

## **Cultural**

### **A Really Different Place** (Enhanced Learning Student Blog)

Broken Arrow EL Center

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<http://areallydifferentplace.org/>

This is a blogging site for mostly American students around the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. As a multicultural tool it is a window into the minds of those mysterious children of the Far West. Students share stories, poems, book reviews, photography, discuss interesting school projects, and much more. They describe their lives, feelings, and interests.

One application of this site for EFL students (say, for an English camp) could be a personal blog project. EFL students would develop their own blog posts, and join the ARDP blogging community.

### **Busan Multicultural Education Center**

Busan National University

San 30 Bunji

Kumjung-gu (ZIP) 614-703

Busan, South Korea

TEL: +82 (051) 860- 0452

FAX: +82 (051) 860- 0629

[http://damunhwa.pusan.ac.kr/index\\_main.asp#](http://damunhwa.pusan.ac.kr/index_main.asp#)

The Korean Educational Ministry and the Busan Metropolitan Education Office founded the BMEC in 2007. Their goals are orientated toward the educational problems faced by multicultural children. They have “camps” (summer/ winter schools) to teach multicultural children about Korean society, and provide curriculum support to schools’ multicultural needs. They also focus on identity issues, especially in the case of children with one foreign parent or North Korean children living in Busan. These children have difficulties establishing personhood in a society where they often feel they do not belong. They also do outreach to Korean teachers to encourage multicultural sensitivity in their classrooms.

If a school meets a certain criteria of necessity, the BMEC will provide a multicultural teacher. In certain cases they establish an entire multicultural department at schools with outstanding needs.

## **KidsKonnnect.com**

Jan Belzer

Island Lake, Illinois (address withheld)

TEL: (847) 487-2009

Countries/Places:

<http://www.kidskonnnect.com/subject-index/26-countriesplaces.html>

Example: Australia

<http://www.kidskonnnect.com/subject-index/26-countriesplaces/301-australia.html>

Everything you need to know about...everywhere. These are well-selected link portals for kids, which empower them to learn about almost every culture in the world. In 1999 Mrs. Belzer began creating portal pages for the elementary school where she taught. After a year the project was made available to children all over the world, and now Jan has retired to run the website full time.

There are 413 websites providing child-friendly cultural information on KidsKonnnect, and more are being continually added. Main goals of the site include allowing children to safely use the Internet for cultural research, covering curriculum taught in schools, making learning fun, and keeping access free so that all children can use it.

## **Korea Tourism Organization**

Cheong-gae-chun-ro 40(Da-dong)

Jong-gu, (ZIP code) 100-180 ,

Seoul, South Korea

TEL : +82 (2) 7299-600 / Call center : +82 (2) 1330

Cultural info:

[http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/1071\\_Culture.jsp](http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/1071_Culture.jsp)

International contact info:

[http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/FU/FU\\_EN\\_8\\_11\\_2.jsp](http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/FU/FU_EN_8_11_2.jsp)

This is the public face of the public Korean Tourism Board, home to a wealth of information about all things Korean. Made possible by the "Enactment of the Tourism Promotion Act" (sic) of 1961, they were established in 1962 to train and certify Korean tourism workers. You could use this site for anything from learning to cook Korean food to planning your vacation here.

For teachers, this is a treasure trove of articles, essays, and books. Topics cover food, lifestyle, history, spirituality, music, sites of interest, and much more. There are over twenty e-books available for free, ranging from cultural insights to guides for Muslim visitors. The essays on Korean culture are very well written, authored both by native Koreans and transplanted foreigners. A teacher could literally plan an entire semester of Korean culture lessons just using resources from this website. If

they had further questions or some other request, the second url above leads a page of contact points around the world where they could speak to the KTO in their native tongue.

### **Project Britain**

Mandy Barrow  
Woodlands Junior School  
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<http://www.projectbritain.com/>

The Project Britain website contains fascinating facts and information about England, Scotland and Wales (Britain), in a way that is easy to read and to understand for people of all ages and cultures. If you have a question about British culture, it is a pretty safe bet you can find the answer here. Much of it is laid out in a graphic, FAQ style format that starts on the general and narrows down until you find exactly the information you are looking for.

Of particular interest to non-western students looking for a glimpse of British life are essays written by British children and teenagers. Augmented with pictorial displays for most of things they are describing, you can get a feel for what young British people eat, how they spend their time, and what they like and dislike. It also gives a good demonstration of the best way for students to present their own culture, either through blogs or to pen pals. Another good section for EFL students is a glossary of British terms, which differ from American English.

