they celebrate their birthdays and New Year holidays. What special foods are prepared? What customs are followed?

## Follow-up Activities

- Korean Americans often follow the dates of the lunar calendar when celebrating birthdays, holidays and festivals. The lunar calendar gives an animal designation to each year in a twelve-year cycle. Have students find the animal designation for their birth year at this web site: [www.new-year.co.uk/chinese/calendar.htm](http://www.new-year.co.uk/chinese/calendar.htm). Using this information, have your students make posters with the day, month and year of their births and decorated with drawings of their animal designations. Extend this activity with older students by reading and discussing the personality traits associated with each animal. Please note that Korea and many Asian countries follow a Lunar calendar which is sometimes identified as the Chinese Lunar calendar.
- Many Koreans first came to the United States by way of Hawaii. Use a large world map and string to have your students plot a route from Seoul, South Korea to Honolulu, Hawaii. Use the map scale to estimate the number of miles traveled. Have students calculate the number of days the trip would take by ship if the ship sailed 300 miles each day.
- Read the book *An American Face* by Jan Czech (Child & Family Press, 2000) to your students. In the book, a Korean born boy believes he will get a new “American” face when he becomes an American citizen. Use the book to spark a class discussion about an immigrant’s sometimes difficult adjustment to a new country.
- Rice is an important crop grown in Korea, and is served at most Korean meals. Have your students use books and the Internet to research how rice is grown and processed. Extend this activity by finding and preparing a rice dish for your students to enjoy.
- Korea is one of the most densely-populated countries in the world. Help your students to visualize how a “crowded country” might affect the behavior of people living in that country by playing “the chair game” with your students. Information, directions and discussion points can be found at this web site: [www.askasia.org/frclasrm/lessplan/1000043.htm](http://www.askasia.org/frclasrm/lessplan/1000043.htm).
- South Korea celebrates Family Month which includes special days to honor parents, children and teachers. Work with your students to decide which month of the school year would be best to celebrate Family Month in your classroom. Have them create a poster announcing Family Month. Extend this activity by dividing your students into three groups. Have each group brainstorm activities students could do during this month to recognize their families.
- Kite-flying has a long tradition in Korea. Have your students research the history of kite-flying at this web site, [www.gombergkites.com/nkm/hist1.html](http://www.gombergkites.com/nkm/hist1.html). Extend this activity by following the directions given in the show to have your students design, build and fly a kite.

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