

LEVEL

6

Intermediate

Compass
Readers

Korea

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Nonfiction 6-9



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Miracle Makers

Look at a map of Asia. Go east from China. Now try to find Korea there. It is on the Korean **peninsula**. Do you see the two Koreas? Their names are the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. People call them North Korea and South Korea.

North Korea and South Korea used to be one country. Today they are two countries. South Korea is better known as just "Korea."





Korea is joined to North Korea in the north. There is ocean to the east, south, and west. The closest countries to Korea are China and Japan.



Korea is a small country, but it is a world **economic** giant. Also it is one of the most modern countries in the world.

What made Korea as successful as it is today? The key to the success of Korea is the Korean people's can-do **spirit** and their **enthusiasm** for **education**. These have allowed Koreans to have great success.

Koreans have reached true democracy. They have made their country very rich. They did all this within just thirty years.

The changes in Korea have been called a **miracle**. However, this “miracle” was actually because of hard work by the Korean people.



Rich Heritage

Education is a large part of Korea's **heritage**. The country's first university was started in 372 CE. Now seventy-nine percent of high school graduates go to college.

However, Korea's college entrance exam is hard.

Competition is very strong. Many high school students go to extra schools after their normal classes. They have to study long into the night.





 Did You Know?

Taekwondo is a popular Korean martial art. It has been an Olympic sport since 2000.

This competition continues outside of school. Koreans study hard and work hard. If not, they may not get good jobs. Koreans must show their can-do spirit here.