

# TEACHERS' GUIDE & ACTIVITY KIT



The

Princess

and the

Grain of Rice

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illustrated by Honee Jang

# THE PRINCESS AND THE GRAIN OF RICE



Jeongsoon has a heart as gentle as jade, but she might just be the clumsiest girl in the kingdom. She wants to be a princess, so she enters the grand princess challenge where she must complete the Manners Test, the Wisdom Test, and finally, the Sleep Test. Throughout each examination, Jeongsoon is far from flawless but in staying true to herself, wins the favor of the queen and the competition itself.

## ELA: COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where does this story take place?

.....

2. Who are the characters in the story?

.....

3. Why does Jeongsoon want to be a princess?

.....

4. How can she become a princess?

.....

5. What do you think was the hardest part of the princess challenge? Why?

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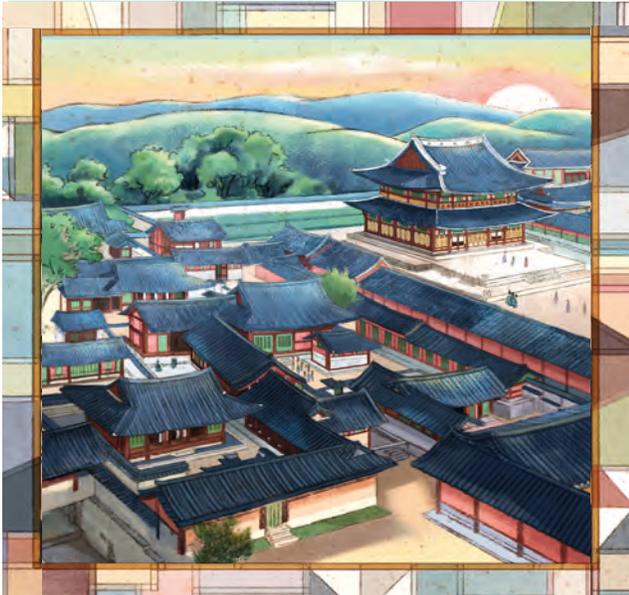
6. Why did the queen select Jeongsoon? Do you agree? Why or why not?

.....

7. Did Jeongsoon fulfill her purpose of becoming a princess? How do you know?

.....

# INTRODUCTION JOSEON KOREA



## 1. Joseon lasted over 500 years!

It began in 1392 and ended in 1897. During that long period, many generations helped shape Korea's culture, language, and traditions into forms we still recognize today.

## 2. The king was expected to lead with Confucian principles.

Confucianism encouraged respect, responsibility, and caring for others. A good king was expected to be thoughtful, fair, and dedicated to supporting his people.

## 3. Clothing and art carried meaning.

People wore *hanbok*, traditional clothing known for its graceful lines and bright

colors. Art, calligraphy, and pottery were also valued, and many artists tried to show balance and harmony with nature in their work.

## 4. Daily life focused on family and community.

Families followed long-standing traditions, from how they greeted elders to how they celebrated holidays. In many villages, people helped one another during planting and harvest, making community life an important part of the year.

