

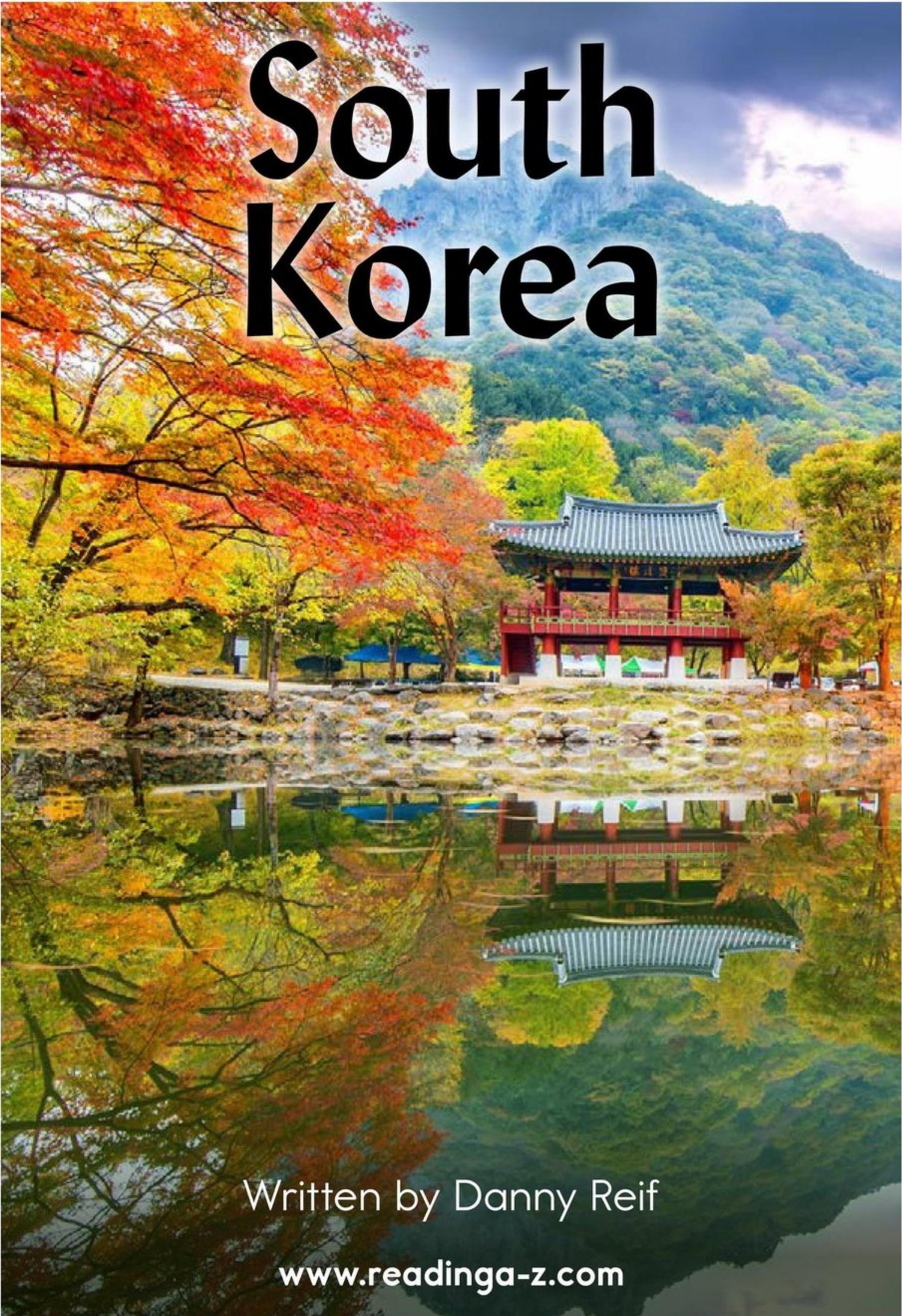
LEVELED Book • K

# South Korea



Written by Danny Reif

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)



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## Focus Question

What are some important things  
to know about South Korea?

# Words to Know

celebration  
coast  
freely

modern  
peak  
plains

Front cover: Busy streets in Seoul, South Korea

Title page: A park in fall in the southern part of South Korea

Page 3: Farmers work in a rice field.

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South Korea

Countries Around the World

Level K Leveled Book

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## Where Is It?

South Korea is a country in East Asia. It is close to China. The closest country to South Korea is North Korea.

The capital of South Korea is Seoul, the country's largest city. Over nine million people live there. It is one of the largest cities in the world.

Downtown Seoul has walls built more than six hundred years ago. The area contains many buildings from an earlier time.



One of the Five Grand Palaces is in the middle of Seoul.



People shop along one of the many crowded streets in Seoul.

## People

South Koreans mostly speak Korean. They have many different types of jobs. Many people make cars, ships, and other things to sell in other countries. South Korea also has many computer jobs.

