

Exploring Gyeongbokgung Palace

MAP
TAILS

👤 Ages 10-11

📍 경북궁

🌐 English

Name: _____ Date: _____ Weather: _____



Learning Goals

Welcome to Gyeongbokgung Palace, a place where history comes alive! As you walk through the grand gates of Gwanghwamun, imagine the important ceremonies that once took place here. Look up at the intricate roof decorations, known as 'japsang,' which were believed to protect the palace from evil spirits. Inside, you'll find the Geunjeongjeon Hall, where the king's throne, adorned with dragon carvings, symbolizes royal authority. Let's uncover the stories and meanings behind these fascinating features!

🔑 Key Vocabulary

japsang

Small figurines on the roof believed to ward off evil spirits.

Geunjeongjeon

The main hall of Gyeongbokgung Palace where the king's throne is located.

Gwanghwamun

The main gate of Gyeongbokgung Palace.

symbolize

To represent or stand for something else.

authority

The power or right to give orders and make decisions.

📖 Curriculum Link

초5 사회 2단원 — 조선 시대의 문화와 생활

 **Activities**



Activity 1

The King's Throne

Claim Check

Inside Geunjeongjeon Hall, the king's throne is a masterpiece of symbolism and artistry. The throne is intricately carved with dragons, which are powerful symbols of authority and protection in Korean culture.

The dragons are depicted with fierce expressions and dynamic poses, emphasizing the king's power. The throne's vibrant colors and detailed patterns reflect the grandeur of the Joseon Dynasty.

This throne was not just a seat but a representation of the king's divine right to rule. Look closely at the throne's carvings and colors.

What do they tell you about the king's role and status?



Examine the claim: 'The dragon carvings on the throne are purely decorative.' Identify which part of the claim is correct, what is missing, and which detail from the throne supports your correction.

CLAIM TO CHECK

Claim: The dragon carvings on the throne are purely decorative.

What is right?

Which part of the claim is correct?

.....
.....

What is missing?

What is missing from the claim?

.....
.....

Evidence clue

Which detail from the throne supports your correction?

.....
.....



Activity 2

Guardians on the Roof

Spot Mission

The roofs of Gyeongbokgung Palace are adorned with small figurines called 'japsang.' These figures are not just decorative; they serve a protective purpose.

Each japsang represents a different character from folklore, believed to ward off evil spirits and bring good fortune. The placement and number of japsang on a roof indicate the importance of the building.

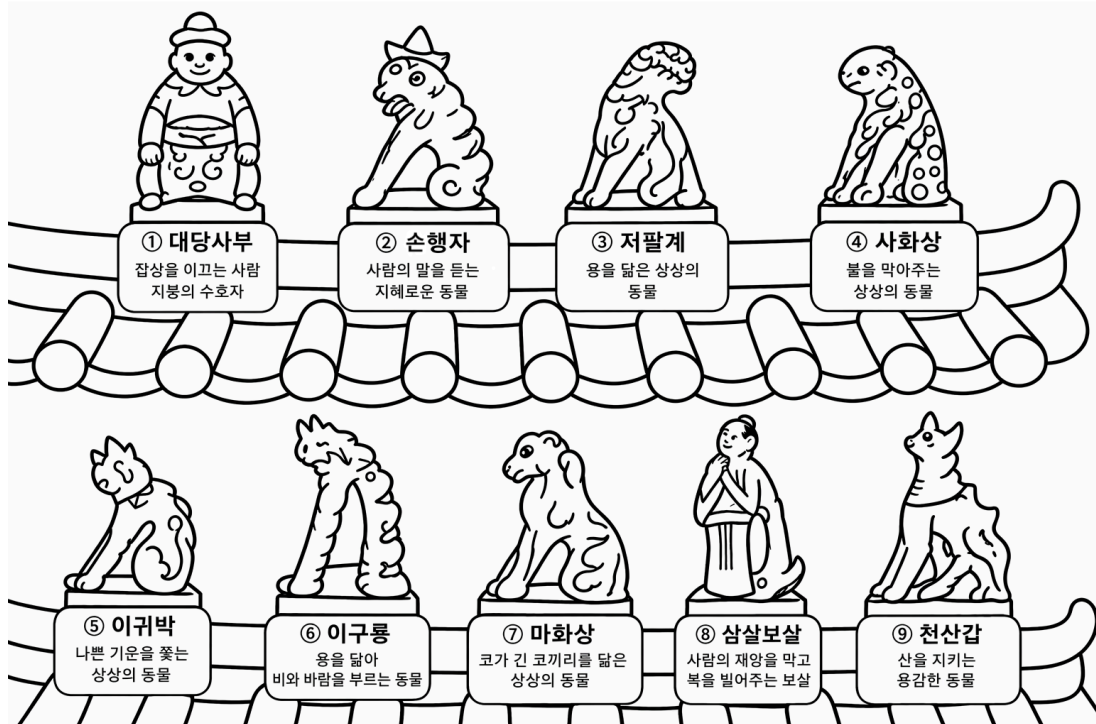
The more japsang, the higher the status. As you explore, count the japsang on different buildings and think about what they might be protecting.



Count the japsang on the roof of Geunjeongjeon Hall. How many do you see? What might they be protecting?

How many japsang do you see on the roof of Geunjeongjeon Hall?

What might these japsang be protecting?





