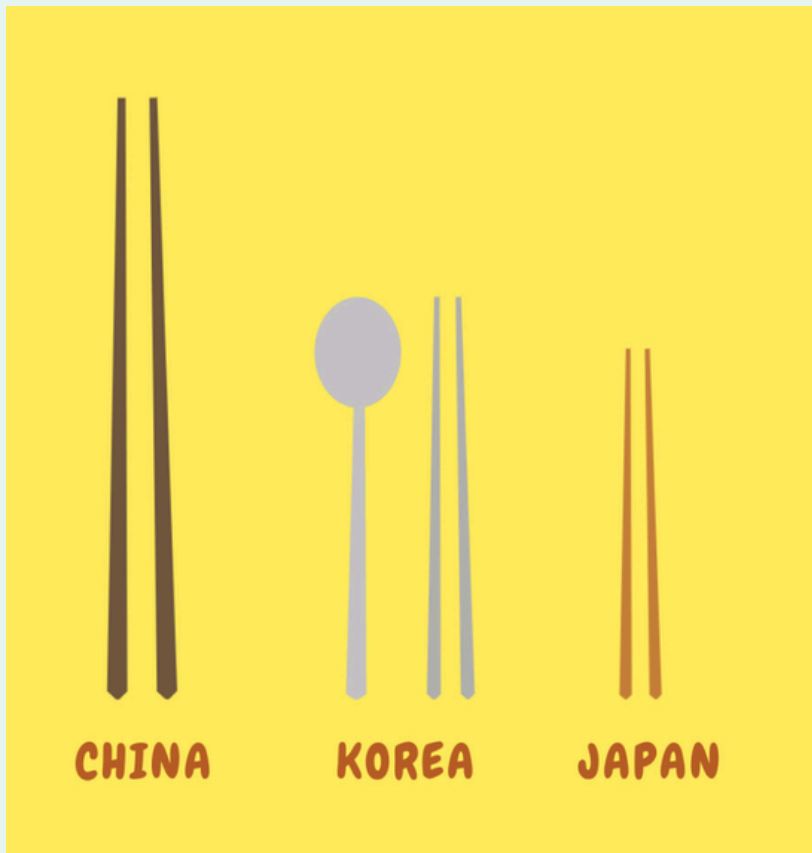


MESSICK'S KOREAN CULTURE LESSONS

Lesson #1

CHOPSTICKS

JUNE 2, 2024



MESSICK'S KOREAN CULTURE LESSON #1: CHOPSTICKS

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I'm doing a deep-dive on Korea culture and I'll post what I learn here as separate lessons.

The first is about the difference in eating utensils and procedures across China, Korea, and Japan. China traditionally ate a lot of fried meats, so they use longer chopsticks to reduce oil burns. In Korea, meat was scarce, so meat was generally put into a large soup that was shared. This made spoons a

common utensil in Korea, with chopsticks serving more of an auxiliary role. Korea is also the only place of the three where a spoon is used to eat rice instead of chopsticks. In Japan, rice was a more rare commodity, so it was mixed with cereals, but that made the rice more slippery. As a result the Japanese use smaller utensils and they lift their rice bowls towards their mouth to improve the efficiency of eating. Holding bowls towards your mouth with your other hand is the Japanese approach. In Korea, it's all about using that spoon / chopsticks combo.