Family is important to Korean people. South Koreans keep careful family records.

School is important as well. Korean parents work hard to help their children learn.



Korean students work on computers in a classroom in Seoul (top). A parent helps her child choose a book in a children's bookstore (bottom).



## Land

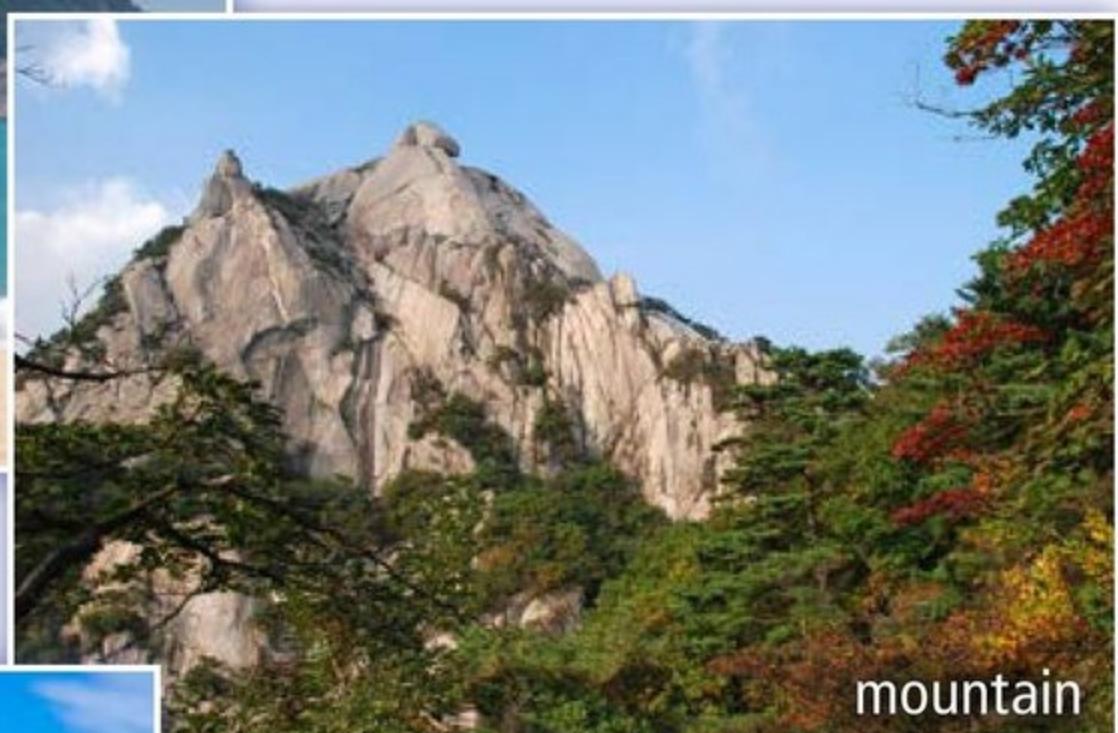
Most of South Korea has hills and mountains. The highest peak is Mount Halla, an old volcano, at 1,950 meters (6,398 ft.).

Much of the **coast** of South Korea is broken up by rivers and streams. The land along the coast is very low.

Most people in South Korea's countryside live on the **plains**. Farmers there grow rice, fruits, and vegetables.



coast



mountain



plain



rice field



South Koreans celebrate over sixty years of freedom from Japan.

## History

For hundreds of years, Korea was a hard place to get to. Its people were mostly left alone. Different kingdoms took control of the land.

Japan took control of Korea in 1905. It remained under Japan's control until the end of World War II.

When the war ended, most world leaders wanted Korea to have its own government. The United States and a country called the Soviet Union were supposed to help. They did not agree.

In the end, South Korea **freely** chose its leaders. North Korea set up a government that was less free.



People keep watch over the border between North and South Korea.

# Holidays

New Year's Day may be the most important **celebration** in South Korea. On this holiday, people celebrate everyone becoming one year older.

Korean Thanksgiving is another important holiday. Families gather and visit family graves. They remember their family members.



Korean people play games and wear special clothing to celebrate New Year's Day.



A Korean family enjoys a meal (top). Different spicy vegetable dishes are popular (bottom).



## Food

Korean food has lots of flavor. A spicy vegetable dish and rice are served at most meals.

Many South Koreans think food is the answer to good health. They believe what they eat can keep them from getting sick.



The lights of the big city of Seoul shine at night.

## Conclusion

South Koreans have shared the ideas of hard work and love of family for many years. Today, South Korea is a **modern** world power with a bright tomorrow.

