

SECTION
2

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Korea is surrounded by powerful neighbors, including China, Russia, and Japan.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

The Korean Peninsula has been invaded by China, Russia, and Japan but has still maintained its cultural identity.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

Three Kingdoms the three kingdoms that had formed on the Korean Peninsula by A.D. 300

Korean War (1950–1953) a conflict between North Korea and the Soviet Union on one side and South Korea, the United States, and the UN on the other

demilitarized zone a buffer zone between North Korea and South Korea

shamanism (SHAH•muh•NIHZ•uhm) a belief system in which a person called a shaman is believed to be able to communicate with spirits and heal the sick

celadon (SEHL•uh•DAHNN) Korean ceramic pottery with a thin blue or green glaze

hanbok a traditional Korean costume

kimchi (KIHM•chee) a Korean dish made of pickled vegetables

REVIEW

Confucianism a belief system based on the teachings of Confucius

Buddhism a religion that began in India and is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama



Visual Vocabulary *hanbok*

▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the chart to summarize what you have learned about the history and culture of the Korean Peninsula.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R5

SUMMARIZE

KOREAN HISTORY	KOREAN CULTURE
The first state. . .	



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

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Strong Traditions, Modern Innovations

Connecting to Your World

You have probably learned that the United States was torn apart by a civil war between the North and the South during the 1860s. After four years of fighting, the two sides reunited to form a stronger union. In the 1950s, Korea became a battleground for a war waged by the United States and the Soviet Union. The war pitted North Korea against South Korea. But this conflict had a different ending: North and South Korea remained divided. As you will see, however, the Korean Peninsula has been united for much of its history.

Korean History

▼ **KEY QUESTION** What are the major events in Korean history?

The first state on the Korean Peninsula was established around 2000 B.C. It took the name *Choson*. Around 108 B.C., China conquered the northern part of the peninsula. However, Korean tribes gradually won back the territory. In the northern area of the Korean Peninsula, several tribes united during the A.D. 100s and formed the state of Koguryo (KOH•gur•YOO). By about 300, two other states had been created on the peninsula. Historians refer to these states as the **Three Kingdoms**.

Koguryo Painting

A Korean noblewoman is waited on by her attendants in this fourth-century tomb mural painting.



Three Kingdoms Period The Three Kingdoms were Koguryo in the northeast, Paekche (PAHK•CHAY) in the southwest, and Silla (SIHL•uh) in the southeast. The kingdoms had much in common. For example, they all had a strong military system, which they used to help them expand their territory. In addition, each had powerful kings and aristocracies made up of tribal chiefs.

During the 660s, Silla conquered Paekche and Koguryo and took control of the entire peninsula. Unified Silla was broken apart by rebels in the 800s. But the state reunited around 935 and called itself *Koryo*. *Korea* comes from *Koryo*. In 1392, a general named Yi Song-gye became the ruler of Korea. He gave the country back its ancient name of Choson. The Choson Dynasty lasted until 1910, more than 500 years.

Japanese Conquest Starting in the 1600s, the rulers of the Choson Dynasty closed Korea to all foreigners. In 1876, however, Japan forced Korea to open a few ports to trade. Soon, the United States, Russia, and several European nations signed trade agreements with Korea. In 1904 and 1905, Japan fought Russia for control over Manchuria. Japan won the Russo-Japanese War and then attacked Korea. By 1910, the Japanese had gained complete control of Korea.

ANALYZING Primary Sources

The Proclamation of Korean Independence was published on March 1, 1919, during the Japanese occupation of Korea. It was inspired by the Fourteen Points of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, which supported returning self-government to some occupied nations following World War I. The painting shown here depicts Japanese soldiers marching into Seoul.

We have no desire to accuse Japan of breaking many solemn treaties since 1836, nor to single out specially the teachers in the schools or government officials who treat the heritage of our ancestors as a colony of their own, . . . finding delight only in beating us down and bringing us under their heel. . . . Our urgent need today is the settling up of this house of ours and not a discussion of who has broken it down, or what has caused its ruin.

