

Teaching Korea - The Taegeukgi

Teaching Suggestions

RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

Why not create some short multi-choice quizzes to test what students can recall about the content they have just learned about? Create a quick test of 8, 10, 12 or 20 questions. Here are three examples:

1. In which year was the Taegeukgi, the first national flag of Korea, created?
 - a) 1852
 - b) 1882
 - c) 1912
2. What name is given to a figure made up of three whole or broken lines?
 - a) A Tripod
 - b) A Triton
 - c) A Trigram
3. The Taegeukgi was first used by the Special Envoy, Park Yeonghyo, when he represented the Korean nation during an official visit to which country?
 - a) Japan
 - b) China
 - c) Germany

FAMOUS FLAG FACTS

Ask students to research the stories of other famous flags. The following have fascinating stories relating to their creation – but students could pick one, three, or five of their own choices to research. This could be an individual or group project:

- The flag of the United States of America: the current version of the flag is the 27th; the design of the flag has been modified officially 26 times since 1777.
- The flag of the United Kingdom: the flag consists of three heraldic crosses – the cross of St George to represent England, the cross saltire of St Andrew to represent Scotland, and the cross saltire of St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. The Welsh dragon does not appear on the Union Flag.
- The flag of Brazil: a blue disc depicting a starry sky, a curved band inscribed with the national motto *Ordem e Progresso* (Order and Progress), all within a yellow

rhombus, on a green background. The stars represent the constellations as seen from Rio de Janeiro on 15 November 1889, the day Brazil became a republic.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FLAGS

Write an extended answer or essay outlining the use and importance of flags throughout history:

- Why were flags originally created?
- When were they first used?
- How have they been used in history? Find examples of how flags have been used – for example, the Normans from France used flags to move soldiers around on the battlefield when they invaded England in 1066, whilst whole armies have used flags (white ones) to show they are surrendering.
- Which country has the oldest flag?
- What fascinating flag stories can be found?

WRITE A QUIZ AND TEST YOUR CLASSMATES

Ask your students to use the About the Object section, and other sources, to write quiz questions and accompanying answers. Model this as students find it difficult to frame questions well. They also need guidance on how to write quiz questions which end with a definitive answer. Here are three example questions and answers that you could use as a model:

1. Question: In which country was the first Korean flag – the Taegeukgi displayed in?
Answer: Japan (on an envoy's official visit to Japan).
2. Question: What do the two equal sections in the central circle symbolise?
Answer: Balance in the world AND / OR ying and yang.
3. What two types of punishment are used for anyone who desecrates (purposely damages) the Korean flag?
Answer: Fines and a prison sentence.

RESEARCH FLAG SIGNALS AND SEND YOUR OWN MESSAGES

Flags have been used to in the past as means of communication. For example, in the 18th and early 19th Centuries, flags were used by the British navy to send messages between war ships.

This was standardised the early 19th Century. Indeed, Admiral Nelson famously sent his fleet a famous message via flags. He expected, "every man to do his duty" and sent this as a flag message.

Ask your students to research how flags have been used to send messages. They could also make their own flag signal. There is a brilliant activity designed to do this

on the [Royal Museums Greenwich](#) website.

WRITE A SUMMARY FOR THE FLAG DISPLAYED AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF KOREAN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

The permanent gallery of the National Museum of Korean Contemporary History displays the flag used as the symbol of the first Korean provisional government. You can find it here on the [museum's website](#).

Ask your students to research and then write a 40-word summary didactic (the blurb that accompanies a display item) explaining the history of this flag and its significance in the development of modern Korea.



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