

Developed by Alexandra Vervoordt

Grade Level: 8th

Topic: Writing Systems: Creation of Hangul (Korean Alphabet) during the Joseon dynasty.

Essential Question: How and why is a writing system created?

Standards:

New Jersey, 9.1 21st Century Life Skills, 5th to 8th Grade

- 9.1.8.D.3 Use effective communication skills in face-to-face and online interactions with peers and adults from home and from diverse cultures.

New Jersey, The Arts, 6th to 8th Grade

- 1.1.8.D.1 Describe the intellectual and emotional significance conveyed by the application of the elements of art and principles of design in different historical eras and cultures.
- 1.3.8.D.5 Examine the characteristics, thematic content, and symbolism found in works of art from diverse cultural and historical eras, and use these visual statements as inspiration for original artworks.
- 1.4 1.4 Aesthetic Responses & Critique Methodologies All students will demonstrate and apply an understanding of arts philosophies, judgment, and analysis to works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.

Learning objectives:

- Students will be able to recall the political, cultural, and social context that surrounds the creation of Hangeul.
- Students will be able to take part in a discussion regarding why the Hangeul Alphabet was created.
- Students will be able to research an invented writing system by using online resources such as omniglot.com.
- Students will be able to create a writing system in groups.
- Students will be able to provide information regarding the creation of their writing system.

Assessment(s): See the rubric in [Appendix A](#)

Materials:

SOURCES

- Hangeul: The best Korean Invention of All Time: http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/CU/CU_EN_8_1_1_1.jsp
- How was Hangeul Invented?: <http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2013/10/economist-explains-7>
- Constructed Scripts and Languages: <http://www.omniglot.com/conscripts/>

SUPPLIES

Computers, Internet connection, Smartboard

Online Encyclopedia of Writing Systems & Languages: <http://www.omniglot.com/conscripts/>

Student prior knowledge needed: This lesson would be used within a larger study of Korean history, specifically the study of King Sejong.

Time	Lesson Sequence
10 min.	<p>Engage: Students will be posed with questions, such as, “How and why is an alphabet invented?” and “If you were to create a writing system, where would you start?” Answers will be written on the board. The central idea in a circle “Why is an alphabet invented?” will be surrounded by thought circles as students come up and write their answers.</p>
1 hr.	<p>Main Activity:</p> <p>Students will be asked to read through <i>The Economist</i> blog entry “How was Hangeul invented”? (http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2013/10/economist-explains-7) and King Sejong the Great (http://chosonkorea.org/index.php/people/kings/king-sejong-the-great). Students will then watch “Nation celebrates Korean alphabet's creation on 567th Hangeul” (http://youtu.be/i455HLkSwzA).</p> <p>After watching the video, students will collaborate by using a graphic organizer (See Appendix B) about the cultural context of Hangeul’s creation (what was happening politically, culturally, and socially.) Students will also be given the opportunity to do additional research on computers to fill in the organizer. The question will then be posed for discussion: “Why do you think Korean’s have such pride in their writing system today?”</p> <p>Students will then be asked to write the following research guide in pairs. Using the Online Encyclopedia of Writing Systems & Languages (http://omniglot.com) and/or other online databases, choose one invented writing system with a partner and answer the following questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Language Name: 2. Inventor/s: 3. Country of origin: 4. Date of invention: 5. Reason for invention: 6. Inspiration: 7. Unique features of writing system:

	<p>Upon completion of the research guide, groups will present information to the class. The question to be posed is “Do we see any common reasons of why a writing system is invented?”</p>
15 min.	<p>Review and Assessment:</p> <p>Students will be asked to recall the political, cultural, and social context that surrounds the creation of Hangul. Students will be graded on their group project using the included rubric (See Appendix A).</p>

2 hrs.

Wrap-up/ Homework: Students will create their own writing system in groups of two or three. They must address the following and submit their project to <http://omniglot.com>

- Alphabet name - the name of your alphabet in the alphabet itself and its translation phonetically in English.
- Background blurb - why you invented the alphabet, which language(s) it can be used to write it, how it works, what you modelled it on, etc. Please write this in the third person, i.e. "the Blah alphabet was invented by Joe Bloggs ...", rather than, "I invented the Blah alphabet ..." (2 Paragraphs long)
- Notable features - the type of writing system (e.g., alphabet and syllabary), the direction of writing, the language(s) that can be written with it, and any other interesting features. (1 paragraph long)
- Alphabet chart - an illustration of the alphabet showing the letters, their names (if they have them) and the sounds they represent.
- Sample text - Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Appendix A: Rubric

WRITING SYSTEM PROJECT	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points
Alphabet Name	not provided			provided
Background Blurb: -Why was the alphabet invented? -Which language is it to be used with? -How does it work? -What was the inspiration?	not provided	Answers two or less questions.	Answers three questions.	Answers all questions thoroughly.
Notable Features - What type of writing system? - What direction is used when writing? -What languages can it be used to write with? -Are there any other interesting features?	not provided	Answers two or less questions.	Answers three questions.	Answers all questions thoroughly.
Alphabet Chart	not provided	Done carelessly with several mistakes.		Done with care.
Sample Text	not provided	Done carelessly with several mistakes.		Done with care.

WRITING SYSTEM PROJECT	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points
Grammar	It is obvious it has not been proof read.		3 grammatical errors	1 grammatical error or less.
Creativity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Not creative. -All elements of the project do not make sense or flow. -Inspiration as noted in "Background Blurb" is not clearly seen. -Project is lacking detail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Some-what creative. -Some elements of project make sense and flow. -Inspiration is slightly seen. -Project provides detail but could provide more clarification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Highly creative. -All elements of the project are cohesive. -Inspiration as noted in "Background Blurb" is clearly seen. -project is rich with interesting details.
TOTAL				_____/21 pts.

Appendix B: Graphic Organizer

Name: _____ Date: _____

Context of Hangu's Creation

Politically	Socially	Culturally

What was happening in Korea.....