

SECTION  
**3**

# Reading for Understanding

## ▶ Key Ideas

### BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

After the Korean War, the peninsula was divided into two countries: North Korea and South Korea.

### NOW YOU WILL LEARN

North Korea and South Korea have very different government systems and economic structures.

## ▶ Vocabulary

### TERMS & NAMES

**totalitarian** a type of government that controls every aspect of public and private life

**Korean Workers' Party (KWP)** a Communist political group that controls the government of North Korea

**dictator** a ruler who exercises complete political power

**Kim Jong Il** the leader of North Korea

**chaebol** (JEH•buhl) a family-owned conglomerate made up of related businesses

### BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

**conglomerate** an organization made up of several companies in different businesses



**Visual Vocabulary** Samsung is a major *chaebol* in South Korea.

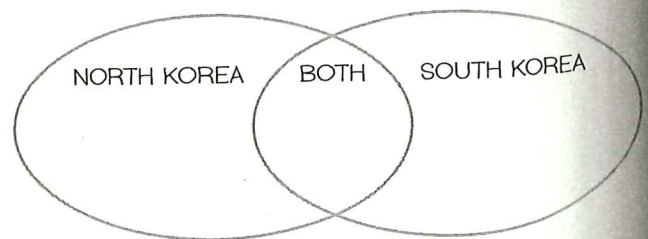
## ▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the Venn diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the diagram to compare and contrast North Korea and South Korea.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R9

### COMPARE AND CONTRAST



**GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS**

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# Contrasting Countries

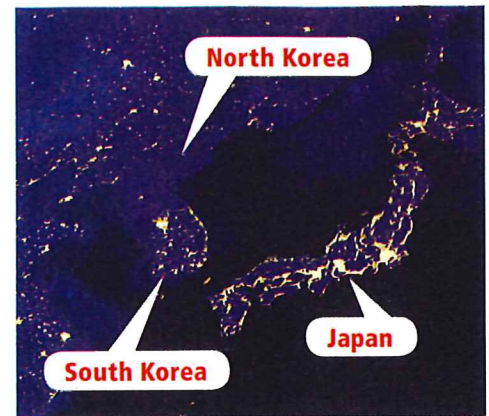
## Connecting to Your World

Have you ever visited relatives in a nearby state? In the United States, making such a trip is pretty easy. However, similar visits have not been allowed between North Korea and South Korea for decades. When Korea split into two nations, many families were separated. As a result, Koreans could not visit relatives across the border at all. Recently, some movement between the two nations has been permitted, but only on a limited basis.

## North Korea

**KEY QUESTION** How are the government and economy of North Korea structured?

As you have learned, a Communist government was set up in North Korea that isolated its people from the rest of the world. As a result, most North Koreans have no contact with ideas that contradict their government. Also, North Korea became economically isolated, especially from the West. Instead of encouraging interaction with non-Communist economies, the government promotes a policy of *juche* (joo•cheh), or self-reliance.



**Satellite Image** This nighttime image contrasts well-lit South Korea with the darkness of North Korea.

**North Korea May Day** People hold colored placards to form a picture of Communist strength and victory in a show of national unity.







## HISTORY MAKERS

### Kim Jong Il born 1941

After Kim Il Sung (above left) died in 1994, his son, Kim Jong Il (above right), became the dictator of North Korea. Soon a cult developed within North Korea around the new leader. Official government accounts praised him as a godlike hero and created legends about his birth. To the outside world, however, Kim Jong Il is a secretive and dangerous figure who starves his people into submission. Above all, many regard Kim Jong Il's determination to develop nuclear weapons as a real threat to the United States and its allies.



#### ONLINE BIOGRAPHY

For more on the life of Kim Jong Il, go to the Research & Writing Center @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)

**Government** North Korea is ruled by a highly centralized, totalitarian form of government. A **totalitarian** government controls every aspect of public and private life. The country does have a constitution, which, on paper, gives political power to the people. However, in reality, the people have almost no freedom. All of the power lies with a Communist group called the **Korean Workers' Party (KWP)**. This party controls elections and chooses who may run for office. The KWP itself is controlled by the chairman of the National Defense Commission. In effect, the chairman is a **dictator**, or a ruler who has complete political power. Since 1994, **Kim Jong Il** has been the chairman of the National Defense Commission and the dictator of North Korea. The country does have a law-making body called the Supreme People's Assembly. This legislature, though, has little power.