## 5. Many of Korea's famous landmarks come from this time.

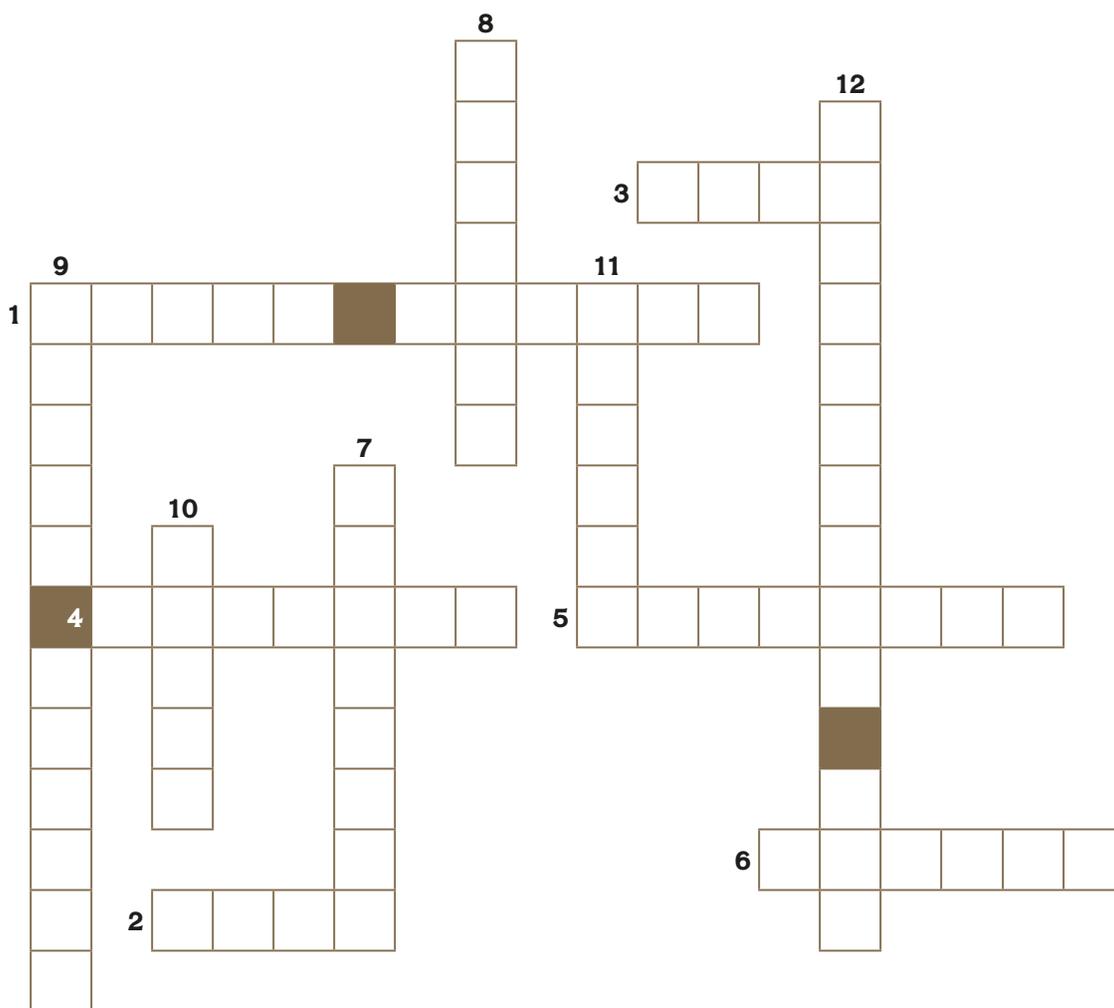
Palaces like Gyeongbokgung and Changdeokgung, as well as historic villages such as Hahoe, were built during the Joseon Dynasty, and you can still visit them today.



Gyeongbokgung (Source: <https://royal.cha.go.kr/>)

## VOCABULARY

# THE PALACE WORDS PUZZLE



### Word Bank:

court maiden,  
crown prince,  
noble, jade,  
courier, summoned,  
eligible, depths,  
coronation day

### Korean Words:

aigo, hanbok,  
jaljajo

### Across

1. A lady who helps in the palace
2. A precious green stone
3. A Korean word you say when you're surprised
4. Speedy message carrier
5. Called to come
6. Traditional Korean clothing

### Down

7. Allowed to do something
8. A Korean way to say "Good night!"
9. The boy who will be king one day
10. Someone from an important family in the high class
11. Very deep places
12. The big day when someone becomes a king or queen

## CHARACTERIZATION

# MEET THE CHARACTERS!



**Jeongsoon**

Describe Jeongsoon's character. What does she say and do that makes you think this?

.....

.....

.....



**Queen**

Describe the queen's character. What does she say and do that makes you think this?

.....

.....

.....



**Prince**

Describe the prince's character. What does he do that makes you think this?

.....

.....

.....

# STORY MAP

What happened in the beginning, middle, and ending? Write and draw your answers. Include the problem and solution.

