



## Tales of Great Figures

# The First Inventor of Gunpowder Weapons in Korea, Choi Mu-seon

### Age

· Children (Ages 6~9)

### Topic

- Goal: To understand the importance of not giving up and being creative.
- Theme: Effort, Determination

### keywords

- Effort, Determination, Choi Mu-seon, Fireworks, Gunpowder, Courage, Pirate, Goryeo

### Korean Culture

- Goal: To learn how fireworks were used in festivals and celebrations in the past.
- Elements: Fireworks

### Korean

- Goal: To learn and use the meaning of the verb “invent.”
- Words: 발명하다 (To invent)
- Expressions:
  - 나는 \_\_\_\_\_(을/를) 발명하고 싶어요.  
(I want to invent a/an \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - 이 발명품은 \_\_\_\_\_에 도움이 돼요.  
(This invention helps \_\_\_\_\_.)

# 🌸 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

Today, the story that Grandma will tell is… Abracadabra! Here comes the title!

“The First Inventor of Gunpowder Weapons in Korea, Choi Mu-seon.”

Do you like fireworks, everyone? Fireworks are made with gunpowder. During the Goryeo Dynasty, there was a clever boy who saw fireworks bursting in the sky and thought, “I want to make gunpowder too, and invent weapons!” At that time, gunpowder was only made in China. But it wasn’t easy to make gunpowder himself. to make gunpowder himself. Still, when he grew up, he finally made gunpowder and invented new weapons. Shall we listen to how he invented gunpowder weapons?



## Start the story with a song

Let’s dive into the story of “The First Inventor of Gunpowder Weapons in Korea, Choi Mu-seon!”

🎤 **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!** 🔊





## Story

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A long time ago, during the Goryeo Dynasty, there lived a boy named Choi Mu-seon. From a young age, Mu-seon was curious and clever. If he wanted to do something, he never gave up and always tried his best.

One day, Mu-seon's father said,

“Mu-seon, let's go see the fireworks together.”

He held Mu-seon's hand, and they stepped outside.

“Bang! Boom! Pop!”

Brilliant fireworks lit up the dark night sky like sparkling flowers. The fireworks were amazing and beautiful.

“Father, how are fireworks made?”

His father gently explained to Mu-seon.

“Fireworks are made with gunpowder. But that's not all. Gunpowder can also be used to make strong weapons. Such weapons can even burn big ships in no time.”

“Really? That's incredible!”





## Story

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After hearing this from his father, Mu-seon wanted to learn more about gunpowder. But in Goryeo, they didn't have the materials to make gunpowder. And there was no one knew how to make it. Only the Chinese knew how to make gunpowder.

"Someday, I will make gunpowder myself,"

Mu-seon thought to himself.

Time passed, and Mu-seon grew up. He became a government official and worked in a place where weapons, flags, and armor were made for war. Even while he was busy, Choi Mu-seon never stopped studying how to make gunpowder.

One day, Choi Mu-seon finished work and was on his way home. He saw people gathered by the road, whispering to each other. Some were crying loudly and hitting their chests.

"What's going on here?"

Surprised, Choi Mu-seon asked.

"Because of the Japanese pirates, we can't live in peace anymore. They take away all our food and valuables, and they hit people without mercy."

"The people in the villages near the shore suffer even more."





## Story

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Choi Mu-seon felt his anger rise.

“I will definitely make gunpowder and invent weapons. With those weapons, I will chase away the Japanese pirates!”

But making gunpowder was still not easy. It was very hard to find the right materials in Goryeo. And even if he found the materials, he still didn't know how to make gunpowder.

Whenever Chinese sailors came by ship, Choi Mu-seon tried many ways to ask about gunpowder. But they refused, saying it was a national secret. So Choi Mu-seon gathered materials by himself and was hurt badly while experimenting with gunpowder. Still, Choi Mu-seon never gave up. People scolded him for this.

“Please stop the experiments. What if someone gets hurt?”

But Mu-seon did not change his mind.

Then one day, he met Yi Won, a man who had worked at a Chinese gunpowder workshop. Mu-seon begged him with all his heart.

“We need gunpowder. I can't stand seeing our people suffer from the Japanese pirates anymore. Please teach me how to make it.”



## Story

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“No, I still can’t.”

Yi Won firmly kept silent. But Mu-seon didn’t give up. He kept asking every day. After a while, Yi Won felt Mu-seon’s deep love for his country and people. At last, Yi Won taught Choi Mu-seon how to make gunpowder.

After hearing the method, Choi Mu-seon didn’t just copy it. He connected it with the research he had done for many years. He also used methods he had developed himself.

“Hahaha! It worked at last! It worked!”

At last, Mu-seon was able to present the gunpowder to the king and his officials. Everyone thought Choi Mu-seon would fail. But when tested, Mu-seon’s gunpowder exploded loudly and powerfully — “Bang! Boom! Pop!”

“Wow! Incredible! He really made gunpowder!”

Everyone watching was amazed.

Using his gunpowder, Mu-seon began to invent many types of weapons.

“Now we can defeat the Japanese pirates!”

The cannons he made were very powerful. When the Japanese pirates came with their huge ships, they were shocked.





## Story

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“Unbelievable! Goryeo has such powerful weapons? Let’s run away!”

After that, the Japanese pirates never dared to attack Goryeo again. Thanks to Choi Mu-seon’s hard work and determination, the people were able to live in peace again.



# Storytelling Activity Content



## Introducing Korean culture and language

Everyone, did you enjoy Grandma's story? What did Choi Mu-seon do to fight against the Japanese pirates?

Yes, he made gunpowder and invented gunpowder weapons. Choi Mu-seon was the first person in Korea to invent gunpowder weapons. "Invent" means to think of and make something new. Admiral Yi Sun-sin invented the Turtle Ship, and King Sejong invented Hangul. What would you like to invent? Let's think about it!

Everyone, when Choi Mu-seon was a child, what did he see that made him think about making gunpowder?

That's right. It was the fireworks he watched with his father. Have you ever seen fireworks, everyone? Fireworks that bloom in the sky like beautiful flowers are still shown today during big festivals and national holidays. Shall we find out what kinds of festivals and events had fireworks in the past? If you want to learn more about fireworks, check out the "Dorandoran Story Grandma's Bag of Stories" website for more details!



# 🌸 Storytelling Activity Content



## Wrap up

Everyone, let's review the story "The First Inventor of Gunpowder Weapons in Korea, Choi Mu-seon."

Choi Mu-seon of the Goryeo Dynasty became interested in gunpowder after he saw fireworks with his father. When he grew up, he decided to make gunpowder himself in order to protect his country. He didn't know how to make it, and the materials were hard to find, but he never gave up and kept trying. At last, he succeeded in making gunpowder with his own method. Thanks to the gunpowder weapons he invented, the Japanese pirates were defeated, and the people could live safely and in peace. I hope you, like Choi Mu-seon, will never give up and keep trying until you reach your goal.



## 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!

