

# South Korea

South Korea hosted the Winter Olympic Games in February 2018.

## History

South Korea has a long history which can still be seen today in some of the country's landmarks. The ancient dynasties in South Korea developed early printing presses and had some of the highest living standards in the world. In the 15th century, King Sejong the Great invented the Hangul alphabet which is still used in Korea today. Hangul was simpler than the Chinese characters that had been used before and meant that Koreans could learn to read and write more easily. In the early 20th century, Korea was governed by Japan until after the Second World War when the country was divided and the southern part was controlled by the US. Although North Korea invaded in 1950 causing the Korean War, since 1953, the two countries have existed side by side with an agreement to work towards peacefully rejoining.

## Geography

South Korea has mountainous regions, river basins and coastal areas. Only a small part of the country is suitable for farming crops such as rice and green tea.

South Korea has a humid climate with cold winters and hot summers. There is a short rainy season in July and in late summer, the south coast experiences typhoons which can cause flooding.



### Did You Know?

In 1988, the South Korean capital, Seoul, hosted the Summer Olympic Games.

## Culture

Korea is famous for its pottery and sculpture as well as performing arts. Taekwondo was developed after the Second World War when martial artists combined elements of karate and Chinese and Korean martial arts. Korea has many regional foods some of which are based on rice, noodles and vegetables. The national dish, kimchi, is a side dish made of fermented vegetables.

Korea's capital city, Seoul, has over 25 million residents. Seoul has the fifth largest world economy and South Korea is home to many well-known technology companies including Samsung and LG. South Korea has a thriving entertainment industry making films, television programmes and pop music.



# Questions

1. What event took place in South Korea in 2018? Tick one.

The Winter Olympics

The Commonwealth Games

The Eurovision Song Contest

2. What was King Sejong's most important invention?

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3. Who governed South Korea after the Second World War? Tick one.

USA

Japan

China

4. Which city hosted the 1988 Summer Olympic Games?

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5. Name one crop grown in South Korea.

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6. What is the climate like in South Korea? Tick one.

humid and windy

cold and dry

hot summers and warm winters

7. Name two Korean cultural traditions.

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8. How many people live in the capital city, Seoul?

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# Answers

1. What event took place in South Korea in 2018? Tick one.

**The Winter Olympics**

The Commonwealth Games

The Eurovision Song Contest

2. What was King Sejong's most important invention?

**King Sejong's most important invention was the Hangul alphabet.**

3. Who governed South Korea after the Second World War? Tick one.

**USA**

Japan

China

4. Which city hosted the 1988 Summer Olympic Games?

**Seoul hosted the Summer Olympic Games in 1988.**

5. Name one crop grown in South Korea.

**Accept any one of the following: rice, green tea.**

6. What is the climate like in South Korea? Tick one.

humid and windy

cold and dry

**hot summers and warm winters**

7. Name two Korean cultural traditions.

**Accept any two of the following: pottery, sculpture, taekwondo, kimchi.**

8. How many people live in the capital city, Seoul?

**25 million people live in the capital city, Seoul.**

# South Korea

South Korea hosted the Winter Olympic Games in February 2018. The city of Pyeongchang was the host city, with skiing and sliding taking place in Alpensia resort and skating events taking place in the coastal city of Gangneung.

## History

The history of South Korea goes back many centuries and evidence of its early history can still be seen today in the form of royal palaces in Seoul, Buddhist temples and bronze age burial grounds all around the country. The oldest pottery from Korea dates back to 8000BC and the beginnings of the modern country were founded in the 12th century BC. The Joseon dynasty, which lasted 500 years from the 14th century, had some of the highest living standards in the world at the time. King Sejong the Great invented the Hangul alphabet which is still used in Korea today. Hangul was much simpler than the Chinese characters which had been used until then and meant that learning to read and write became much easier for Koreans. Even before that, the metal moveable printing press was first developed and used in Korea.

After the end of the Joseon dynasty, in the early 20th century, Korea was occupied and ruled by Japan until after the Second World War when the peninsula was divided and the southern part was controlled by the United States. Although communist North Korea invaded in 1950 causing the Korean War, since 1953, the two countries have existed side by side with an agreement to work towards peaceful reunification.

