

WHAT I 'DESCRIBE' ABOUT KOREA

21-30-2022

INTRODUCTION

As a 16-year-old the modern world influences my ideas a lot. Finding and learning help shape and mold a person's character, to me the exciting facts about a country not only increase knowledge but also reveal some bazaar and shocking paradoxes. let us take a reading tour of Korea.



The Korean flag

Starting with some basics

○ KOREA:

KOREA is a mountainous country joining its three borders with the sea. China and Russia lie on the northern side while the closest southern neighbor is Japan. Its measure is about six hundred miles from northern to southern tip. Since ancient times Korea has been governed by itself with exemption from Japanese colonial rule (1910-1945). Showing immense growth in economy Korea is Asia's 4th and world's 10th developed country. The current president is yoon suk-yeol (on 9th May 2022).



○ THE LANGUAGE:

A country's foremost recognition is its language, the basic way to communicate. Korean or as say HANGEUL is spoken among the people. The word **Hangeul** comes from the Chinese character 韩字. Han means 'Korean' and Geul means 'letter', if put we get the term "Korean letter together" or "Korean Alphabet". Hangeul is the writing system of the Korean language made up of 14 consonants and 10 vowels, making it an alphabet with a total of 24 letters. It is the official writing system in South Korea and North Korea (where it is known as Chosön muntcha), and it is used by diaspora Koreans across the world.

Other dialects of the language are also spoken. English, Japanese, Chinese, and more languages are also rarely used in big cities.



○ RELIGION:

Although the religious beliefs vary from person to person, In Korea there is the freedom to have specific religious faith. Buddhists, Protestants, and Catholics make up the majority. According to a 1995 social statistics survey, 50.7% of Koreans follow a specific religious faith, Buddhists up to 46%, Protestants about 39% and Catholics are 13% of the religious population.

○ CULTURE:



The Korean culture is the most ancient and continuous culture throughout our history. Varying from clothes, cuisine, and language. Style, customs, traditions, and festivals have evolved and slightly changed through the different eras, dynasties, wars, generations, and above all time; but the outcome has always been substantial.

○ HISTORY & THE KOREAN WAR:



(source: Wikipedia)

The Korean War started between North and South Korea (1950-1953). The tragedy began on 25 June, the North invaded the South's separating border with side-by-side clashes, China and the Soviet Union sided with Northern Korea, and South Korea was helped by the UN. With all the massive destruction & killing of thousands of massacres on both sides, the war ended with a truce on 27 July 1953.

○ THE LAND OF MORNING CALM:



SEOUL (source: world atlas)



JINHAE (source: cheapoair)

What is most heard & seen about Korea is its mixed culture, easy way of living and hustling, busy life with laid-back Countryside, and reasonable cost of living. It's a perfect bloom place to visit

On change of month, people can enjoy the weather to their selves, below is some information.

Hottest	August, June, July, September
Coldest	January
Wettest	July
Windiest	April
Rainy	July, August
Dry	January, December

In April Cherry blossom is the most enjoyable and memorable time of the year making it number one month on everybody's list.

○ TRADITIONAL AND NEW TREND OF DRESSING

Hanbok is the traditional attire of Korean people worn on special occasions and anniversaries formal wear. For kids, it is common to wear on their birthdays, adults would likely wear it at weddings or funerals. Beginning with its features the Hanbok is elegant, expressive, and Comprehensive (synonymous) in design

Having a slim top & wide bottom rightly fitting jacket attracting (synonym) the upper body whereas the weaver appears to be floating in the air.

The layout is



For men: a vest, jeogori (top jacket) a pair of pants

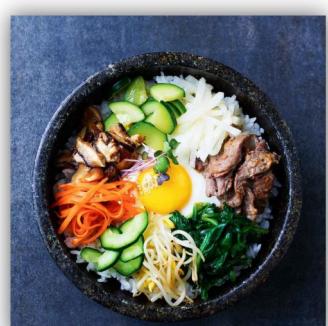
For women: a Jeogori, underskirt, skirt & pair of pantaloons.