Activity 3

Gwanghwamun: The Grand Entrance

Why Chain

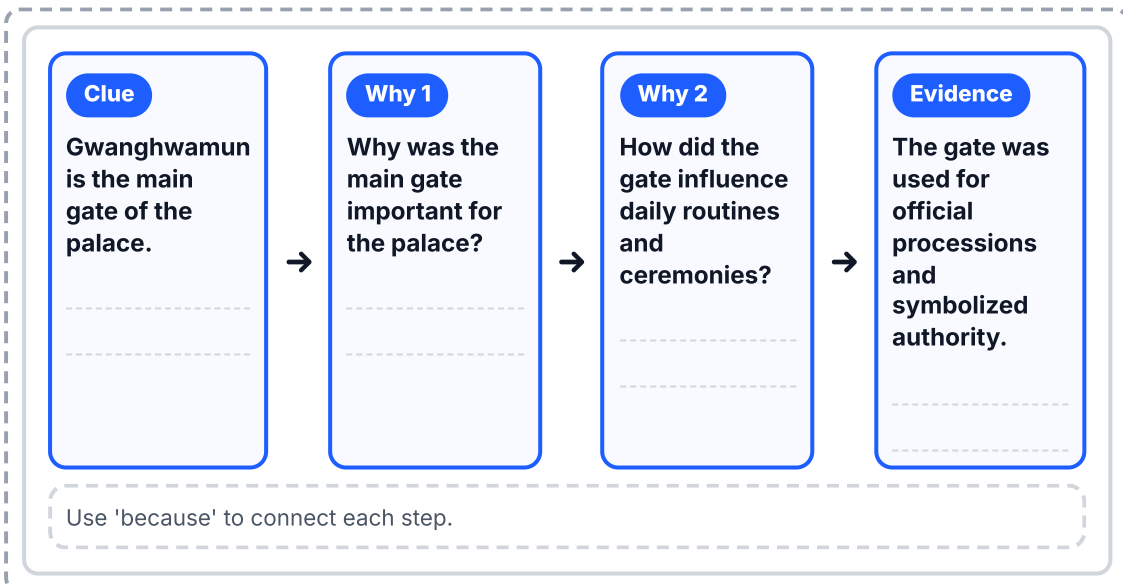
Gwanghwamun is the main gate of Gyeongbokgung Palace, serving as the grand entrance for kings and officials. This gate was not only a passageway but also a symbol of the palace's authority and prestige.

The gate's design features intricate patterns and bold colors, reflecting the power and dignity of the Joseon Dynasty. During official ceremonies, the gate was a focal point, where processions began and ended.

Imagine the bustling activity as you stand before this majestic structure. What role did Gwanghwamun play in the daily life of the palace?



Explore the role of Gwanghwamun in palace life. Why was it important, and how did it influence daily routines?





Activity 4

Short Answer

Floating Pavilion: Gyeonghoeru

Gyeonghoeru Pavilion is a stunning example of traditional Korean architecture, built on a pond to host royal banquets and diplomatic events. The pavilion's design allows it to appear as if it is floating on water, showcasing the advanced engineering skills of the time.

The open structure and surrounding water create a serene atmosphere, ideal for reflection and celebration. The pavilion's location and design were carefully chosen to enhance its function as a place of gathering and diplomacy.

How does the pavilion's design reflect its purpose?



Describe how the design of Gyeonghoeru Pavilion reflects its purpose as a place for gatherings and diplomacy.

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Activity 5

Chimneys of Amisan

Debate Pick

The chimneys of Amisan are not just functional structures; they are works of art. Located in the rear garden of Gyeongbokgung Palace, these chimneys are adorned with intricate designs and patterns.

The chimneys' unique shapes and decorations reflect the aesthetic values of the time, blending functionality with beauty. They served to ventilate the royal kitchens while adding to the garden's visual appeal.

What do these chimneys tell us about the importance of aesthetics in palace architecture?



Choose whether the chimneys of Amisan are more about function or aesthetics. Acknowledge the strongest opposing argument and explain why your choice is more convincing.

Are the chimneys of Amisan more about function or aesthetics?

Position A

Function: The chimneys ventilate the royal kitchens, ensuring safety and efficiency.

VS

Position B

Aesthetics: The intricate designs enhance the garden's beauty, reflecting the era's artistic values.

My choice: __
Evidence: __
Opposing point: __
My response: __

Reflection

Thank you for exploring Gyeongbokgung Palace with us! We hope you enjoyed uncovering the stories and meanings behind its magnificent features.

Which feature of Gyeongbokgung Palace surprised you the most, and why?



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After examining the role of Gwanghwamun in activity_3, how do you think it influenced the daily life of the palace?



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✓ Answer Key

1 Claim Check

The King's Throne

The claim is partially correct in that the carvings are decorative, but it misses their symbolic meaning. The dragons symbolize the king's authority and protection. Look for the fierce expressions and dynamic poses of the dragons as evidence.

2 Spot Mission

Guardians on the Roof

You might see around 11 japsang on the roof of Geunjeongjeon Hall. They are believed to protect the building from evil spirits and symbolize the building's importance.

3 Why Chain

Gwanghwamun: The Grand Entrance

Gwanghwamun was crucial as it symbolized the palace's authority and served as the starting point for official processions. It influenced daily routines by marking the entrance and exit for important figures, setting the tone for ceremonies.

4 Short Answer

Floating Pavilion: Gyeonghoeru

The pavilion's open structure and location on water create a peaceful setting, ideal for gatherings. The design reflects its purpose by providing a serene environment for reflection and diplomatic discussions.

5 Debate Pick

Chimneys of Amisan

While the chimneys serve a functional purpose by ventilating the kitchens, their intricate designs suggest a strong emphasis on aesthetics. The strongest opposing argument is their essential role in ventilation, but the artistic detail indicates that aesthetics were equally important.

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