## Beginning

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## Middle

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## End

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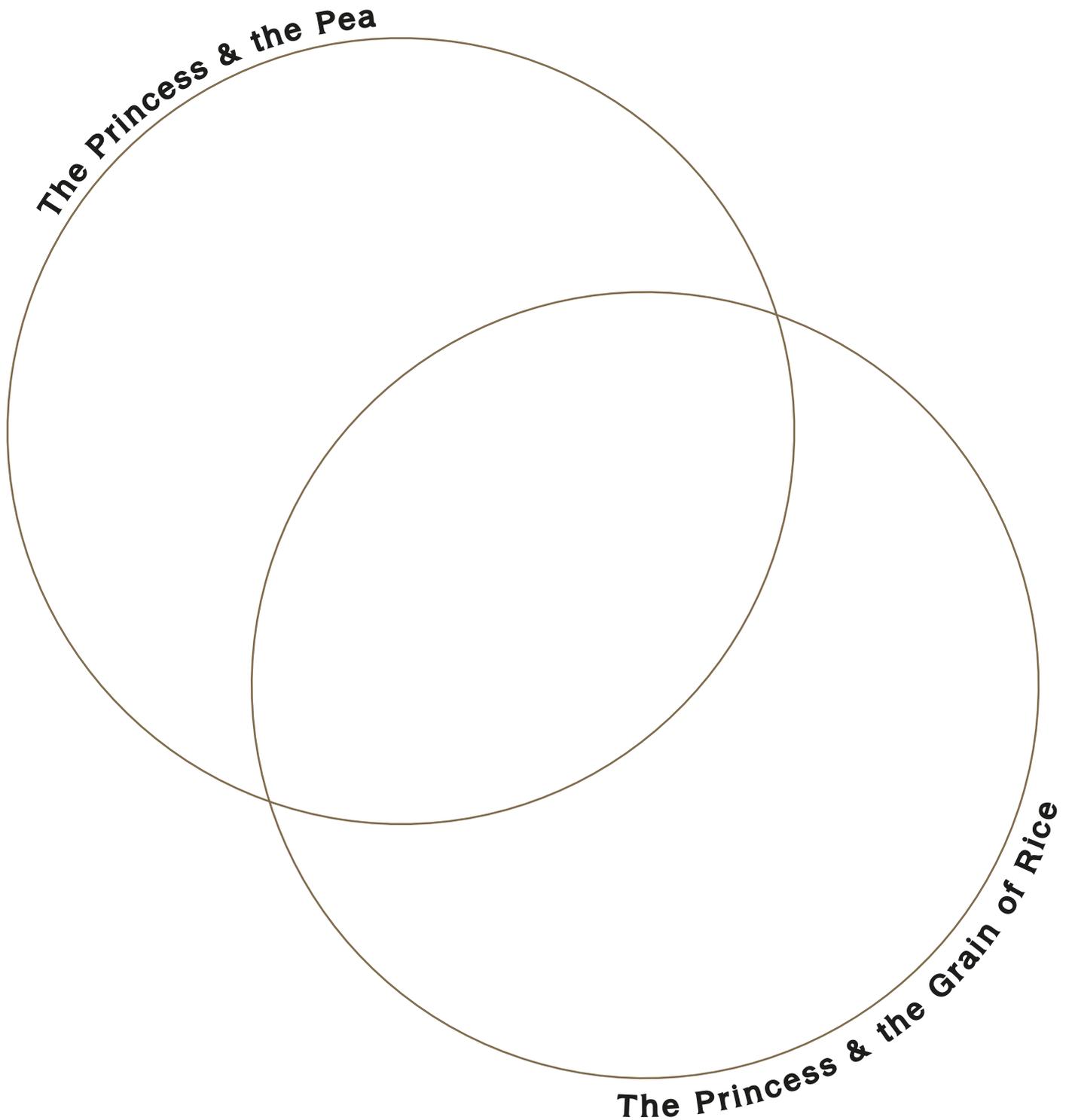
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**COMPARE/CONTRAST**  
**PEA OR RICE?**

How is the original fairy tale, The Princess & the Pea, similar to this story, The Princess & the Grain of Rice? Think about the characters, the problem, the test, and how each princess shows who she really is.



