

World History Digital Education

Lesson Plan

The Migration of Korean Workers to West Germany and Modern Migration Issues in South Korea

AUTHOR INFORMATION

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Lesson Grade Span: 9th- 12th Grade

Targeted Grade Level: 10th Grade

Targeted Course: World History and/or AP European History

Estimated Time to Complete Lesson: 2 Class Periods (45 minutes each)

Brief explanation of content connection and/or inspiration of lesson from Discover Korea Research

Fellowship: When traveling to Korea I was most interested in the constant reference to how Korea's birth rate is the lowest in the world. In one of our meetings with the Seoul city managers it was mentioned how America deals with this due to our large immigrant population. This sparked in me the idea of how migrants in South Korea are treated when going there. It was also mentioned in one of the museums and in the movie we watched how West Germany experienced a severe labor shortage after WW2 and in turn made a deal to recruit foreign workers to fill this need. South Korea also encouraged this as a way to deal with unemployment and give the workers a way to bring money back to their families and the country. This was something I had never heard of so I thought it would be interesting to compare the experiences to today.

FOCUS QUESTION

"How do the experiences of Korean migrant workers in West Germany compare to the experiences of migrant workers in South Korea today, and what lessons can be learned?"

NATIONAL STANDARDS, STATE STANDARDS, AND/OR AP CED EKS

HS.WH.CO.5: Analyze how advancements in communication, technology, and trade impact global interactions from 1900-present.

HS.WH.CE.9: Analyze the causes of Decolonization, methods of gaining independence, and geopolitical impacts of new nation-states from 1945-present.

HS.WH.I.Q.1: Generate compelling questions to frame thinking, inquiry, and/or understanding of key concepts in world history.

LEARNING TARGETS/OBJECTIVES

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1. Understand the historical context of Korean labor migration to West Germany.
2. Analyze the economic, social, and political impacts of this migration.
3. Compare historical and contemporary migration issues.
4. Reflect on the lessons that past migration experiences can provide for current policies.

LESSON SUMMARY (brief paragraph)

This lesson plan explores the history behind the migration of Korean workers to West Germany in the 1960s and 1970s and connects it to modern migration issues in South Korea. Students will investigate the economic, social, and political factors that influenced Korean migration, analyze the experiences of these workers, and compare them to the conditions faced by today's migrant workers in South Korea. Through group research, analysis, and reflective writing, students will understand the historical context and create lessons to inform current migration policies, aligning with relevant Kentucky World History Standards.

LESSON PROCEDURES (step by step teacher instructions)

Bell Ringer:

“What are some reasons why people migrate to other countries for work, and how might their experiences differ based on their home country and the country they move to?”

This question encourages students to think about the motivations and challenges of migrant workers, setting the stage for exploring the specific historical and contemporary cases of Korean labor migrants in Germany and foreign workers in South Korea.

Introduction:

First I would present the compelling question, **“How do the experiences of Korean migrant workers in West Germany compare to the experiences of migrant workers in South Korea today, and what lessons can be learned?”** As a class we can discuss what are some things that we can hope to learn from the lesson and what types of sources we might use in order to be able to answer the question fully.

Using a set of google slides linked [here](#) we will cover an introduction/history to the Korean migrant workers who traveled to Germany after WW2. We will discuss the why/challenges they faced upon arriving there. I will also briefly introduce the migration issue that is occurring in South Korea today.

Group Research and Analysis:

Each group will then be assigned an article/source relating to current migration issues in South Korea to research. Students will put together 1-2 slides that will be used collaboratively with the other groups to share with the class what they have found.

1. [Korea struggles to shift immigration policies amid demographic changes](#)
2. [Immigration to South Korea](#)
3. [Internal Migration in South Korea](#)
4. [South Korea's Migrant Worker Policies](#)

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5. [Marriage Migration in South Korea](#)
6. [Public Sentiment on Immigration in South Korea](#)
7. [Government's Fragmented Approach to Immigration](#)
8. [Future Directions for South Korea's Immigration Policy](#)

Presentation:

Each group will spend a few minutes presenting their findings on current migration in South Korea. As the students are presenting we will be completing a class-wide venn diagram comparing Korean migrants in Germany.

Reflection and Extension:

After the presentations students will choose the method in which to answer the following prompts:

1. Compare the historical experiences of Korean migrant workers in West Germany with the contemporary experiences of migrant workers in South Korea.
2. Identify key lessons that modern South Korea can learn from the historical context of Korean workers in West Germany.
3. Develop policy proposals to improve the conditions for migrant workers in South Korea today, considering the lessons learned from both historical and contemporary contexts. Additionally, you may include a comparison to America's own migrant issues and suggest how these proposals might be adapted to the American context.

This can be done in a writing, presentation, poster, infographic. Any other ideas may be suggested to the teacher.

Rubric

SUPPORTING MATERIALS (links, resources, handouts, etc.)

- [Google Slides Presentation with Introduction Information](#)
- [Interview with a couple who were miners and nurses](#)
- [The Hidden History of Korean Labor Migrants in Germany](#)