Source: Proclamation of Korean Independence

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

What did the writers of this document probably hope to achieve?



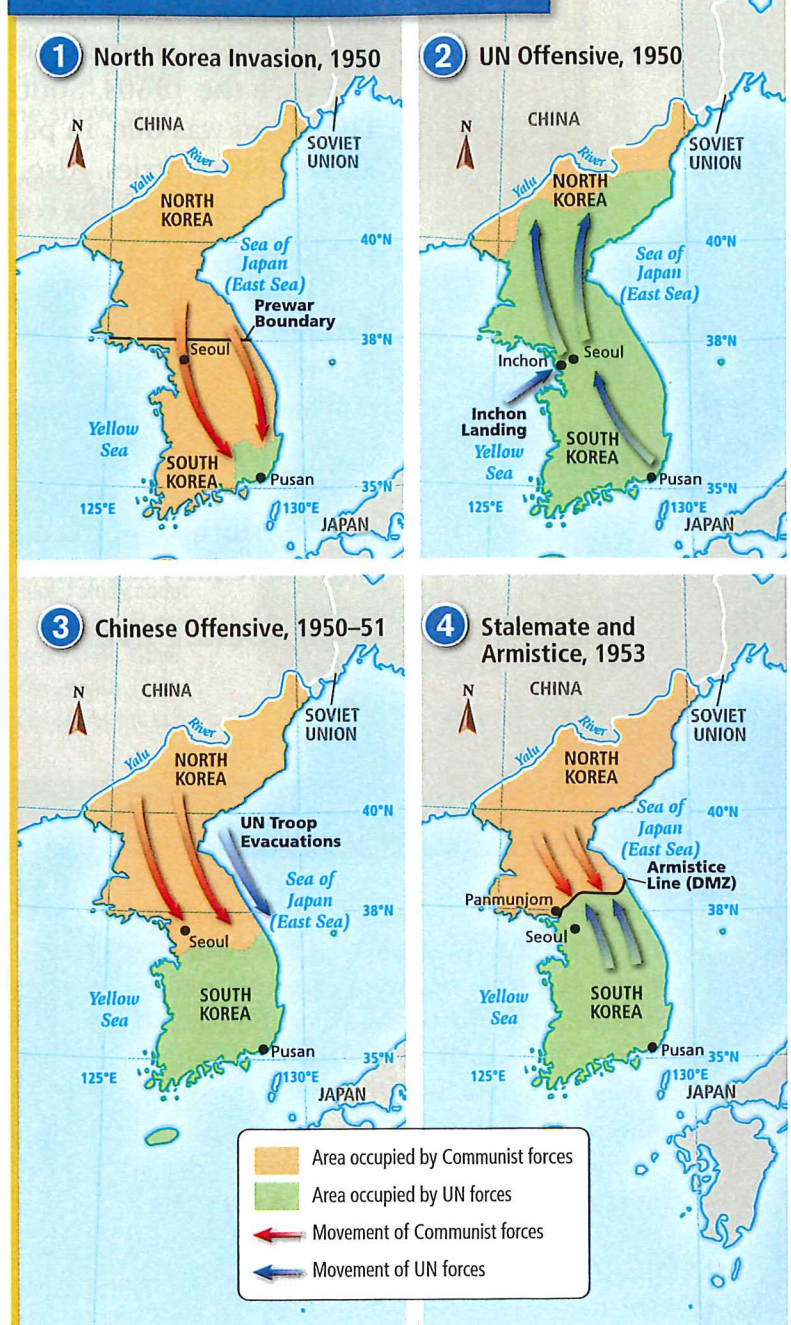
During the Japanese occupation, Japan turned Korea into a colony to benefit its own interests. The Japanese government managed Korean farms and businesses and reduced the Koreans to low-paid workers in their own country. As the Japanese prepared for war during the 1930s, they tried to stamp out Korean culture. They even ordered Koreans to speak only Japanese and to take Japanese names. As World War II raged, Koreans were forced to help Japan's war effort and to endure many hardships. Japan's harsh rule is still a source of bitterness for many Koreans.