Since the early 2000s, the North Korean government has been dealing with an international dispute over its program to develop nuclear weapons. Many nations object to the program, but North Korea has refused to halt it. North Korea claims that it needs nuclear weapons to defend its people against possible aggressors.

**Economy** Like the government, all means of production in North Korea are controlled by the state. In addition, the economy stresses the good of the state over the welfare of the people.

For example, the government spends huge amounts on military development. As a result, it has little money to invest in producing goods for its people.

The North Korean economy is also very isolated. True to its policy of self-reliance, the country has generally discouraged foreign investment. However, North Korea did accept economic aid from the former Soviet Union and from China.

North Korea's economic plans have not been a success. Since the late 1990s, the North Korean people have had one of the lowest standards of living in Asia. But hopeful signs have begun to emerge. During the last few years, South Korean businesses have started to move into North Korea. The money that these businesses make may help the North Korean people. The economic partnership may also help improve relations between the two countries.



**Industries and Agriculture** Throughout its history, North Korea has promoted heavy industry, especially for military production. Because of this, North Korea produces much military equipment, general machinery, steel, cement, textiles, and chemicals. The nation also heavily mines its many mineral deposits.

However, in the 1990s, the development of heavy industry in North Korea began to rapidly decline. One reason for this lies with the state's emphasis on military spending. North Korea spends so much on developing weapons that it does not have enough money to invest in its industrial equipment and infrastructure.

North Korea produces a variety of crops, including rice, barley, corn, wheat, and potatoes. Recently, though, crop production has fallen on hard times. During the mid-1990s, floods and droughts destroyed crops, causing thousands of people to starve to death. North Korean agriculture has never recovered. The lack of good farmland, the failures of state-run farms, and shortages of fertilizer and fuel have all added to the country's agricultural difficulties. In the early 2000s, North Korea has had to rely on aid from around the world to prevent its people from starving.



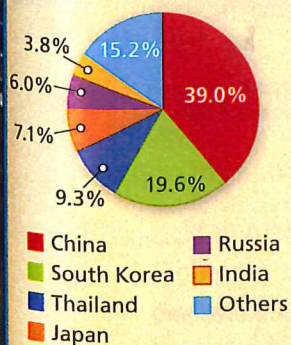
**Fabric** The production of textiles is an important industry in North Korea. The sales clerk shown here displays her colorful fabric in a Pyongyang department store.

**EVALUATE** Discuss the structure of North Korea's government and economy.

## CONNECT to Math

In the image below, a North Korean woman makes textiles for the trade market. Study the chart of North Korea's major trading partners, and then use the decimal numbers in it to play a rounding numbers matching game. Remember to round down any number that contains a decimal of 0.4 or less. Round up any number that contains a decimal of 0.5 or more.

**North Korea's Major Trading Partners**



Source: KOTRA, 2004



## Activity

### Rounding Numbers

- Study the numbers in the box below. The numbers with decimals are taken from the trading partners pie chart.
- Copy the Matching Game box on your paper.
- Circle each number that contains a decimal. Then draw a line to match it with its rounded number.

**Matching Game**

8	15.2	9	16
3	19.6	39.0	4
7	6	10	19
39	3.8	40	20
9.3	15	7.1	6.0





**Voting** South Koreans cast their ballots during the 2002 presidential election. Does a similar election take place in North Korea?

## South Korea

**KEY QUESTION** How do the government and economy of South Korea compare with those of North Korea?

In many ways, the government and economy of South Korea are the opposite of North Korea's government and economy. You can compare the two countries' governments in the feature below.

