

## Do You Know Korea?

### Objectives

- Students will establish prior knowledge about South Korea.

### Time

- 15 minutes

### Level

- middle or high school

### Procedure

- Teacher should provide students a copy of the pre-test *Do You Know Korea?*
- When a majority of students have finished, the teacher should tell the students that there are only 4 true answers. This will encourage students to revisit their answers in case they did not carefully consider them at first.
- As the class reviews the answers, the teacher can have students stand or give a thumbs up for each answer they believe is true.
- Students should correct the false answers on their papers as they are reviewed.

### Content

#### Do You Know Korea?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ More than 90% of Koreans are Buddhist.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ North and South Korea have been at war since 1950.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ There is an amusement park at the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Korea is rich in mineral resources like oil.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Korean society is very strict and few people drink alcohol.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Most South Koreans live very close to North Korea.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ North Korea is the last communist country in Asia.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ K-Pop music is promoted and supported by the government of South Korea.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Almost all Koreans want to be reunified as one country again.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Very few North Koreans have any contact or get any information from the rest of the world.

#### Do You Know Korea? KEY

1. F More than 90% of Koreans are Buddhist. South Korea is officially about 32% Christian, mostly Protestant, and 24% Buddhist according to the CIA World Factbook. However, as is true in most of East Asia, they are almost 100% Confucian in the sense that the core societal values are the same. There is also still a strong shamanistic influence, and many still consult them in times of trouble or before getting married.
2. T North and South Korea have been at war since 1950. Technically the Korean War is still on because on the terms to a ceasefire, or armistice, were reached, not a treaty.
3. T There is an amusement part at the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone). The Imjingak area was first made more civilian and kid-friendly when divided families were allowed to meet here. The amount of evidently tourist-friendly locations like a souvenir shop with DMZ chocolates and a Popeye's Chicken have been added as the government has learned that most visitors consider this their number 1 destination. Most South Koreans seem mystified by the desire to visit.
4. F Korea is rich in mineral resources like oil. Just as with economic role model Japan, Korea's best natural resource is its coastline. There is limited mining and rice agriculture, but Korea was very poor until very recently when electronic exports became possible.

5. F Korean society is very strict and few people drink alcohol. South Koreans have a very active bar culture, and street food is big. It is common for friends to try and get each other very drunk, and karaoke is a popular Japanese influence. Korean society does reflect respect for elders and the importance of the whole before the individual, but so long as you pour for your elder or superior and not yourself, drinking is considered very appropriate.
6. T Most South Koreans live very close to North Korea. About half of South Koreans live in and around Seoul, and Seoul is within a few miles of the border. Google the Earth at night from NASA for a great visual of the proximity.
7. F North Korea is the last communist country in Asia. China and Vietnam are both still communist in name and mostly in government-style.
8. T K-Pop music is promoted and supported by the government of South Korea. The government recognized the success of Japanese cultural exports like Hello Kitty and saw potential in its own people. There are a variety of subsidized programs for developing and exporting talent.
9. F Almost all Koreans want to be reunified as one country again. It is hard to say for North Koreans, although it is fair to guess they would support it once they realize the realities of the differences in lifestyle. South Koreans are divided by age with the oldest segment being the main one in favor of reunification considering they remember when it was a country and many still have family members there. The middle-aged generation became disillusioned with the strong American influence and harsh attempts to crack down on communism. The youth seem to be over the drama and most concerned about the potential financial damage that would likely come from one Korea.
10. F Very few North Koreans have any contact or get any information with the rest of the world. While still the "Hermit Kingdom," technology is making inroads here as it has in most isolated societies. Thumb drives and DVDs are smuggled in from China in large numbers, and so glimpses of the outside world are becoming more common even as the regime seems intent on maintaining the Kim policy of emulating Stalin.

### **Differentiation**

- The level of difficulty can be decreased by allowing students to work together.
- The level of difficulty can be increased by requiring students to look up answers to the quiz.

### **Sources and Resources**

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PX9SeUX9QQ>