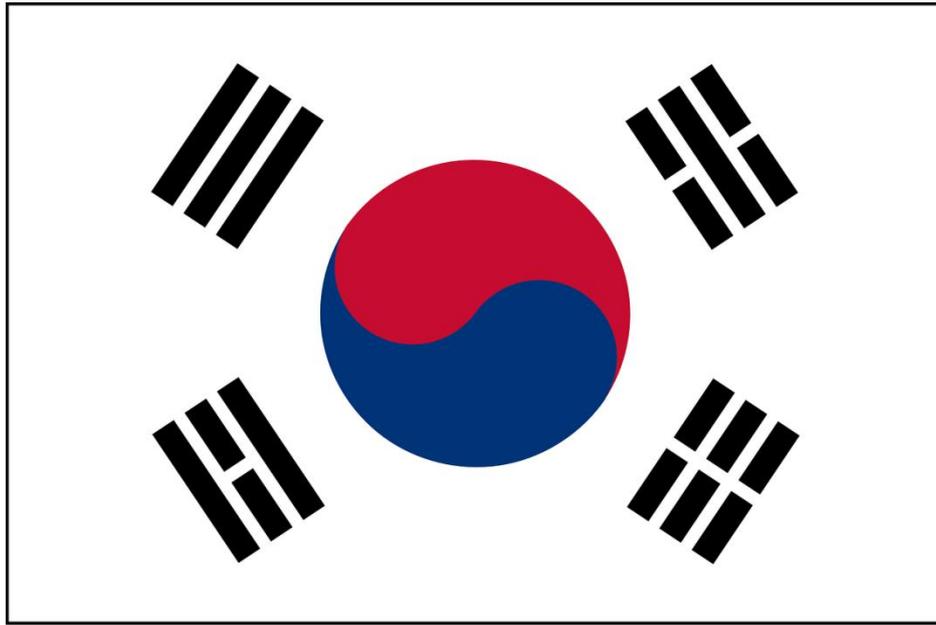


K-pop



K-pop or Korean pop music is not only a **type** of music but is a musical movement that started in South Korea. K-pop first became popular in the early 1990s and is now very popular all over Asia, and in many other parts of the world. The music is similar to American or European pop music, but it is usually sung in Korean. The music can often sound like a mixture of dance, hip hop, R & B and rock music.

One of the first popular K-pop groups was Seo Tai-ji & Boys. The music of Seo Tai-ji & Boys in 1992 was a new kind of popular music in South Korea. For the first time, a group mixed rap, rock and techno music. Seo Tai-ji became as popular in Korea as Michael Jackson and Madonna did in America. Since 1992 there have been many other popular K-pop groups.

One popular K-pop girl group is Kara. Kara started as a four-member group and made their debut with *Break It*. They **released** their first album called *The First Blooming* in 2007, but it was not very popular. In 2008 Goo Hara joined the group, and they made their debut in Japan in 2010. By the end of that year, Kara **received** the New Artist of the Year Award at the Japan Gold Disc Awards. They are one of the most successful K-pop groups.



1. The word “type” in paragraph 1 is could best be replaced by:
 - a) kind
 - b) print
 - c) keypad
 - d) write
2. According to the article, when did K-pop first start to become popular?
 - a) in the early 1980s
 - b) in the late 1980s
 - c) in the early 1990s
 - d) in the late 1990s
3. According to the article, what kinds of music did Seo Tai-ji & Boys mix?
 - a) rap, rock and pop
 - b) rock, R&B, and funk
 - c) rap, rock and hip hop
 - d) rap, rock and techno music
4. The word “released” in paragraph 3 could best be replaced by:
 - a) relief
 - b) loosened
 - c) published
 - d) freedom
5. The word “received” in paragraph 3 could best be replaced by:
 - a) got
 - b) gave
 - c) pulled
 - d) caught
6. According to the article, when did Kara gain a new member?
 - a) 2007
 - b) 2008
 - c) 2010
 - d) 2012

Answers: 1. (a) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (c) 5. (a) 6. (b)