**Government** Like the United States, the South Korean government is divided into three branches—the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The president heads the executive branch

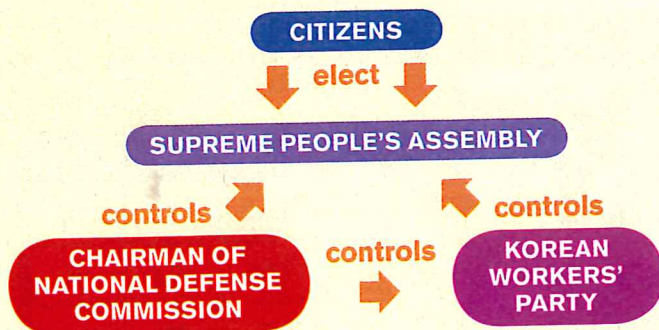
and serves a five-year term. He or she is chosen by popular election and cannot be reelected. The president appoints a prime minister, who handles the running of the government. South Korea's legislature has a single house called the National Assembly. Citizens elect the members of the assembly to four-year terms.

During the 1980s and 1990s, South Korea began to allow more political freedom. It developed a multiparty system. The country also allowed fairer elections and greater freedom for its people.

## COMPARING Korean Governments

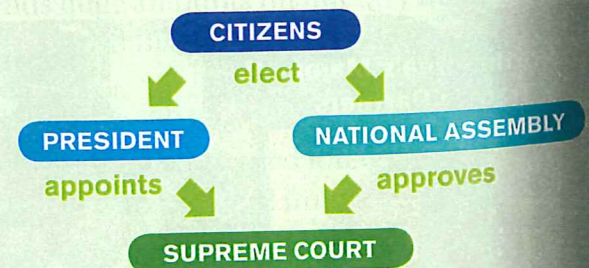
### NORTH KOREA

North Korean citizens elect the members of the Supreme People's Assembly. This body, however, is controlled by the National Defense Commission and the Korean Workers' Party.



### SOUTH KOREA

South Korean citizens directly elect the president and the members of the National Assembly.



### CRITICAL THINKING

- 1. Compare and Contrast** How do the roles of chairman in North Korea and president in South Korea differ?
- 2. Draw Conclusions** How much power do the people of North Korea have?



**Economy** After the Korean War, South Korea developed its economy with a series of five-year plans. The goal of these plans was to export goods and use the resulting income to increase production. The government expressed this approach through the slogan "Production, Exports, Construction!"

Soon South Korean businesses began to thrive. In fact, some companies expanded into family-owned conglomerates called **chaebols** (JEH•buhlz). A **conglomerate** is made up of several companies in different businesses. The businesses within a *chaebol* are related. For example, Samsung is one of South Korea's largest *chaebols*. It is made up of companies that produce electronic equipment such as televisions, microwave ovens, and computers.

Eventually, *chaebols* controlled much of South Korea's economy and greatly contributed to its growth. These organizations, though, had drawbacks. For instance, *chaebols* sometimes underpaid their workers, causing many to demand higher wages. Also, some *chaebols* made bad economic decisions that led to an economic downturn in 1997. After the government received foreign loans and closed poorly run businesses, the economy began to rebound. *Chaebols* continue to play a vital role in South Korea's economy today.

**Industries and Agriculture** South Korea has developed both heavy and light industries. Products include chemicals, steel, shipbuilding, automobiles, electronics, and telecommunications. You can learn about the locations of South Korea's industries by studying the map on this page.

South Korea's economy has shifted away from agriculture. And, as you have learned, South Korea's mountainous terrain does not provide much land for farming. Nevertheless, South Korean farms produce a variety of crops, including rice, root crops, barley, vegetables, and fruit.

### **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**

Compare the government and economy of South Korea with those of North Korea.

### **Industries of North Korea and South Korea**



### **CONNECT Geography & Economics**

- 1. Location** Where are most of the industries in North Korea and South Korea located?
- 2. Region** What are North Korea's major industries?