The Korean War Korea remained under Japanese rule until Japan was defeated in World War II in 1945. The Koreans wanted independence. But U.S. forces occupied southern Korea, and Soviet troops occupied the northern half. Soon, North Korea established a Communist government, and South Korea set up a republic.

In 1950, North Korean troops invaded South Korea, starting the **Korean War**. The Soviet Union had supplied North Korea with tanks, airplanes, and money in an attempt to take over the peninsula. South Korea fought back with Allied forces consisting of U.S. and UN troops. In time, China entered the war on the side of North Korea. You can follow the course of the war by studying the maps on this page. A cease-fire was declared in 1953, but no peace treaty was ever agreed on. In time, a 2.5-mile-wide buffer zone, called the **demilitarized zone (DMZ)**, was set up. It separates North Korea and South Korea to this day.

The Allies lost about 500,000 troops, and the Communists lost around 1,500,000 troops. Civilian deaths were also very high. A total of about two million civilians died in North Korea and South Korea.

The Korean War 1950–1953




CONNECT Geography & History

- 1. Movement** Which forces moved south almost to Pusan?
- 2. Region** Compare maps 1 and 4. Which side, if any, gained more territory?

Two Koreas In 1948, Kim Il Sung became North Korea's leader and continued to rule after the Korean War. Kim strove to make North Korea as self-sufficient as possible by emphasizing the development of heavy industry. He established a strict dictatorship. Kim died in 1994 and was succeeded by his son, Kim Jong Il. In the 2000s, North Korea started a nuclear weapons program, despite opposition from the United States, South Korea, and many other countries. North Korea has also been charged with numerous human rights violations.

Since the 1960s, South Korea has enjoyed an economic boom. The boom was due, in part, to financial aid from the United States and other countries. Also, South Korea began to produce goods that could be exported. The country used the resulting income to increase production of these goods.

However, democracy in South Korea has faced a rockier road. Several rulers violated the 1948 constitution and used the military to retain power. Finally, in 1987, South Korea adopted a new constitution that allowed for almost unlimited political freedom and granted greater individual rights. The constitution declared South Korea a democratic republic. It also stated that the country would seek reunification based on the principles of freedom and democracy. Some efforts have been made to reunify the two Koreas, as you will learn in Section 3.

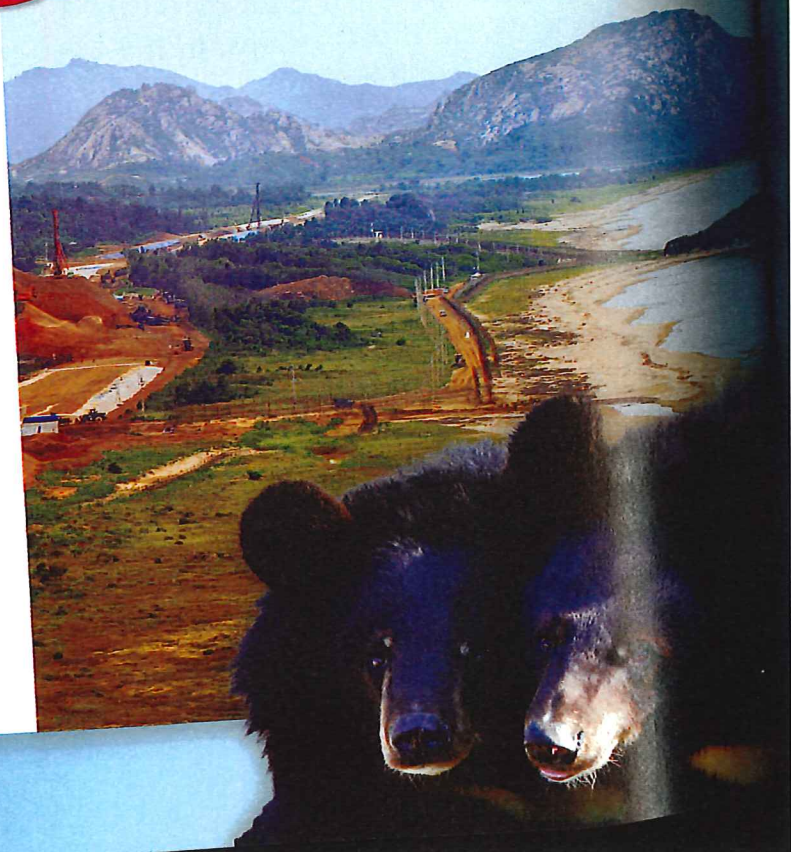
 **SEQUENCE EVENTS** Discuss the major events in Korean history.