## SETTING

# EXPLORE THE JOSEON WORLD!

What do you notice about life during the Joseon period? Take a close look at the buildings, clothing, dishes, food, and all the little details in the illustrations. Now draw and describe the setting of this story. What kind of world did Jeongsoon live in?



## SCIENCE/STEM

- Build a palace using Legos or blocks. Measure the perimeter. Count the blocks used.
- To see the real Changgyeonggung Palace:

### 1. Korea Heritage Service:

[https://english.cha.go.kr/html/HtmlPage.do?pg=/royal/RoyalPalaces\\_3.jsp&mn=EN\\_02\\_03\\_04](https://english.cha.go.kr/html/HtmlPage.do?pg=/royal/RoyalPalaces_3.jsp&mn=EN_02_03_04)

### 2. Royal Palaces and Tombs Center:

<https://royal.cha.go.kr/ENG/contents/E103010000.do>

- Build a bed of 100 blankets or mattresses using playdough or cloth.
- Find out more about the Korean field mouse. Why did the author choose a mouse?

.....

.....

.....

## MATH

- Count 100 blankets.
- If each court maiden carries 2 blankets, how many court maidens are needed?

.....

- If each court maiden carries 5 blankets, how many court maidens are needed?

.....

## SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY

- Research the real Princess Jeongsoon. What was her name? What do we know about her?

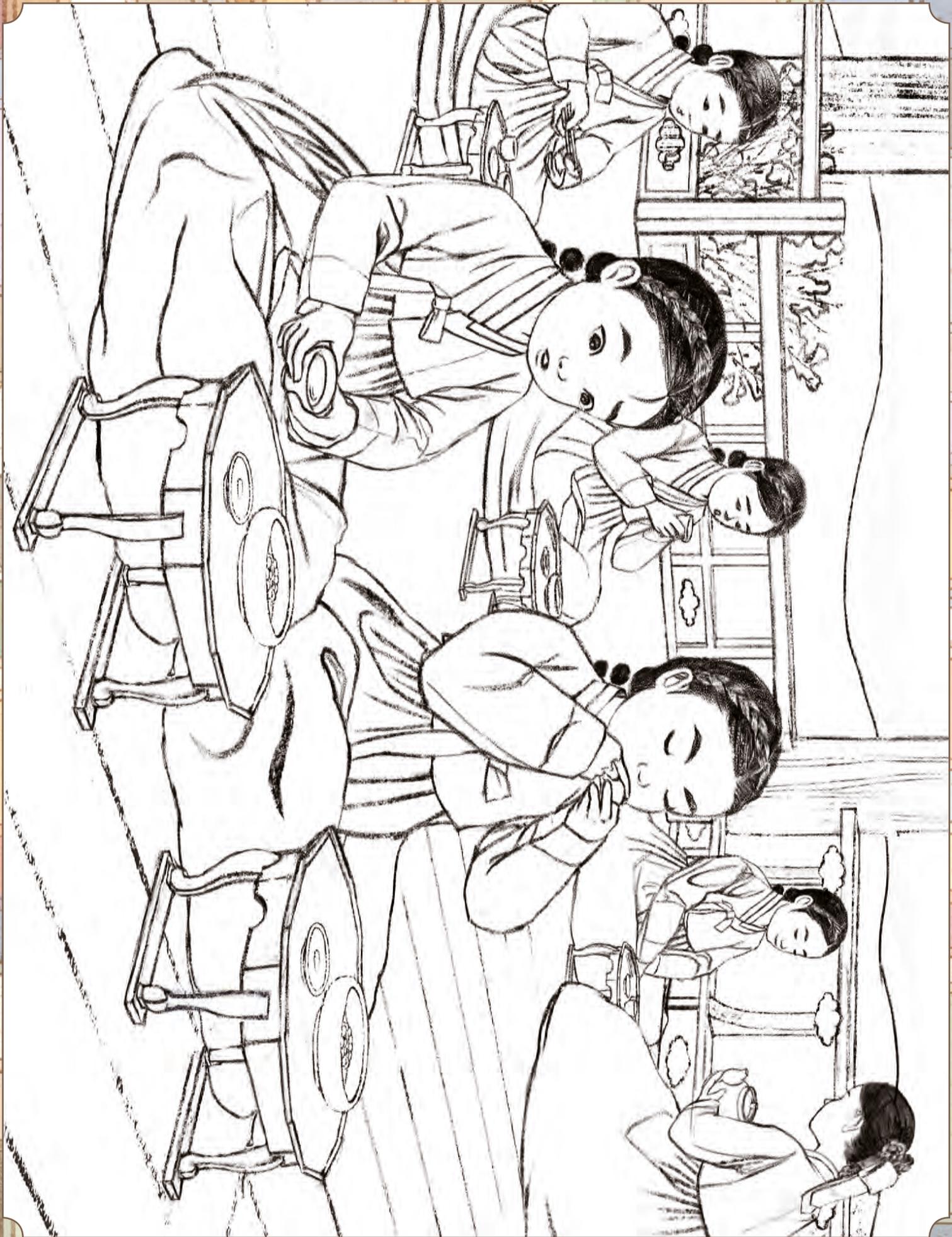
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- Find the location of this story on a map. It takes place in Joseon—known today as Korea.
- Why was writing this story about an Asian princess important to the author? (see back matter)

