

Confucianism in Korea



Confucianism Comes to Korea



Confucianism entered Korea around the same time as Buddhism (4th century). Korea was divided into three kingdoms (see map). Koguryo King Sosurim created a Confucian university in 372 C.E.

Neo-Confucianism Flourishes During Joseon (Choson) Dynasty (1392 – 1910 C.E.)





Among all the dynasties, Chinese and foreign, the long-lived Joseon was undoubtedly the most thoroughly Confucianized. The Confucian aristocrats (Yangban) ruled the court politics with an elite culture of Neo-Confucianism. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

Gyeongbok Palace



Constructed in 1394 in the Joseon Dynasty (Seoul, South Korea). Home of the king or "Ruler" who, according to Confucius, had an obligation to take care of his subjects. If he was a virtuous ruler, his subjects would be loyal and obedient.





The Mandate of Heaven in Korea

Truly the Chinese Emperor had the Mandate of Heaven and Korea's king would be a tributary state.

Confucian Hierarchy – Positions of importance lined up for the King

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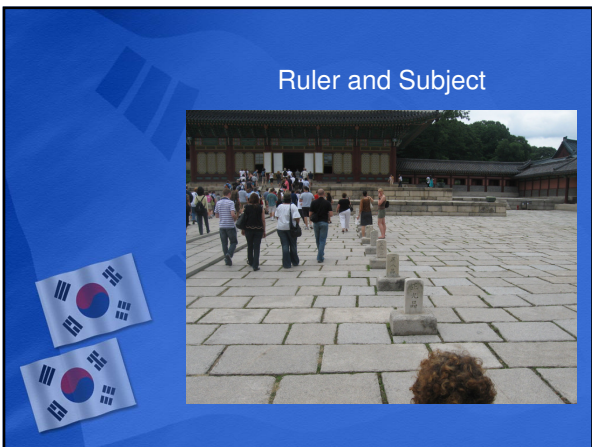
Changdeok Palace

A photograph of the main entrance gate of Changdeok Palace, known as Gyeongdeok-gate. The gate is a large, traditional Korean building with a dark, multi-tiered roof and white walls. A group of people is gathered in the courtyard in front of the gate. The sky is blue with some clouds. In the bottom left corner of the slide, there are two small images of the South Korean flag (Taegeukgi).

Built in 1405 during the Joseon Dynasty in Seoul, South Korea.









Yangdong Confucian Village

The village is home to many historical figures including Eon-jeok Lee (1491-1553), a noted Confucian scholar of the Joseon Dynasty. It is home to descendants of the Yangban (Scholarly officials – an aristocratic title)

A slide with a blue background. At the top, the text 'Yangdong Confucian Village' is written in white. Below the text is a photograph of the village, showing traditional Korean wooden buildings with tiled roofs on a hillside. To the left of the photograph are two Korean flags (Taegeukgi). Below the photograph is a short paragraph of text in white.





Meeting with the lineage heir



Part of the Five College Center for East Asian Studies Study Tour to South Korea 2009. Professor Mark Peterson of Brigham Young University translated for the lineage heir and lectured.



Dosan Seowon Confucian Academy



Built in 1561 by Yi Hwang, one of the great Korean Neo Confucian scholars.











Sisdan Stele

The original was moved here due to the construction of the Andong Dam. Confucian civil service exams were held at this place.

A slide with a blue background. On the left, there are two South Korean flags and a traditional Korean symbol. The main image shows a landscape view of a hillside with a stela. Below the image is a caption.

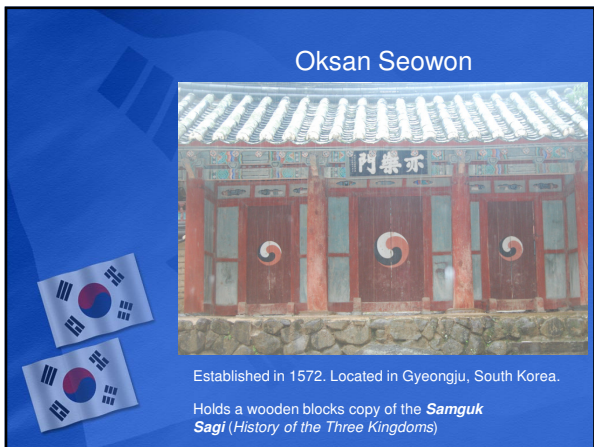
The Main Lecture Hall

A photograph of a traditional Korean lecture hall building with a tiled roof and stone steps. The building is surrounded by a stone wall and there are people visible near the entrance.



Student dorm rooms





Oksan Seowon

Established in 1572. Located in Gyeongju, South Korea.

Holds a wooden blocks copy of the *Samguk Sagi* (History of the Three Kingdoms)

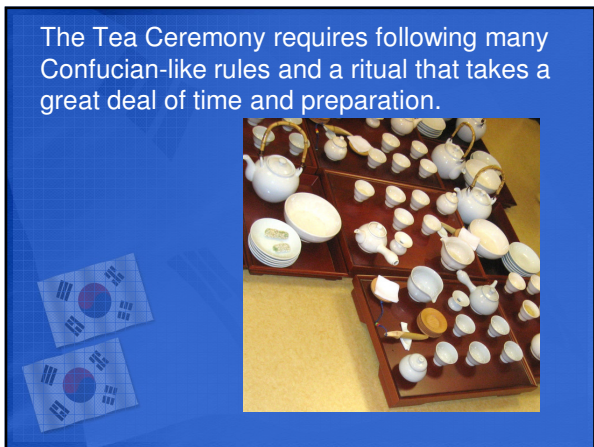


























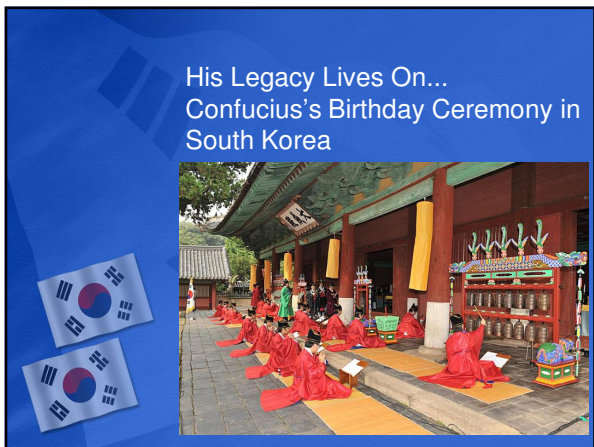


Many South Korean students go to academies like this on after school is over to learn English (and more)

A photograph of the Prime Academy building. The sign above the entrance says "Prime Academy" and "Essay Writing Novel Reading". There are two South Korean flags in the bottom left corner of the image.







Daegu Hyanggyo Confucian Temple in South Korea