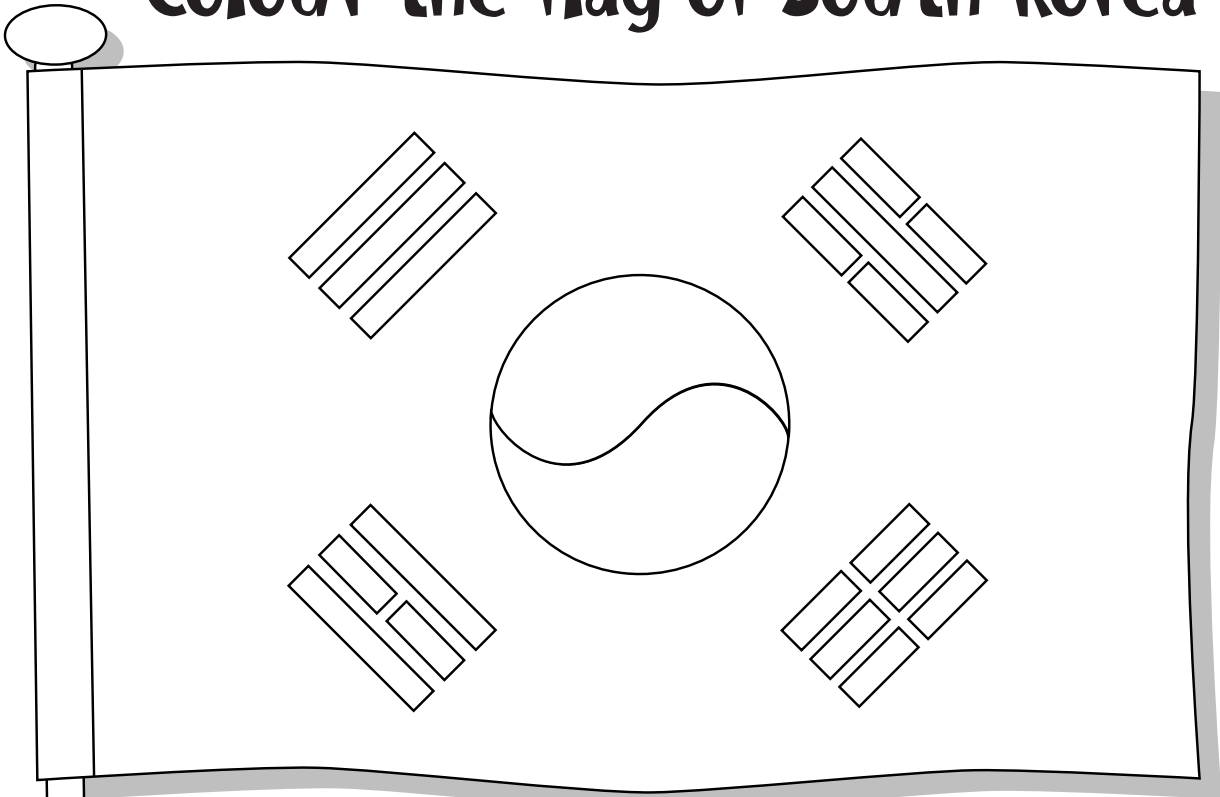


Colour the flag of South Korea



The national flag of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) is called *T'aegukki*.

Yin and Yang

In order to understand the *T'aegukki*, you must understand something about 'Yin' and 'Yang'. Yin is linked with words like night, cold, destruction and ice. Yang is linked with words like day, hot, construction and fire.

Although these words seem to be pairs of opposites, another way of looking at it is that you can't have one without the other. For instance, you can't have heat without cold; they are two sides of the same coin.

The T'aeguk

In the middle of the flag is the *T'aeguk* circle. The top half (red) of the *T'aeguk* is Yang and the lower half (blue) is Yin. These symbols represent the belief that everything exists through the coming together of Yin and Yang.

The trigrams

The black symbols in each corner of the flag are called 'trigrams'. They come from an ancient Chinese book called *The Book of Changes* which was used to predict the future.

The three unbroken lines at the top left represent Heaven and the three broken lines at the lower right represent Earth. The trigram at the lower left represents Fire and the one at the upper right represents Water.

Put together, these trigrams are another example of Yin and Yang.

The white background

The white background of the flag represents purity and peace.