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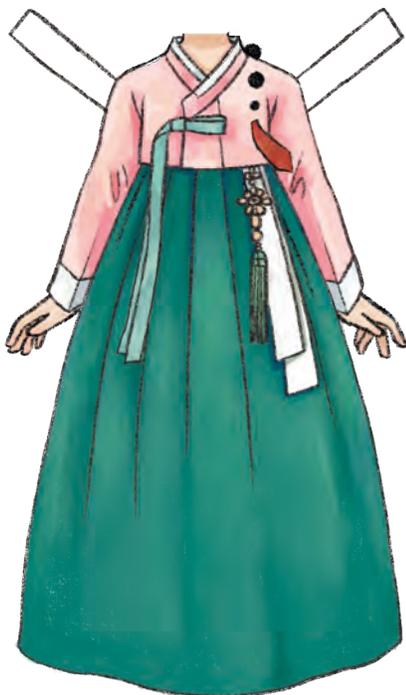
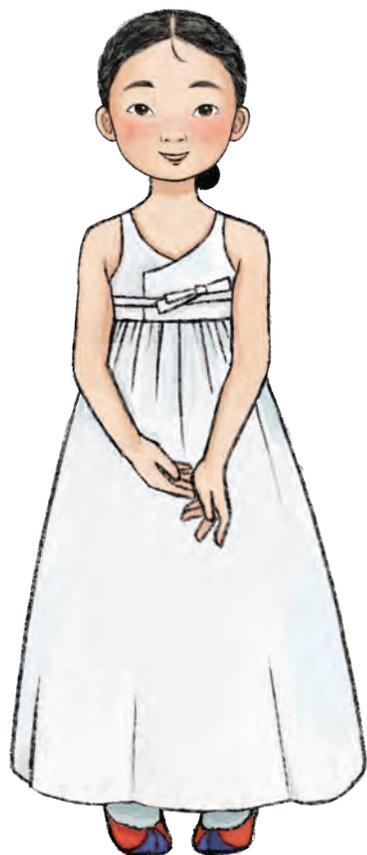






# HANBOK PAPER DOLL DRESS-UP

Cut out the pieces to mix and match different hanbok and accessories for Jeongsoon.



