

# Jangseung 장승

## Spirit Poles of Korea

by

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# You Will Learn

- What are Jangseung?
- What do Jangseung Look Like?
- History of Jangseung
- How to Make your own Jangseung





# You Will Need

- Paper Towel Tubes (one per Jangseung)
- Colored Paper (Brown, Black, Red, White)
- Markers
- Glue or Tape
- Scissors
- Rubber Bands
- Pom-Pom Balls or Cotton Balls (optional)
- Jangseung Patterns (optional)





# What are Jangseung?



Jangseung in Mungyeong Saejae Provincial Park, Korea. ©2005 by Breffni Whelan (used by permission).

- Jangseung are Similar to Totem Poles of the American Indians of the Pacific Northwest
- Unlike Totem Poles, They do not Tell Stories
- Jangseung are Korean Guardian Spirit Poles
- They Protect Against Evil Spirits, Misfortune and Disease





# What are Jangseung?

- They are Placed at the Entrance to a Village or Temple, Stream, or Valley
- They Mark the Boundary between the Village and the Outside World



Jangseung at Korean Bell of Friendship, San Pedro, California. ©2009 by Dominic Yu (used by permission).





# What do Jangseung Look Like?



- Made of Wood or Stone
- Four - Sixteen Feet Tall
- Human Images
- Grotesque or Exaggerated Features
- Humorous or Frightening Expressions

Jangseung in Duryu Park, Taegu, Korea. ©2010 by Matthew Benuska.





# What do Jangseung Look Like?

- Their Eyes are Bulgy
- Their Nose is Lumpy and Large
- Their Mouth is Open, Showing Teeth
- They May Have Large Ears
- They May Wear a Hat or Headdress
- They are Sometimes Painted



Jangseung in Sinch'on, Seoul. ©2010 by Matthew Benuska.





# What do Jangseung Look Like?



- Jangseung Typically Come in Pairs
- There is a Male Jangseung (left)
- And a Female Jangseung (right)

Jangseung at Mitsuike Park, Yokohama, Japan. ©2010 by Uthai Tomita (used by permission).





# What do Jangseung Look Like?

- Jangseung are also Named
- The Male is Named “Great General Under Heaven” (천하대장군)
- The Female is Named “Woman General Under Ground” (지하여장군)



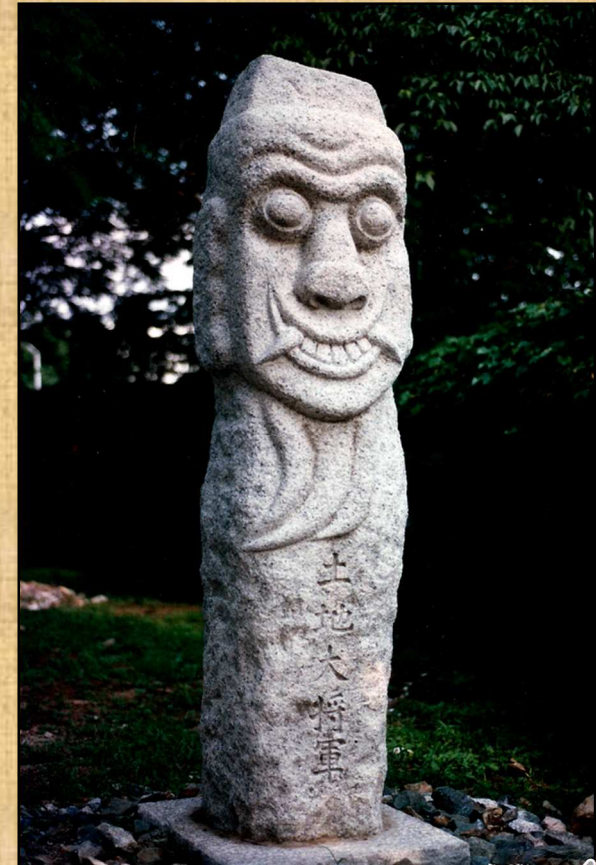
Jangseung at Koma Station, Saitama, Japan. ©2009 by Uthai Tomita (used by permission).