CONNECT History & Geography


Wildlife Preserve in the DMZ Since the end of the Korean War, the DMZ has been a no-man's-land. As a result, plants, birds, and animals have flourished in this region. In fact, the DMZ has developed into an important wildlife refuge. Extending about 150 miles from coast to coast, the zone has become home to many endangered animals, including the Asiatic black bears shown here. Some people have proposed turning the DMZ into a peace park. The park would honor those who died during the war and save the wildlife preserve.

CRITICAL THINKING

Make Predictions What might happen to the preserve if the two Koreas reunite?



A Day in Yumi's Life

 To learn more about Yumi and her world, go to the Activity Center @ ClassZone.com

Hi! My name is Yumi. I am 14 years old and live in Seoul, the capital and largest city in South Korea. Seoul is a combination of old and new. For example, I live in a modern apartment complex, but nearby is Kyongbok, a medieval palace. My daily life also combines the old and new. Let me show you by describing a typical day.

In Korean, Yumi's name looks like this:

유미



6 A.M. Today, I am preparing for exams, so I get up early to study. Then I eat a traditional breakfast of rice, soup, kimchi, and fish. After breakfast, I ride my bike to school.

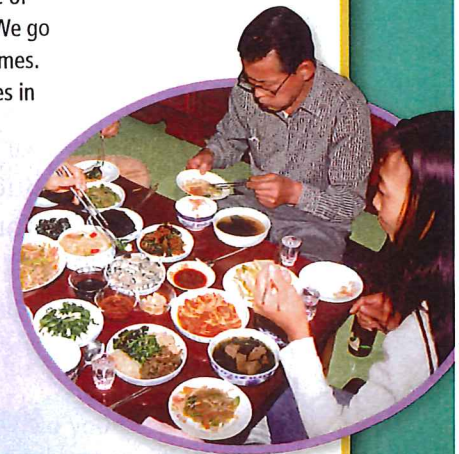


8 A.M.-3 P.M. At school, I study about new discoveries in science class and about my country's past in history class. Other courses include math and English. I eat a light lunch, which is provided by the school.



5 P.M. Sometimes, I spend a couple of hours after school with my friends. We go to shopping malls and play video games. But usually I have after-school classes in violin and English conversation.

7 P.M. I eat a traditional dinner with my family that includes rice and many *banchan* (side dishes). Then I study some more. When I can, I make time to watch my favorite TV show.



CONNECT to Your Life

Journal Entry Make a list of the recreational activities that you do on a regular basis. Then compare your activities with Yumi's. How are they different? How are they the same?



Haein-sa Temple This 8th-century temple houses the Tripitaka Koreana: woodblocks containing the most complete collection of Buddhist texts. **What do the woodblocks suggest about Buddhism in Korean culture?**



Preserving Korean Culture

KEY QUESTION How have Koreans tried to preserve their distinct culture?

Over the past century, Korea has faced much adversity. But the Korean people are united by a common ethnicity and language—and the determination to preserve their culture.

Religious Beliefs The original belief system practiced on the Korean Peninsula is **shamanism**. A shaman is a person who is believed to be able to communicate with the spirit world and heal the sick. Another belief system, **Confucianism**, entered the peninsula around 100 B.C. from China. Confucianism stresses social order and good government and influences Korean society today.