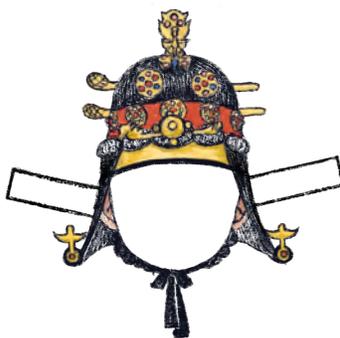
Daily Wear



Outfit for the competition



Coronation Robe



Coronation Hair



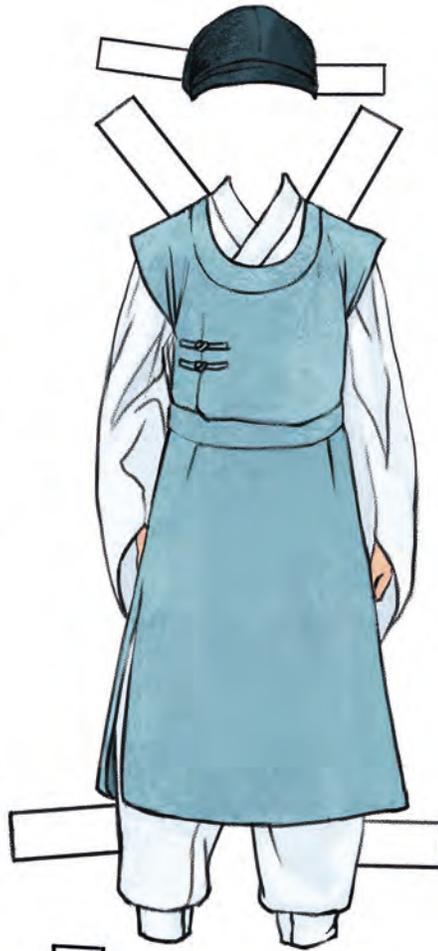
Princess/queen's hair



Queen's Daily wear

# HANBOK PAPER DOLL DRESS-UP

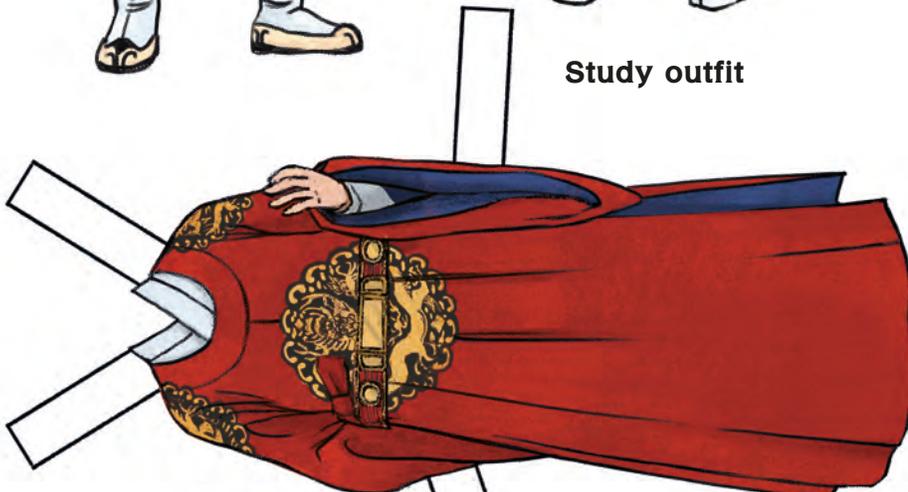
Cut out the pieces to mix and match different hanbok and accessories for the prince.



Study outfit



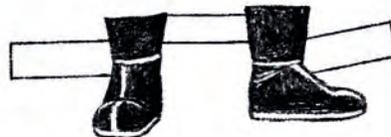
Coronation Robe



King's outfit



Daily wear



Footwear



Coronation Headwear

## BUILD A TOWER OF BLANKETS

Cut out the pieces and on another sheet of paper, stack the blankets to make a tall tower for Jeongsoon. Hide the mouse and the grain of rice between the blankets as you go! You can stack them in any order. Where will you hide the mouse and the rice?

\*Grown-up note: All pieces are designed to overlap. Stack the blankets on top of one another so everything fits on a letter-sized paper.

\_\_\_\_\_ put \_\_\_\_\_ blankets on the bed.  
But the princess could still feel the grain of rice!



# BUILD A TOWER OF BLANKETS (CONT.)



## KOREAN ETIQUETTE MINI-GAMES

# BOW LIKE A ROYAL

Follow as shown (mirror image). These drawings show how it should look on you.

1

Boys: **left**  
hand on top



Girls: **right**  
hand on top



### Stand tall, hands together.

Feet together in 11 shape. Hands rest lightly in front of your belly.

2

Boys: lift  
hands to  
eye level



Girls: lift  
hands to  
shoulder  
level



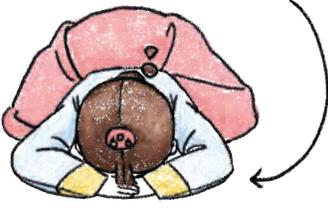
### Kneel down gently.