## Geography

South Korea occupies the southern part of the Korean peninsula surrounded by the Yellow Sea to the west and the Sea of Japan (or East Sea) to the east. The country has a varied landscape of mountainous regions, river basins and coastal plains. Rice and green tea are the most important crops although only a small proportion of the country is suitable for farming crops.



### Did You Know?

In 1988, the South Korean capital, Seoul, hosted the Summer Olympic Games which were the last Games in which the Soviet Union and East Germany competed before they ceased to exist.



The climate in South Korea is humid all year round. It experiences cold winters and hot summers with temperatures reaching as low as  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  and as high as  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . July brings a short rainy season and in late summer, the south coast experiences typhoons which sometimes cause flooding.

## Culture

Historically, Korea was a centre for arts and culture. Korea is famous for its pottery and sculpture as well as performing arts including the fan dance, Buchaechum. After the Second World War, martial artists established their own schools, called kwans. They combined elements of karate and other martial arts in these schools which became known as taekwondo. Korea has many regional foods which are based on rice, noodles and vegetables. The national dish, kimchi, is a side dish made of fermented vegetables and bulgogi, a beef dish, is also very popular.

Most Koreans live an urban lifestyle with over 25 million residents in the capital city of Seoul. South Korea is home to many well-known technology companies including Samsung and LG. South Korea has a thriving entertainment industry, making films, television programmes and pop music.

### Did You Know?

South Korea has its own music genre, K-Pop, and in 2012, PSY became famous around the world when he released Gangnam Style on YouTube. Gangnam is a fashionable area of Seoul.



# Questions

1. Name the two venues hosting the events of the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.

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2. When were the beginnings of the modern country founded? Tick one.

8000BC

1953

12th century BC

3. What is Hangul and why is it important?

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4. Which two countries occupied South Korea at different times during the 20th century? Tick one.

USA and Japan

China and the USA

USA and North Korea

5. Find and copy a synonym for **came to an end**.

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6. How do we know that much of South Korea is mountainous?

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7. When is the rainy season in South Korea? Tick one.

February

July

December

8. What is Buchaechum?

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9. Which martial art was developed after the Second World War?

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10. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Gangnam is a type of traditional Korean dancing.		
South Korea is home to many technology companies.		
Bulgogi is a dish made of fermented vegetables.		
25 million people live in South Korea.		



# Answers

1. Name the two venues hosting the events of the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.  
**Alpensia and Gangneung**
2. When were the beginnings of the modern country founded? Tick one.  
8000BC  
1953  
**12th century BC**
3. What is Hangul and why is it important?  
**Hangul is the Korean alphabet invented by King Sejong. It is important because it is much simpler than the Chinese characters used before and made learning to read and write much easier.**
4. Which two countries occupied South Korea at different times during the 20th century? Tick one.  
**USA and Japan**  
China and the USA  
USA and North Korea
5. Find and copy a synonym for **came to an end**.  
**ceased**
6. How do we know that much of South Korea is mountainous?  
**The text describes the mountainous regions as 'vast' which means they were really large.**
7. When is the rainy season in South Korea? Tick one.  
February  
**July**  
December
8. What is Buchaechum?  
**Buchaechum is a traditional fan dance performed in South Korea.**
9. Which martial art was developed after the Second World War?  
**taekwondo**

10. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Gangnam is a type of traditional Korean dancing.		✓
South Korea is home to many technology companies.	✓	
Bulgogi is a dish made of fermented vegetables.		✓
25 million people live in South Korea.		✓

# South Korea

The East Asian country of South Korea hosted the Winter Olympic Games in February 2018. The city of Pyeongchang was the host city, with skiing and sliding taking place in Alpensia resort and skating events taking place in the coastal city of Gangneung.

## History

The history of South Korea goes back many centuries and evidence of its early history can still be seen today in the form of Royal Palaces in Seoul, Buddhist temples and bronze age burial grounds all around the country. The oldest pottery from Korea dates back to 8000BC and the beginnings of the modern country were founded in the 12th century BC. During these early years, the Buddhist religion flourished in South Korea which was known at the time as Silla. By 1100, there were 12 universities in the country and it was a centre of learning and culture. The Joseon dynasty, which lasted 500 years from the 14th century, had some of the highest living standards in the world at the time. King Sejong the Great invented the Hangul alphabet which is still used in Korea today. Hangul was much simpler than the Chinese characters which had been used until then and meant that learning to read and write became much easier for Koreans. Even before that, the metal moveable printing press was first developed and used in Korea.

