

## Shamanism and Ancestor Worship in the Sea of Japan

### AUTHOR INFORMATION

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Lesson Grade Span:** 9-12

**Targeted Grade Level:** 10

**Targeted Course:** World History

**Estimated Time to Complete Lesson:** 70 minutes

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

**Research Fellowship:** Visiting The Jongmyo Shrine inspired my curiosity regarding Korean's connection to their ancestors and their past. Seeing the three paths laid out in stone with the center path reserved for the spirits was beautiful. I wanted to learn more about how Shamanism and Ancestor Worship tied into Korea's culture as well as other cultures around the Sea of Japan.

### FOCUS QUESTION

How do Shamanism and Ancestor Worship in Korea, China and Japan reflect the cultural and spiritual values of these societies located around the Sea of Japan?

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

**D2.Geo.3.9-12.** Use geographic data to analyze variations in the spatial patterns of cultural and environmental characteristics at multiple scales.

**D2.His.3.9-12.** Use questions generated about individuals and groups to assess how the significance of their actions changes over time and is shaped by the historical context.

**D2.His.12.9-12.** Use questions generated about multiple historical sources to pursue further inquiry and investigate additional sources.

\*C3 Framework Social Studies Standards

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### Lesson Plan

#### LEARNING TARGETS/OBJECTIVES

- Students will be able to understand the basic concepts of Shamanism and Ancestor Worship in Korea, China and Japan.
- Students will be able to analyze how these spiritual practices are influenced by and reflect the cultural, historical, and geographical context of the region.
- Students will be able to compare and contrast the practices in the three countries and evaluate their impact on contemporary society.

#### LESSON SUMMARY (brief paragraph)

This lesson introduces students to the spiritual practices of Shamanism and Ancestor Worship in Korea, China and Japan, focusing on their cultural significance and historical development. Students will explore how these practices reflect the values and beliefs of the societies around the Sea of Japan and compare the similarities and differences among the three countries. Through discussion, analysis of primary sources, and a creative synthesis project, students will gain a deeper understanding of the role of spirituality in shaping cultural identity.

#### LESSON PROCEDURES (step by step teacher instructions)

Introduction: (10 mins)

- Begin with the Focus Question on the Board “How do Shamanism and Ancestor Worship in Korea, China and Japan reflect the cultural and spiritual values of these societies located around the Sea of Japan?”
- Briefly introduce the concepts of Shamanism and Ancestor Worship. Explain that these practices are deeply rooted in the history and culture of the region. (See attached Slideshow)

Activity 1: Cultural Overview (25 mins)

- Divide students into three groups, assigning each group one country: Korea, China, or Japan.
- Provide each group with a brief overview of Shamanism and Ancestor Worship in their assigned country. (See attached Handouts)
- Each group will discuss the key aspects of these practices and how they relate to their country’s history and culture.
- Groups will present their findings to the class.

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### Lesson Plan

#### Activity 2: Comparative Analysis (20 mins)

- Facilitate a class discussion comparing and contrasting Shamanism and Ancestor Worship in Korea, China and Japan.
- Ask Guiding questions like:
  - How do these practices reflect the cultural values of each society?
  - What are the historical influences that shaped these practices?
  - How are these practices similar or different across the three countries?
- Use a Venn Diagram on the board to visualize the similarities and differences.

#### Conclusion: Independent Study (15 mins)

- Instruct students to work individually or in pairs to create a visual representation of something they learned about in their study of Shamanism and Ancestor Worship in Korea, China or Japan.
- Encourage creativity, this could be a poster, a drawing, a doodle, an infographic, abstract art, etc.

If time allows, have students share their creations with the class and revisit the focus question. If necessary the visual element can be done for homework with a quick revisit next class.

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

[Activity 1 Handouts](#)

[Similarities and Differences Cheat Sheet \(Teacher Material\)](#)

[Shamanism and Ancestor Worship in the Sea of Japan - Slide Show](#)