## Efforts Toward Reunification

**KEY QUESTION** What steps have been taken toward the reunification of North Korea and South Korea?

Many obstacles remain before North Korea and South Korea can be reunited. For one thing, North Korea considers the South Korean government unlawful. Also, over the past decades, North Korea and South Korea have developed very different cultures.

But gradually, contacts between the two Koreas have increased. For example, more visits between family members have been allowed. Also, as you have already learned, a few South Korean businesses have moved into North Korea. The desire for reunification has even been reflected at the Olympic games. During the 2000, 2004, and 2006 games, North and South Korean athletes marched under the same flag during the opening ceremony. The two Koreas have agreed to compete as a single team in the 2008 Olympics.

**FIND MAIN IDEAS** Discuss the steps that have been taken toward the reunification of North and South Korea.



**Unified Korea Flag** Korean athletes carry a flag showing a map of the entire Korean Peninsula in the 2006 Olympics.

### Section 3 Assessment



#### ONLINE QUIZ

For test practice, go to  
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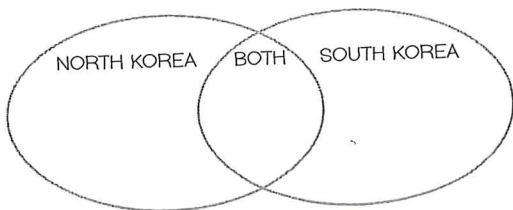
#### TERMS & NAMES

1. **Explain the importance of**
  - totalitarian
  - Korean Workers' Party
  - dictator
  - *chaebol*

#### USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Compare and Contrast** Use your completed Venn diagram to answer the following question:

How do North Korea and South Korea differ in their economic relationships with other countries?



#### KEY IDEAS

3. What is *juche*?
4. How much power does the chairman of the National Defense Commission have in North Korea?
5. What have been some of the benefits and drawbacks of the *chaebols*?

#### CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Recognize Bias and Propaganda** Reread the History Makers on Kim Jong Il. How do official accounts of the leader reflect bias and propaganda?
7. **Evaluate** What might result from allowing the Korean people to travel freely within North and South Korea?
8. **CONNECT to Today** What message would North Korea and South Korea convey by competing in the Olympics as a single team?
9. **ECONOMICS Research a Chaebol** Choose a *chaebol* and research the type of products it makes and how well they sell in the United States. Summarize your findings in a one-paragraph report.



## CHAPTER SUMMARY



### Key Idea 1

Korea lies on a peninsula, which provides a moderate climate and plentiful resources.



### Key Idea 2

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



### Key Idea 3

North Korea and South Korea have very different government systems and economic structures.

 For Review and Study Notes, go to [Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com](#)

## NAME GAME

Use the Terms & Names list to complete each sentence on paper or online.

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. I am the highest mountain on the Korean Peninsula. <u>Mount Paektu</u>    | Buddhism              |
| 2. I am the largest island off the coast of the Korean Peninsula. _____      | <i>chaebol</i>        |
| 3. I am the dictator of North Korea. _____                                   | Cheju                 |
| 4. I am made up of the states of Koguryo, Paekche, and Silla. _____          | conglomerate          |
| 5. I am the buffer zone between North Korea and South Korea. _____           | demilitarized zone    |
| 6. I am the original belief system practiced on the Korean Peninsula. _____  | <i>hanbok</i>         |
| 7. I am a traditional Korean costume. _____                                  | kimchi                |
| 8. I am a Korean side dish. _____  | Kim Jong Il           |
| 9. I am the political group that controls the North Korean government. _____ | Korean Workers' Party |
| 10. I am a family-owned conglomerate of businesses. _____                    | Mount Paektu          |
|  | shamanism             |
|  | Three Kingdoms        |

# Activities

## GeoGame

Use this online map to show what you know about the location, geographic features, and important places of the Korean Peninsula. Drag and drop each place name to its location on the map.



Physical Geography of Korea



North Korea

South Korea

demilitarized zone

Yalu River

Cheju Island

 To play the complete game, go to [Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com](#)

## Crossword Puzzle

Complete an online crossword puzzle to test your knowledge of Korean history and culture.

