



# STORY LESSON PLAN



## Educational Objectives

Title

**Park Yeon, the Musician Who Established Korean Music**

Age

**Children (Ages 6-9)**

Topic

- **Goal:** To learn about the efforts of Park Yeon who worked to establish the music of Joseon.
- **Theme:** Effort

keywords

**Effort, Park Yeon, King Sejong the Great, Pyeongyeong, Aak, Hyangak, Jeryeak, Royal Court Music, Traditional Music Instruments**

Korean Culture

- **Goal:** Take an interest in Joseon's court music and the musical instruments created by Park Yeon.
- **Theme:** Royal Court Music of Joseon, Pyeongyeong

Korean

- **Goal:** To learn the various uses of a verb.
- **Words:** 불다 (Blow)
- **Expressions:** 피리를 불다. (Blow a piri.)  
나팔을 불다 (Blow a trumpet.)  
휘파람을 불다. (Blow a whistle.)  
풍선을 불다. (Blow up a balloon.)



# Storytelling Activity Content



## Greetings

Put your hands on your belly button! Greetings!  
Hello, everyone. I am OOO, "The Beautiful Story Grandma",  
and I'm here to tell you an interesting story.



## Understanding today's topic

The story that I will tell you today is, hey title, come out, ttuk-ttak! "Park Yeon, the Musician Who Established Korean Music."

Everyone, do you know what traditional musical instruments we have in Korea?

Yes, you all know well. There are instruments like piri, geomungo, ggwenggwari, and drums. In the old Joseon Dynasty, many times during national events, music brought in from China was played. But under the orders of King Sejong, there was a person who organized the musical scores and created instruments to adapt Chinese music to fit the Korean context. Shall we find out who that person was?



## Start the story with a song

Let's dive into the story of "Park Yeon, the Musician Who Established Korean Music"!

♪ One, two, three, four! Let's begin the story! Let's all have a listen with excitement. Are your ears perked up? Are your eyes sparkling?  
One, two, three, four! We're off. Boom, boom!

# Storytelling Activity Content



## Story

Once upon a time in the Joseon Dynasty, there lived a boy named Park Yeon. From an early age, Park Yeon loved music. He also had a keen interest in musical instruments. He always carried his piri(pipe) with him and played whenever he had a chance.

But one day, his father passed away. Then a few years later, his mother also passed away. Having lost both parents, Park Yeon was filled with deep sorrow. Park Yeon played the piri in front of his parents' graves, expressing his longing. The sound was so beautiful and mournful that even the tigers in the mountains did not harm him because they were enchanted by his music.

Once an adult, Park Yeon studied diligently and took the state examination. After finishing the exam, he was about to return home. At that moment, he heard a captivating piri sound coming from the palace.

"Oh my! I've never heard such a wonderful performance before."

Park Yeon searched every corner of the palace, looking for the source of the music. Finally, he found the person playing the music. He was a musician working for the palace.

# Storytelling Activity Content



## Story

"Wow! That was truly amazing! Can you teach me how to play like that?"

The musician, startled, replied,

"No, that's not possible. The piri is only for people like us to play. How can a nobleman like yourself play such an instrument? And how dare I teach you such a thing!"

However, Park Yeon did not back down and pleaded persistently.

"Don't decline my asking and teach me, please!"

Eventually, he learned how to play the piri from the musician. He practiced so hard that he became an even better performer than the musician.

"You learn every note so quickly; it's truly amazing!"

Park Yeon not only continued to practice playing the piri, but learned to play other instruments as well, like geomungo and bipa.

# Storytelling Activity Content



## Story

Meanwhile, Park Yeon passed the state examination and began to work in the palace. His job was to assist the Prince with his studies. Even while working at the palace, Park Yeon continued to practice his music. The Prince observed him closely.

"You play the piri exceptionally well! You really know a lot about music."

The Prince added,

"Music is very important for governing the country well. It is especially necessary during rituals to honor our ancestors. When I become king, you must work by my side."

Park Yeon was very pleased to know that the Prince valued music so highly.

