



The tomb of the general, ancient pyramid of Goguryeo (Jilin, China)

Goguryeo

One of the Northernmost Country in the Korean History.

Period	37 BCE - 678 CE
Capital	Pyongyang (427-678)
Language	Ancient Korean

Government	Monarchy
Population	3.5M (in 678)
Religion	Buddhism



Goguryeo at its height at 475 CE

Location

Goguryeo was located in the northern and central parts of the Korean Peninsula and the southern and central parts of Manchuria. At its peak (475 AD), Goguryeo controlled most of the Korean peninsula and parts of the Russian Far East and Mongolia.



Il-gook Song, actor who played 'Jumong'

Jumong, the First King

In the 12th c. book, 'Samguksagi,' we can find foundation myths about Goguryeo.

In the stories, Jumong was the son of a god with exceptional archery skills. The potentates became jealous of Jumong, and Jumong was forced to leave.

Thus, Jumong moved to Jolbon, the first capital of Goguryeo, and became King himself.

Gwanggaeto, the Great

Goguryeo reached its heights with Gwanggaeto the Great.

The Gwanggaeto Stele was built after his tomb in order to praise his achievements.

Although many details have eroded, the stele plays an essential role in researching the 5th century.



Gwanggaeto Stele (5th c., Jilin, China)



Mural Paintings of Muyongchong (5th c., Jilin, China)

Mural Paintings

Most of the remaining art pieces of Goguryeo are mural paintings.

Through the paintings, experts have learned about the culture, science, and military aspects of Goguryeo.

Goguryeo's tombs became a UNESCO World Heritage in 2004.

Geomungo

The Geomungo is a traditional Korean musical instrument.

'Wang San-ak,' the prime minister of Goguryeo, invented the Geomungo based on the Chinese instrument, the 'Guqin.'

The Geomungo can be found in the Paintings of Muyongchong and Anak Tomb No.3.



Traditional Instrument, Geomungo

Three Keys to the Goguryeo

1. 'Goguryeo' is the origin of 'Korea' ('Goguryeo' → 'Goryeo' → 'Korea')
2. Balhae was founded by refugees from Goguryeo after Goguryeo fell.
3. Most linguistic experts agree that the Goguryeo language was a member of a Koreanic language family.