### ACROSS

1. traditional Korean clothing





## VOCABULARY

Explain the significance of each of the following.

1. Korean Peninsula
2. Mount Paektu
3. Cheju Island
4. Korean War
5. demilitarized zone
6. shamanism
7. *hanbok*
8. celadon
9. Three Kingdoms
10. *chaebol*



Explain how the terms and names in each group are related.

11. shamanism, Confucianism, and Buddhism
12. Korean Workers' Party, Kim Jong Il, and dictator

## KEY IDEAS

### 1 A Rugged Peninsula

13. What bodies of water surround the Korean Peninsula?
14. What do the Yalu and Tumen rivers form?
15. How do summer monsoons affect the Korean Peninsula's climate?
16. How is the majority of the electricity produced in South Korea?

### 2 Strong Traditions, Modern Innovations

17. How did the Choson Dynasty isolate Korea?
18. How did the Korean War start?
19. What belief systems influence Korean society today?
20. What influences have inspired Korean arts?

### 3 Contrasting Countries

21. What is the role of the Korean Workers' Party in North Korea?
22. How is South Korea's government similar to the U.S. government?
23. What was the goal of South Korea's five-year economic plans?
24. How has the desire for the reunification of North and South Korea been reflected in the Olympics?

## CRITICAL THINKING

25. **Compare and Contrast** Create a chart to compare and contrast the natural resources of North Korea and South Korea.

NORTH KOREA'S RESOURCES	SOUTH KOREA'S RESOURCES

26. **Evaluate** What steps has South Korea taken to overcome some of its problems?

27. **Make Inferences** Why do you think many South Koreans practice aspects of several religions?

28. **Identify Problems** What are some of the problems faced by North Korea?

29. **Connect Geography & Economics** How has North Korea's farmland affected its economy?

30. **Five Themes: Human-Environment Interaction** How have the geographic features of the Korean Peninsula affected this region's history?

## Answer the ESSENTIAL QUESTION

### How can North Korea and South Korea overcome their differences and live in peace?

**Written Response** Write a two- or three-paragraph response to the Essential Question. Use the rubric below to guide your thinking.

#### Response Rubric

A strong response will:

- identify the countries' differences and conflicts
- discuss the steps the two Koreas have taken toward overcoming these differences
- offer solutions about what more the two countries could do



- Online Test Practice @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)
- Test-Taking Strategies and Practice at the front of this book

**LINE GRAPH**

Use the graph to answer questions 1 and 2 on your paper.



- In what year did the stock market in South Korea reach its lowest level?**
  - 1997
  - 1998
  - 2001
  - 2003
- When did the stock market reach 850 points?**
  - 1999
  - 2000
  - 2002
  - 2004

**CHART**

Examine the chart below. Use the information in the chart to answer questions 3 and 4 on your paper.

**Spread of Chinese Influence**  
A.D. 600–1400

Korea	Japan	Southeast Asia
Buddhism	Buddhism	Buddhism
Writing system	Writing system	Ideas
Civil service	Printing	
Printing		
Porcelain		

- Which aspect of Chinese culture was most widely spread?**
  - writing system
  - printing
  - Buddhism
  - porcelain
- Which region was most influenced by China?**
  - Korea
  - Japan
  - Southeast Asia
  - They were all equally influenced by China.

**GeoActivity****1. INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY-SCIENCE**

With a small group, use appropriate resources to research the causes and effects of typhoons on the Korean Peninsula. Display your findings on a poster. Include pictures, charts, and captions that explain the causes and effects.

**2. WRITING FOR SOCIAL STUDIES**

Do you think North Korea should be allowed to develop a nuclear weapons program? Examine the conflicting viewpoints of North Korea and of the United States and others who oppose it. Write your opinion in a brief essay.

**3. MENTAL MAPPING**

Create an outline map of the Korean Peninsula and label the following:

- Yellow Sea
- East Sea
- Korea Strait
- Yalu River
- Cheju Island
- Mount Paektu
- Nangnim Mountains
- Taebaek Mountains