# History of Jangseung

- The Tradition of Jangseung is More than 2,000 Years Old
- Jangseung were Once Considered Deities
- Now They are Mostly Decorative



Stone Jangseung, Korea. ©2001 by Matthew Benuska.





# History of Jangseung

- They are Erected during Community Celebrations and Festivals
- Everyone in the Village May Participate



(R) Kim Jong Heung, Jangseung carver (Andong News); (L) "Tancheon Jangseung Ceremony of Gongju" (Hongseong County) (used by permission).





# More Pictures of Jangseung



"Tancheon Jangseung Ceremony of Gongju", ©1998-2008 Hongseong County (used by permission).





# More Pictures of Jangseung



Jangseung in Seoul, Korea. ©2006 by Mel Kang (used by permission).





# More Pictures of Jangseung



Jangseung, in Seoul. © 2008 Design Factory (used by permission).





# More Pictures of Jangseung



Jangseung in Duryu Park, Taegu. ©2010 by Matthew Benuska.





# More Pictures of Jangseung



Jangseung in Grand-Blottereau Park, Nantes, France. ©2008 by Mark Adamenko (used by permission).





# How to Make a Jangseung



Photo of Carving Jangseung from Hyeondo Jangseung Village, ©2006 by Jangseung Village (used by permission).





# How to Make a Jangseung

- **Step 1: Wrap the Pole**

- Get Paper Towel Tube
- Get Brown Construction Paper
- Roll Lengthwise so that the Paper Curls around the Tube
- Smear the Paper with Glue
- Wrap the Paper around the Tube
- Glue Long Edge of Paper
- Secure the Tube with Rubber Bands
- Set Aside to Dry





# How to Make a Jangseung

- **Step 2: Make the Face**

- Get White Construction Paper
- Cut a 4" Diameter Circle
- Lightly Fold in Quarters (find midpoint)
- Draw or Glue
- A Nose in the Middle Third of Face (above fold)
- Two Eyes on each side of the Nose
- A Mouth beneath the Nose





# How to Make a Jangseung

- **Step 2: Make the Face (Cont'd)**

- **Female Only:**

Draw or Cut Out and Glue Three Red Dots  
(Forehead and Cheeks)

- Glue Face on Pole 1/2" from Top





# How to Make a Jangseung



Jangseung Workshop at Wing Luke Museum. ©2011 by Mathew Benuska.





# How to Make a Jangseung

- **Step 3: Top the Pole (Male)**

- Use Black Construction Paper
- Trace and Cut Jangseung Hat Pattern
- Glue Hat to Top of Tube in the Back
- The Wings of the Hat are at the Bottom
- Wings of Hat Should Stick out on the Sides  
(do not glue them to tube)
- Loop Top of Hat Over Top of Tube  
and Glue End to Front of Tube (forehead)





# How to Make a Jangseung

## • Step 3: Top the Pole (Female)

- Use Black Construction Paper
- Trace and Cut Jangseung Headdress Pattern
- Glue Long Part to Top of Tube in the Back
- Long Part of Headdress Hangs Down
- Fold Over Top of Tube and Glue Sides of Headdress to Tube
- Glue Red Paper Hairpin to Back of Head
- Glue Pom-Pom or Cotton Ball to Top (Optional)





# How to Make a Jangseung



Jangseung Workshop at Wing Luke Museum. ©2011 by Mathew Benuska.





# How to Make a Jangseung

- **Step 4a: Name the Pole**
  - Write or Glue the Inscription using Korean Characters (Hangul)

## Male

천 = Heaven

하 = Under

대 = Great

장 = General

군 = Army

## Female

지 = Earth

하 = Under

여 = Woman

장 = General

군 = Army





# How to Make a Jangseung

- **Step 4b: Name the Pole**
  - Write or Glue the Inscription using Chinese Characters (Hanja)

## Male

天 = Heaven

下 = Under

大 = Great

將 = General

軍 = Army

## Female

地 = Earth

下 = Under

女 = Woman

將 = General

軍 = Army





# How to Make a Jangseung



You're Done!





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