Time passed, and the Prince finally became king - King Sejong. King Sejong remembered Park Yeon and called for him.

"Park Yeon, I need your help. Create our own music that can be played in the palace. You must ensure that all the instruments harmonize together. Therefore, you will also need to make an instrument that can serve as the centerpiece for all the others."

# Storytelling Activity Content



## Story

Park Yeon quickly understood King Sejong's request, as he had the same beliefs all along.

He studied and reviewed the Korean traditional music materials passed down through generations, and created new sounds that captured the spirit and essence of Korea.

Not only that, but Park Yeon fully dedicated himself to making an instrument called "Pyeongyeong." Pyeongyeong would be an instrument central for tuning.

"Your Majesty, it's difficult to find the materials needed to make pyeongyeong. I don't know what to do."

Upon hearing this, King Sejong did his best to help Park Yeon.

Then one day,

"Your Majesty! I found the jade stones needed for making pyeongyeong! Now I can produce clear sounds!"

Park Yeon rushed to tell King Sejong, thrilled to have found the stones.

King Sejong also rejoiced greatly.

# Storytelling Activity Content



## Story

"Well done! Now hurry and complete pyeongyeong!"

Though he could have been wearied, Park Yeon persevered and researched day and night. Finally, after much effort, pyeongyeong was completed.

"Now, play it for me!"

Park Yeon stood in front of King Sejong and began to play pyeongyeong. King Sejong had a remarkable ability to hear pitches accurately. After listening to the performance, he remarked,

"One note seems a bit high."

Hearing this, Park Yeon checked pyeongyeong and indeed found that one jade stone was slightly off. After correcting it and playing again, King Sejong nodded in satisfaction.

"Everything is in perfect harmony. You've worked hard! Well done!"

Park Yeon organized the music used in royal ceremonies. As a result, the royal court music of Joseon became grander and more elegant.

# Storytelling Activity Content



## Story

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He also continued researching instruments. Thanks to Park Yeon's efforts, Korean music made tremendous progress.

# Storytelling Activity Content



## Introducing Korean culture and language

Did you enjoy the story that Grandma shared? Park Yeon loved music from an early age and had a great interest in instruments. What instrument did he particularly like?

Yes, the piri! The “piri” is an instrument played by blowing into it. That’s why we say, “to blow into the piri.” The word “blow” (bulda) can be also used when we say, “to blow a trumpet,” “to blow up a balloon” or even to “blow a whistle.”

King Sejong, who had a deep interest in music, asked Park Yeon to make an instrument essential for tuning. What instrument was that?

Correct! It was pyeongyeong. King Sejong tasked Park Yeon with creating an instrument that could serve as the centerpiece for all others. After working hard, day and night, Park Yeon made pyeongyeong and organized royal music. Originally a Chinese instrument, pyeongyeong was adapted to fit the Korean musical scale. He organized the musical scores and adjusted the instruments to successfully create an independent Korean music, distinct from Chinese music. Thus, Park Yeon greatly advanced the royal court music of Joseon.

# Storytelling Activity Content



## Introducing Korean culture and language

If you're curious about the story of Park Yeon and King Sejong's royal music, check out the "Dorandoran Story Grandma's Bag of Stories" website for more details!

# Storytelling Activity Content



## Wrap up

Let's summarize the story of "Park Yeon, the Musician Who Established Korean Music" with Grandma.

From an early age, Park Yeon loved music and was keen on playing instruments. After passing the state examination, he took on the task of managing the music and instruments used in the royal court. This resulted in Park Yeon improving the instruments and creating new musical scores that greatly advanced the music of Korea. If you have a favorite instrument like Park Yeon, I hope you practice diligently and become a person who loves music, too.



## End the story with a song

Now, let's sing the farewell song as we say goodbye to Grandma. Here we go, begin!

♪ One, two, three, four! ! We've listened well. Our hearts have warmed. Ears are perked, eyes are sparkling, great job. One, two, three, four! Goodbye. Boom-boom!



## Say Goodbye

Put your hands on your belly button! Say goodbye!  
Everyone, see you next time with "The Beautiful Story Grandma." Goodbye!