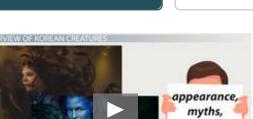
Korean Mythological Gods & Stories

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Lesson Transcript

Instructor: Emily Teater

Emily currently is a substitute teacher, and has taught a variety of K-12 courses. She has a master's degree in Mythological Studies.

Korean mythology includes several major gods and goddesses led by the Heavenly Emperor, Sang-je, who is the king of the gods. Learn more about each of the goods of Korean mythology and the stories of three Korean myths, titled The Changsega, Gameunjang-aegi, and Paritegi. *Updated: 12/22/2021*

Korean Mythology: An Overview

Greek mythology is perhaps one of the more organized mythologies in that there's a clear-cut pantheon where the relationship between the gods and goddesses is fairly unchanging. Unlike this, Korean mythology is different. Korean mythology is a combination of Korean shamanism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and various local myths. Needless to say, Korean mythology can be very fluid and there are many variations of Korean myths depending upon the location where the myth is being told. Here, we'll explore some of the gods and goddesses that were part of this mythic tradition.

The Korean Pantheon

Sang-je: He's the Heavenly Emperor, and therefore king of the gods. It's through him, that many humans, as was many cases in the Korean pantheon, become gods.

Mireuk: He is the major creator god among the Korean gods. Through him, the world was created, but when angered, he also caused much of the world's suffering.

Seokga: A trickster god who is involved in the Korean creation myth. Ultimately, he becomes the first ruler of the world through deceit.

Haemosu: He's Sang-je's son and the god of the sun. He wears a crow-feather headdress, carries a magic sword, and drives a chariot pulled by five dragons. Sometimes, he is the sister of Dalnim.

Dalnim: She's the goddess of the moon and sister to Haemosu. In one version of her myth, she climbed so high into the heavens, she reached the moon, becoming the goddess of the moon.

Jacheongbi: She's the goddess of agriculture, bringing the gift of farming to humankind.

Yeomna: Great King Yeomna is the king of the underworld and often known for passing judgment on the dead. He leads dead spirits to their abode in the underworld, which reflects their life on earth.

Paritegi is the goddess who serves as guide to the underworld, leading the souls of the dead to their resting place. Because she was the only person to purposefully travel to the underworld and return, she was honored as a goddess of the boundary between the two worlds.

Samshin-halmang: She's the goddess of childbirth and protector of mothers.

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Gameunjang-aegi: She's the goddess of luck and fate.

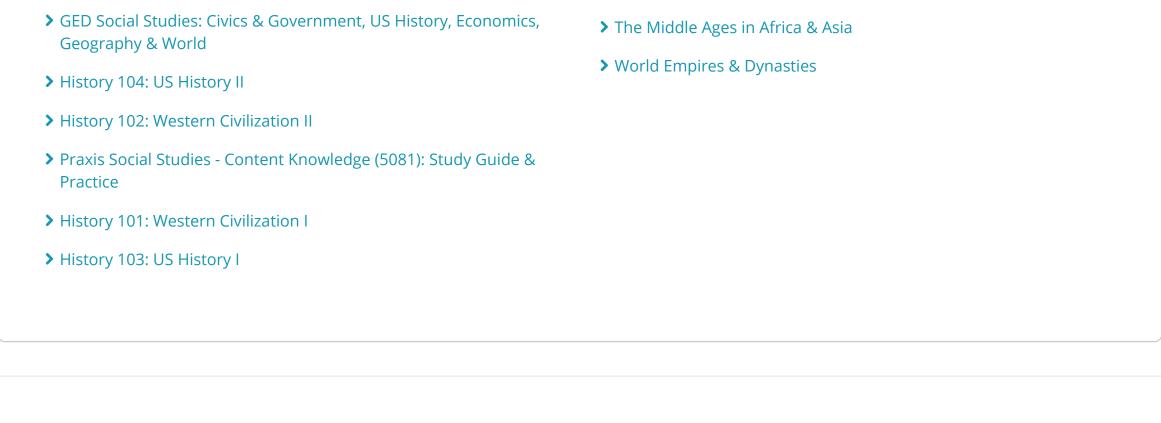
Jowangshin: She is the goddess of the hearth and home; specifically, the kitchen. Jowangshin protects the warm center of every household, and sometimes, she's viewed as a friendly goddess who visits with women in the kitchen and even offers advice and gossips with the women

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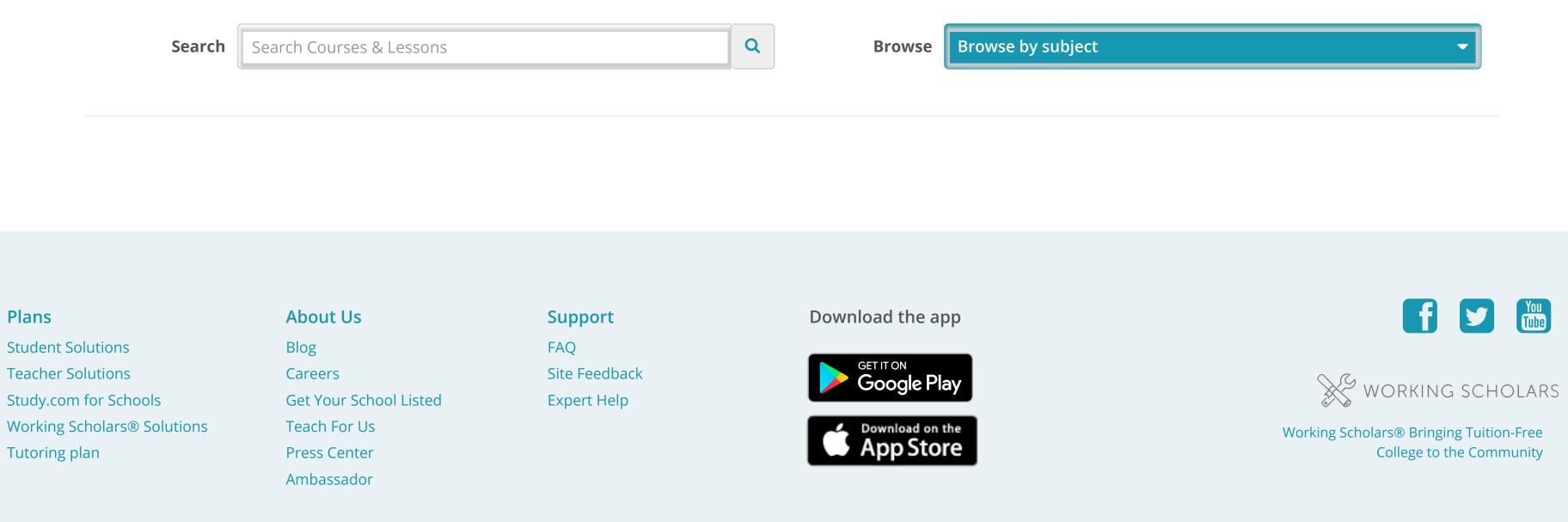
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