Hanboks have been modernized to different elegant designs according to new emerging trends

○ KOREAN-FOOD:

Food is essential means to survive. A healthy diet is all we need. Interestingly Korean cuisine is recognized as a well-balanced diet, including many carbohydrates, lipids, proteins & sufficient vitamins and minerals. Hence in 2004 (WHO) selected Korean dishes as nutritionally balanced. The menu mostly includes:

- Bibimbap(mixed rice)



- Bulgogi(marinated beef barbecue)



- Jap Chae (stir-fried noodles)



(Source: Korean bapsang)

- Hoeddeok (sweet syrupy pancakes)



(Source: stellanspice)

- Sundubu jjigae (a variety of noodles)



(SOURCE: easy Asian recipes and desserts)

- kimchi (manly as side-dish)



(Source: Full of plants)

There is an endless list but let's keep things short.

○ LOCAL FESTIVALS:

Korea's uniqueness is due to its local festivals which are based on the afferent climatic characteristics of each season.

BORYEONG MUD FESTIVAL: this festival was first held on July 1998 in Boryeong-si, Chungcheongnam-do as a regional festival it is based on Daecheon Beach.

GOCHANG GREEN BARLEY FIELD FESTIVAL: Among the splendid green barley field of Gochang-gun this festival is held every year in April. Marking over \$50,000 tourists in 2008 it is a very famous festival, where visitors can as take part in activities such as making flutes out of barley and searching for treasure among the Greenfields.

JINHAE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: If you love cherry blossoms spring is the best time to visit Korea because April is among all the other mouth as Trees in this month are covered up with soft white and pink flowers. The blooming starts in late March in the south & continues to late April in the north

JEJU FIRE FESTIVAL: Taking place in the cold winter Jeju Fire Festival is celebrated among the South Korean People. During this witted and old grass is burnt off for cattle, horses & vermins. From late winter to

early spring, locals set fire, and later on 14 March, the main event commences where the astonishing volcanic cone lights up with other performances, folk market and, thrilling contests are also included.

SEOUL LANTERN FESTIVAL: Since its start started 009 it's annually celebrated very during this time all colors of bright enhance the beauty of the city of Seoul. The one way to describe it is the time when you might be able to: experience amazing sights. Almost every time the theme of the festival is different with exception of the paper lantern and LED sculptures along the cheonggyecheon stream.

JEONJU BIBIMBAP FESTIVAL Bibimbap is a Korean cuisine dish that's not only healthy but delicious and loved among foreigners too. Jeonju's Bibimbap is decorated with 5 colors coming from 30 different ingredients including ginkgo, pine nut, chestnut, wall nut, and seasonal veggies. It is a traditional Bibimbap festival held in Jeonju Hanok Village, Jeonju-si, and Jeollabuk-d.



Boryeong mud festival



Gochang green barley field festival



Jinhae cherry blossom festival



Jeju fire festival



Seoul lantern festival



Jeonju Bibimbap festival

○ TRADITIONAL GAMES:

SLAP-MATCH GAME: 딱지치기 As a traditional game it has been played and loved since the Joseon dynasty.

To play this game two sheets are folded in a square shape also known as ttakji. Leaving on ttakji on the floor the opponent must flip it over as much as he or she can. If flipping isn't your thing then it can be troublesome.



HISBISCUS HAS BLOOMED: 무궁화 꽃이 피었

Hibiscus has bloomed or Green light, Red Light must be something you have played in your childhood but with a different name. The tagger stands with his back to the player and chants hibiscus has bloomed, the other players would sneak to tap the tagger, and , once this is done the players would run back to the original starting place, if someone gets caught during the commotion then he'll be the next tagger.



JEGICHANG: 제기차기

Also known as the hacky sack is a game where **jegi**-coins with holes in the middle are wrapped in silk cloth or hanji (Korean paper) with ends of fabric or paper shredded to strings that rattle and shine as they are flung in the air. The objective is simply to kick Jegi as long as possible.



GONGGI: 공기놀이 is also one of the most popular children's games using 5 small pebbles or more. The trick is simple the pebbles would first be laid on the ground then the player must toss them in the air one by one picking or catching them in their hands. Super simple right? But good practice is needed to master this game.