After the end of the Joseon dynasty, in the early 20th century, Korea was occupied and ruled by Japan. After the Second World War, the peninsula was divided and the southern part was controlled by the United States. Although communist North Korea invaded in 1950 causing the Korean War, since 1953 the two countries have existed side by side with an agreement to work towards peaceful reunification.



## Did You Know?

In 1988, the South Korean capital, Seoul, hosted the Summer Olympic Games which were the last Games in which the Soviet Union and East Germany competed before they ceased to exist. Taekwondo was an exhibition sport at these games.

## Geography

South Korea occupies the southern part of the Korean peninsula surrounded by the Yellow Sea to the west and the Sea of Japan (or East Sea) to the east. It is a country with a varied landscape of vast mountainous regions, river basins and coastal plains. Rice and green tea are the most important crops although only a small proportion of the country, around 30%, is lowlands suitable for arable farming.

The climate in South Korea is humid all year round. It experiences cold winters and hot summers with temperatures reaching as low as -10°C and as high as 30°C. July brings a short rainy season and in late summer, the south coast experiences typhoons which sometimes cause flooding.

## Culture

Historically, Korea was a centre for arts and culture. Korea is famous for its pottery and sculpture as well as performing arts including the fan dance, Buchaechum, and musical storytelling, Pansori. After the Second World War, martial artists established their own schools, called kwans. In the 1940s and 50s they began to combine elements of karate and other martial arts in these schools which became known as taekwondo. Korea has many regional foods based on rice, noodles and vegetables. The national dish, kimchi, is a side dish made of fermented vegetables and bulgogi, a beef dish, is also very popular.

Most Koreans live an urban lifestyle with half the country's population, around 25 million residents, in the capital city Seoul. Seoul has the fifth largest world economy and South Korea is home to many well-known technology companies including Samsung, LG, Kia and Hyundai. South Korea has a thriving entertainment industry, making films, television programmes and pop music.

### Did You Know?

South Korea has its own music genre, K-Pop, and in 2012, PSY became famous around the world when he released Gangnam Style on YouTube. Gangnam is a fashionable area of Seoul.



# Questions

1. Name the two venues and the events which take place in each at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.

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2. What evidence of South Korean history can we still see today?

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3. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Half the country's population live in Seoul.		
The traditional fan dance is called pansori.		
The Summer Olympic Games were held in Pyeongchang in 1992.		
Japan and the USA occupied South Korea during the 20th century.		

4. Explain how Hangul made reading and writing easier for Koreans.

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5. Find and copy a synonym for **hurricane**.

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6. In your own words, explain what **fermented** means.

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7. Explain what developed in **kwans**?

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8. What is the main industry in South Korea? Name some of the companies involved in this industry.

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9. What is **Gangnam Style** named after?

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10. Which fact about Korea do you find the most interesting.  
Explain your reasons.

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# Answers

1. Name the two venues and the events which take place in each at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.

**Skiing and sliding events will take place at Alpensia and skating events will be held at Gangneung.**

2. What evidence of South Korean history can we still see today?

**We can still see evidence of royal palaces, Buddhist temples and bronze age burial grounds today.**

3. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Half the country's population live in Seoul.	✓	
The traditional fan dance is called pansori.		✓
The Summer Olympic Games were held in Pyeongchang in 1992.		✓
Japan and the USA occupied South Korea during the 20th century.	✓	

4. Explain how Hangul made reading and writing easier for Koreans.

**The Hangul alphabet was much simpler than the Chinese characters which had been used before so it was easier for Koreans to learn to read and write.**

5. Find and copy a synonym for hurricane.

**typhoon**

6. In your own words, explain what fermented means.

**Fermented means when something breaks down due to bacteria.**

7. Explain what developed in kwans?

**After the Second World War, martial artists combined elements of karate and other martial arts to develop the Korean martial art, taekwondo in schools called kwans.**

8. What is the main industry in South Korea? Name some of the companies involved in this industry.

**The main industry is the technology industry. Some of the companies involved are Samsung, LG, Kia and Hyundai.**

9. What is **Gangnam Style** named after?

**Gangnam Style is named after the area of Seoul called Gangnam.**

10. Which fact about Korea do you find the most interesting.

Explain your reasons.

**Pupils' own responses.**