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### KOREAN CREATION MYTH AND DANGUN



The creation myth of Korea is recorded in *Samgukyusa* (The Three Kingdoms History Books). Thousands of years ago, when Hwanung, a son of Heaven, ruled the people, there was a bear and a tiger that seriously wanted to become human. Hearing their prayers, Hwanung gave them each twenty garlic bulbs and a bunch of mugwort, and told them that if they could eat only the garlic and mugwort and stay out of the sunlight for a hundred days, then their wish would be granted. The bear and the tiger took the holy food into a cave to carry out their task, but the tiger soon gave up and left. The bear remained, however, and was transformed into a woman Ungnueo (meaning bear-woman) after 21 days.

#### Pairs: Role Play

- **Student A:** You are a tourist. Ask about this Creation Myth.
- **Student B:** You are a resident in Korea. Tell Student A about this myth and any other Korean myths that you know.