More exciting information about other Korean games is given on this website:

<https://www.creatrip.com/en/blog/11134>

○ K-POP:

K-pop or Korean pop is used for all the music of South Korea earlier called **gayo** meaning pop music. In the mid-2000s, Idol groups (groups of people performing and singing) like TVXQ, Kara, and, Big Bang. Girl generation and 2NE1 were famous groups that gained popularity in Asian countries like China, Singapore, Taiwan, and Japan. In 2009 wonder girls became 1st Korean singers to appear on board Hot 100 with the English song (Nobody). Followed by PSY Gangnam Style maintaining 2nd rank for 7 consecutive weeks on Billboard Hot 100. Through time more groups emerged among them BTS is well known for not only topping Billboard 200 chart in 2019 but also gaining the Top-Social award for 3rd continuing year at BMA. In August 2020 they made history by becoming 1st South Korean artist to top billboard Hot 100 with the English pop song DYNAMITE.



150 Total idol groups are active including BTS, BLACKPINK, TWICE, RED VELVET, NCT, ITZY, and STRAY KIDS as representatives. Interesting aren't they, K-pop's popularity is due to its amazing choreography, and visual and amazing rapping skill which comes from individuals' years of burning hard work and training.

○ K-DRAMA:

Korea or Korean culture is incomplete without k-drama; even now or then in your life you might have heard about kdrama- if not then let's have a tour. But let me tell you once you read a few of them you'll fall into the K-drama fandom. K-drama or Korean drama has this worldwide impact on Youth to elders, from their fun script to tragic and horrifying scenes that will leave your mind blown. . A comprehensive detail about some drama has been given **MY LOVE FROM THE STAR** will leave you laughing at one moment and crying at the second. A romantic-sad story hidden with mysteries to be untold.

GUARDIAN. THE LONELY & GREAT GOD written by tam Eun Sook was released in 2016 and was a major hit drama loved & beloved by international fans. A story of a goblin and his bride with all the packed comedy and twisting plots;

DESCENDANTS OF THE UN It's Incomplete to say that Descendants of Sun wasn't any ones most loved romantic drama. It has become a blockbuster human melodrama released on 24 Feb, 2016 carving a beautiful storyline for the value of life showing the struggles of soldiers & doctors in and their success to lead in an unfamiliar land. The wave of historical dramas impacted global popularity showing People's interest in architecture, Clothing styles, and food.

CRASH LANDING ON YOU Aired in 2020 combines two cultural backgrounds and shows the love of a successful South-Korean businessman who unconditionally crash lands in the North Korean territory where an army captain of in Korean People's Army decides to help her.



My Love from the Star



Guardian: the lonely and great god



Descendants of sun



Crash landing on you

○ KOREAN NIGHT 2021:



THE KOREAN NIGHT 2021 IS AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE KOREAN EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN AT THE PEARL CONTINENTAL HOTEL LAHORE ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2021 TO ESTABLISH PEACE TIES BETWEEN PAKISTAN & KOREA ON A CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC BASIS.

UPON ITS GLORY, THE EVENT WAS ATTENDED BY 120 HIGH DIGNITARIES INCLUDING CONSOLATIONS GENERALS, PAKISTANI OFFICIALS, ARTISTS, AND BUSINESSMEN ALONG WITH KOREAN HIGH SCHOOLERS.

THE PRESTIGIOUS NIGHT BEGAN WITH NETFLIX'S MOST-WATCHED SERIES SQUID GAME THEME ANTHEM SONG.

FROM KIDS TO ELDERS THE NIGHT EVENT WAS ENJOYED BY PLAYING VARIOUS KOREAN TRADITIONAL GAMES INCLUDING **DALGONA**, **DDAJI**, AND **JEGICHANG**. FOLLOWED BY A MIRACULOUS PERFORMANCE OF THE DYNAMITE CREW (WINNER OF KPOP EVENT 2021) AND SO IT ENDED WITH MUSICAL DUO '**JINSPARK**' PERFORMING A MELODIC WAVE OF THEIR MUSIC.