### **Social Justice**

#### **Busan Council On Social Welfare**

Geu-jae 1 dong  
Yeong-Jae-gu, (ZIP) 1497-1  
Busan, South Korea.  
TEL : +82 (51)506-6633~4  
<http://www.bswin.net/>

The BCSW was born as a private foundation in 1952, but was incorporated into the local government in 1970. Their goals are “The 3C’s”: Communication, Cooperation, and Change. The Communications aspect deals with acting as an envoy between welfare orientated professionals (ranging from social workers to college professors) and the Busan local government, particularly the City Council. This is known as the “Welfare Vision Network”. Their Cooperation aspect focuses around their center for education, social sciences, and exchanges with other welfare centers. Their mission of Change is to bring more of their work out of the office and into the field, face to face with the people whom they seek to aid.

They help craft local welfare policy to improve to lives of the poor, handicapped, single parents, orphans, etc. They train college students to be social workers and educate the population about matters referring to welfare. They do social science research regarding welfare and make that information freely available to the public. This research is distributed via the Internet and through a free book and pamphlet program.

### **Emergency Support Center for Migrant Women**

Central place 3<sup>rd</sup>. Seosomoon-ro 50

Jung-gu, (ZIP) 100-859

Seoul, South Korea

TEL : +82(2) 2170-4130

Call center : +82(2) 1577-1366

<http://www.wm1366.or.kr/>

The Emergency Support Center for Migrant is a multi-lingual professional counseling organization for migrant women. The center was established 2006 by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family in order to support their safe settlement and to protect their human rights. The center offers safe shelter, medical and legal services to migrant women whose human rights have been infringed and are in need of immediate protection.

Fluent in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Mongolian, Russian, Filipino, Cambodian and Uzbek, the center offers interpretation and counseling services to migrant women facing such problems as marital discord, family conflicts, etc. or women in need of help with immigrant issues or daily life difficulties. The center is open 24 hours a day 365 days a year and is available at by phone anytime anywhere in the country.

### **Korean Red Cross**

Sopa-ro 145

Jung-gu, (ZIP) 100-043

Seoul, South Korea

TEL : +82 (2) 3705-3665-9

[http://www.redcross.or.kr/eng/eng\\_main/main.do](http://www.redcross.or.kr/eng/eng_main/main.do)

The Korean Red Cross has been active since being established by emperor Gojong in 1905. They provide services relating to blood, emergency and general relief, health and safety, (north-south) inter-Korean family reunions, international aide, and youth welfare. Known primarily for their disaster assistance, they also have five hospitals located around Korea catering to foreign-national migrants, senior citizens living alone and low-income families. The Red Cross Youth programs boast 200,000

members, and focuses on volunteerism; basic health awareness; social inclusion and global interaction; and education.

The Korean Red Cross philosophy of humanitarianism and neutrality has set it aside as one of the only organizations that are allowed (and willing) to provide humanitarian assistance desperately needed to impoverished North Koreans. Since 2000, they have been organizing an inter-Korean family reunion at the family reunion center in Mt. Geumgang (DPRK) that has allowed close to 18,000 individuals (about 4,000 families from ROK) to embrace their parents, siblings, spouses, children and relatives whom they haven't seen since 1953.

### **The Ministry of Gender Equality & Family**

Cheonggyecheonno 8

Jung-gu, (ZIP) 100-777

Seoul, South Korea

TEL : +82(2)2075-4500

<http://english.mogef.go.kr/index.jsp>

The MOGEF promotes equality among genders, generations and family members. While technically the MOGEF was only inaugurated in 2010, it is built on reforms and infrastructure dating back to 1988. (There is an interesting section charting their historical evolution on their website) They are essentially a women, children, and multicultural rights orientated branch of the government.

Within the government they plan, coordinate, analyze, and evaluate government policies relating to gender. In the field they develop and utilize resources for women, expand women's participation in society, and forge partnerships between women's civil rights groups. They also work to prevent prostitution, domestic and sexual violence, and protect the victims of these crimes.

### **Ministry of Health and Welfare**

75 Yulgong-ro

Jong-gu, (ZIP) 110-793

Seoul, South Korea

Call center : +82 (2) 129

[http://english.mw.go.kr/front\\_eng/index.jsp](http://english.mw.go.kr/front_eng/index.jsp)

The mission of the "MW" is to protect the public from social risks, promote social integration, make investments in human resources, and provide social services to contribute to the quality of life and national development. They are the caretakers of national social services targeting all ages, but have particular focus on providing for the needs of children and the elderly. They are also a hub for national health insurance and health care.

Their definition of social services is as follows: **The term "social services" means a system that guarantees decent living of all citizens in need of assistance from the State, local municipalities, and the private sector in areas of welfare, health care, education, employment, housing, culture and environment, and supports improvement of people's quality of living by assisting counseling, rehabilitation, care, information provision, use of related facilities, capabilities development, and social participation support.**