Raise your hands. Lower to your **left** knee, then **right**. Sit back on your heels (knees touching, posture upright).

3

Boys: hands wide  
like a triangle (thumbs  
nearly touching)

Girls: hands close  
together, right  
hand on top of left



### Hands down and bow.

Lean forward from your hips and place your hands on the floor. Lower your head so your forehead touches (or nearly touches) your hands. Let your back round naturally. No stiff robots!

4



### Stand back up

Lift your head and body slowly. Step up with your **right** foot first, then **left**.

### Game: Bow Tag

1. Choose one **Greeter** to stand in the middle.
2. Everyone else walks around (silly walks welcome!).
3. When the Greeter claps twice, everyone freezes and bows.
4. The Greeter chooses the kid with the best bow to become the next Greeter.

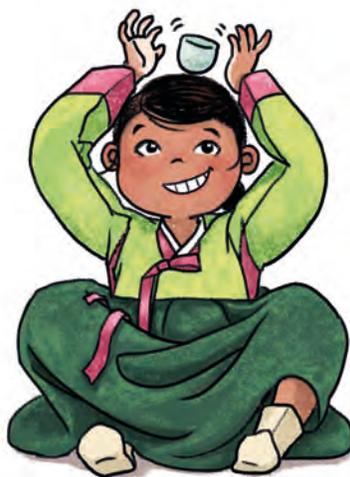
### Fun twists:

- Walk like animals.
- Silent round (freeze + bow without sound!).

## KOREAN ETIQUETTE MINI-GAMES

# ETIQUETTE DETECTIVES: TEA TIME

Spot the right tea etiquette! How many of these kids are drinking tea properly?



**Hint:** In a Korean tea ceremony, people sit on their knees or cross-legged with a straight back and relaxed shoulders. We hold the cup with both hands, move gently, and take slow, tiny sips—not big gulps. Tea time is for calm moments, not racing!

## KOREAN ETIQUETTE MINI-GAMES

# THE ROYAL PATH

Help Jeongsoon make the right choices to reach the finish line and become the princess!



**START**  
Village Gate

### Palace Gate: The Entrance

Run to the gate to be the first one to enter!

Walk calmly through the gate.

The guard looks shocked! Try again?

### Tea Hall

Sip tea with two hands, calm expression.

Slurping, spilling, or blowing tea like a windstorm.

You choked! ...Maybe that was a bad idea...

### Bowing Court

Place the right hand on top of the left hand and bow. (Remember, Jeongsoon is a girl.)

Make a big noisy rustle to make sure everyone knows that you are bowing.

The mouse ran away at the sound!

### Whispering Hallway

You spot a group of people whispering about some top-royal secrets.

Ooh, count me in! Join the gossip.

Walk past them, you are polite and unbothered.

The court lady is NOT impressed.

### Blanket Tower

You are faced with 100 stacked blankets!

Climb carefully and find a cozy spot.

Try to knock over the tower by pulling on the blankets!

Oh no! Blanket avalanche!!

**FINISH!**

**The Queen's Hall**

Beautiful double doors open to the Queen and the Prince



# ACTS OF KINDNESS BINGO

Hang it in your room and mark off kind actions to see how many bingos you can create!

Sharing a toy	Letting someone go first	Using kind words	Gently reminding a friend of the rules in a kind way	Noticing when someone needs help and asking, "Do you want help?"
Sharing a fun fact or joke to brighten someone's day	Helping a friend open their snack or water bottle	Asking someone if they want to play	Helping pick up toys	Watering a plant
Saving a seat for a friend	Putting trash in the bin		Sharing food	Writing a kind note to someone
Helping your friend carry something light	Saying thank you	Offering to help zip a backpack or coat	Holding the door open	Bringing books back to the shelf
Helping tidy up art supplies	Giving someone a compliment	Let others go first	Cheering someone on ("You can do it!"/"good job!")	Helping push in someone's chair

Copies of the activity book are available  
at [tinamcho.com](http://tinamcho.com) and [honeejang.com](http://honeejang.com)

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