

Two Koreas to share flag for Winter Olympics

20th January, 2018



Photo - Wikicommons

South and North Korea have agreed to use the same flag at next month's Winter Olympics. The Olympics will take place between the 9th and 25th of February in the

South Korean city of PyeongChang. Many people were worried about what might happen when the North Korean team attended the games. Tensions between the two countries have been very high recently because North Korea has tested many missiles. However, there have been high-level talks between the North and the South. Both sides have decided to use a "unified Korea" flag at the games. In addition, they agreed to enter a joint ice hockey team. This cooperation could mean that relations between the two countries could be improving.

The thaw in relations between the two countries could open the door for more peace talks. The Korean peninsula has been divided since the 1950-53 Korean War. In the past few decades, there have been many attempts at improving ties between the two. The Winter Olympics could help this. The games mean the cross-border road will open for the first time in two years. However, not all Koreans are happy with this news. Tens of thousands of people have signed online petitions asking President Moon Jae-in to forget about the plan. South Korea's hockey coach is not happy because he said a united hockey team could damage South Korea's chances of winning a medal.

Sources: bbc.com / koreatimes.co.kr / cnn.com

Writing

Sport is the best thing to improve relations between countries. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

South Korea / North Korea / Winter Olympics / tensions / high-level talks / ice hockey / thaw / relations / peninsula / online petition / hockey / damage / chances / medal

True / False

- The Koreans agreed to share the same flag at the 2022 Winter Olympics. T / F
- The next Olympics will be held in a city in South Korea. T / F
- Relations have been strained recently due to North Korean missile tests. T / F
- There will be a joint Korean ice hockey team at the Winter Olympics. T / F
- The article says there has been a thaw in relations between the Koreans. T / F
- The Koreans became divided before a war that started in 1950. T / F
- The cross-border road between the Koreans will stay closed this year. T / F
- S. Korea's ice hockey coach is happy about his team's medal chances. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. agreed to | a. concerned |
| 2. take place | b. joint |
| 3. worried | c. discussions |
| 4. talks | d. melt |
| 5. improving | e. tries |
| 6. thaw | f. decided on |
| 7. divided | g. opportunities |
| 8. attempts | h. getting better |
| 9. united | i. happen |
| 10. chances | j. split |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of the Winter Olympics?
- What do you know about South Korea?
- Are the Winter Olympics better than the Summer Olympics?
- What do you think of North Korea attending the games in the south?
- Why have there been tensions between the Koreans?
- What do you think of North Korea's missile tests?
- What do you think of the Koreans sharing a "unified" flag?
- How might the Winter Olympics help relations between the Koreans?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. South and North Korea have agreed to | a. in relations |
| 2. Tensions between the two countries | b. for more peace talks |
| 3. there have been high- | c. ice hockey team |
| 4. they agreed to enter a joint | d. online petitions |
| 5. relations between the two countries could | e. use the same flag |
| 6. The thaw | f. level talks |
| 7. open the door | g. border road will open |
| 8. the cross- | h. be improving |
| 9. thousands of people have signed | i. of winning a medal |
| 10. damage South Korea's chances | j. have been very high |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about North Korea?
- What advice do you have for people in Korea?
- What is your favourite Winter Olympics sport and why?
- Why might Koreans not be happy about the joint hockey team?
- Does winning a medal matter if the teams are cooperating?
- Have you ever signed a petition?
- What questions would you like to ask the two presidents?

Spelling

- South and North Korea have grdaee
- setsonni between the two countries
- tested many lesmissi
- high-lleve talks
- decided to use a "nueifdi Korea" flag
- could be gmprviino
- The Korean lennasipur has been divided
- In the past few eddesca
- there have been many etstmatp
- people have signed online eisntptio
- emgaad South Korea's chances
- chances of winning a madel

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. a	4. c	5. h
6. d	7. j	8. e	9. b	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Curling

You think curling is the best Winter Olympics sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): figure skating, ice hockey or bobsleigh.

Role B – Figure Skating

You think figure skating is the best Winter Olympics sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): curling, ice hockey or bobsleigh.

Role C – Ice Hockey

You think ice hockey is the best Winter Olympics sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): figure skating, curling or bobsleigh.

Role D – Bobsleigh

You think bobsleigh is the best Winter Olympics sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): figure skating, ice hockey or curling.

Speaking – Olympics events

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| • speed skating | • curling |
| • figure skating | • cross-country skiing |
| • ice hockey | • slalom skiing |
| • bobsleigh | • ski jumping |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.