## South Korea



**Population:** 49,115,196

**Land:** 99,720 sq km (38,502 sq. mi.)

**Capital City:** Seoul

**Primary Language:** Korean

**Primary Religions:** Christianity, Buddhism

**Name of Currency:** Won



Source: CIA World Factbook (May 2016)

## Glossary

<b>celebration</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a joyful gathering to mark something important (p. 12)
<b>coast</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the area where land meets the ocean (p. 9)
<b>freely</b> ( <i>adv.</i> )	not under the control of anyone or anything (p. 11)
<b>modern</b> ( <i>adj.</i> )	of the present time (p. 14)
<b>peak</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a tall mountain or the pointed top part of a mountain (p. 8)
<b>plains</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	large stretches of flat land, usually with few trees (p. 9)

# South Korea

A Reading A-Z Level K Leveled Book

Word Count: 389

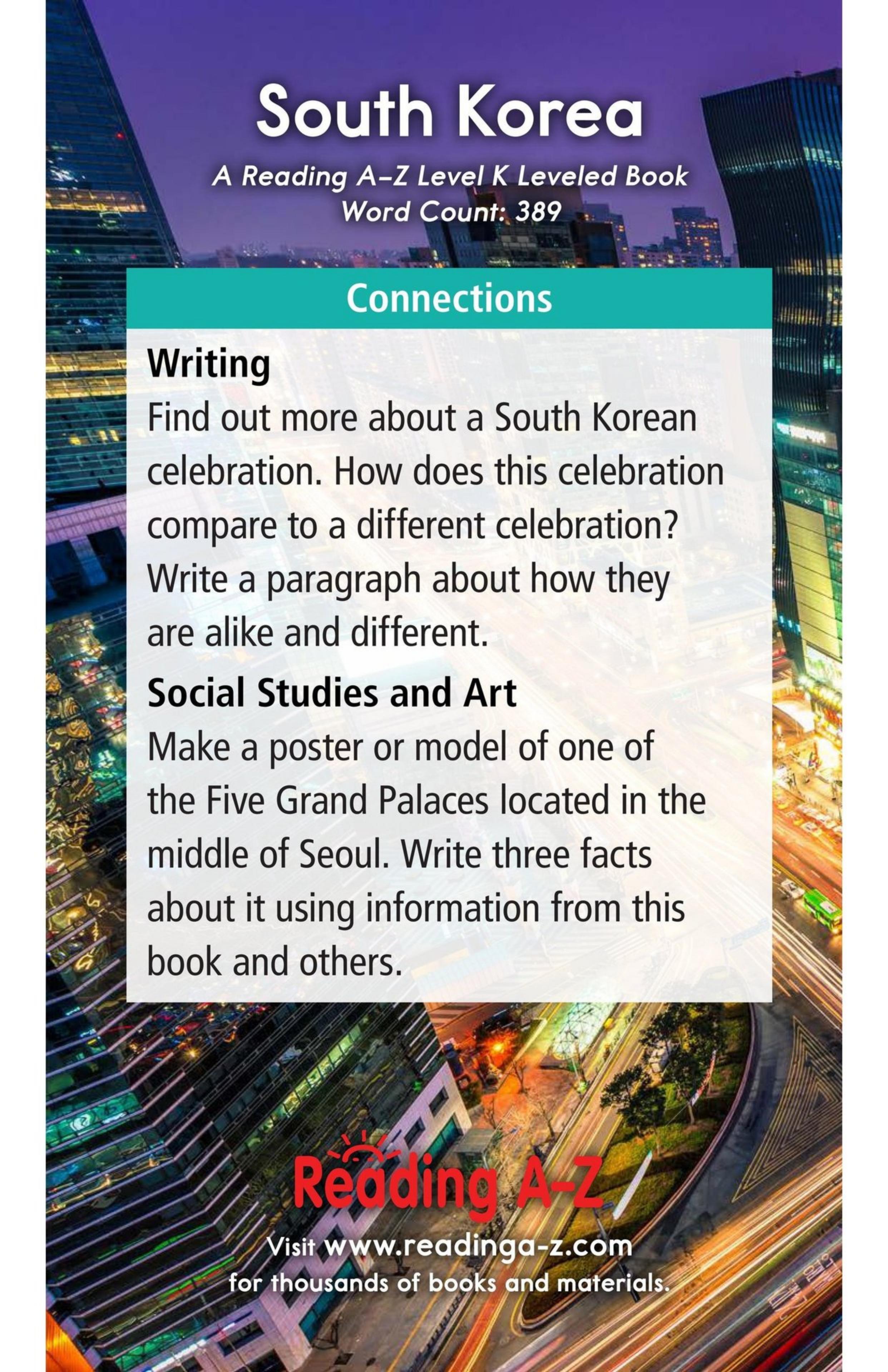
## Connections

### Writing

Find out more about a South Korean celebration. How does this celebration compare to a different celebration? Write a paragraph about how they are alike and different.

### Social Studies and Art

Make a poster or model of one of the Five Grand Palaces located in the middle of Seoul. Write three facts about it using information from this book and others.



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