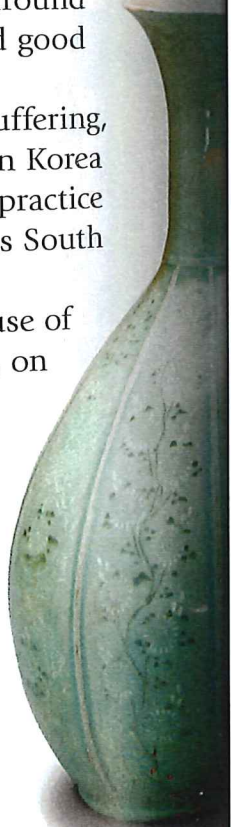
Buddhism, an Indian religion that seeks to put an end to suffering, arrived during the A.D. 300s. It was the dominant religion in Korea for several hundred years. Today, many South Koreans still practice Buddhism. Christianity was introduced around 1784 and is South Korea's fastest-growing religion.

Many Koreans practice aspects of several religions. Because of this, South Korea has strong religious tolerance. North Korea, on the other hand, discourages any religious practice.

Korean Arts Buddhist influence can be seen in the many temples found throughout South Korea, such as the one above. These temples often contain stone towers called pagodas. They also include stone sculptures of Buddha.

Korean pottery has been strongly influenced by the Chinese. During the Koryo Dynasty, Korean artisans used Chinese techniques to develop a unique type of ceramic pottery called **celadon**. This pottery has a thin glaze that usually ranges in color from blue to green.

Celadon The ceramic pottery originated in China, but Korean potters made it their own. Even Chinese visitors remarked on the beauty of Korean celadon. ▶



Daily Life Because North Korea is a closed country, not much is known about the daily life of its people. Much of the following, therefore, describes life in South Korea.

Most Koreans wear modern-style clothing. However, on special occasions, South Koreans often wear traditional clothes, such as the **hanbok**. The woman's *hanbok* is made up of a short jacket and a long skirt. For men, a *hanbok* consists of roomy pants tied at the ankles and a jacket. The basic food for most Koreans is rice. Meals also often include soup and **kimchi**, a side dish made of pickled vegetables. Sports, including the martial art of *tae kwon do*, are popular pastimes.

Life in rural villages centers on farming, especially rice-growing. Many people live in houses with heated floors called *ondols*. These floors are traditionally heated by channels carrying hot air underneath them. Because the floors are so warm, Koreans often prefer to sit and even sleep on them. Many rural houses have modern conveniences, including satellite dishes. In cities, millions of people live in high-rise apartment buildings.



Fun Facts!

KIMCHI

Kimchi is eaten at almost every meal. There are more than 200 varieties of the pickled vegetable side dish. Traditionally, Koreans get together in the fall to prepare huge batches of kimchi. They then store the kimchi in large earthenware jars, which they bury in their yards. Kimchi is so popular that it is celebrated in its own museum.

FIND MAIN IDEAS Discuss how Koreans have tried to preserve their distinct culture.



ONLINE QUIZ
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Section 2 Assessment

TERMS & NAMES

- 1. Explain the importance of**
 - Three Kingdoms
 - demilitarized zone
 - celadon
 - *hanbok*

USE YOUR READING NOTES

- 2. Summarize** Use your completed chart to answer the following question:
Why did the Koreans deeply resent the Japanese occupation?

KOREAN HISTORY	KOREAN CULTURE
The first state. . .	

KEY IDEAS

- 3.** What are some of the traits that the Three Kingdoms had in common?
- 4.** How did Japan gain control over Korea?
- 5.** What does life in rural villages center on?

CRITICAL THINKING

- 6. Make Inferences** Do you think the Korean people benefited from the Korean War? Explain why or why not.
- 7. Sequence Events** In what chronological order did major belief systems enter the Korean Peninsula?
- 8. CONNECT to Today** Why do you think North Korea has recently started a nuclear weapons program?
- 9. TECHNOLOGY Create a Slide Show** Using the Internet and your library, research the various artworks found in Buddhist temples, such as pagodas and sculptures. Then do a slide presentation that shows these works, and provide a brief history about each slide.