



THE KOREAN FLAG

Symbolism and Poomse Connection

The national flag of South Korea, also known as the Taegukgi (also spelled as Taegeukgi, lit. 'Taiji flag') has three parts: a white rectangular background, a red and blue Taeguk in its center, accompanied by four black trigrams, one in each corner.



Horizontal Display



Vertical Display

Meaning of the Flag

The Three Components of the Nation

PART	MEANING
White Background	The Land of Korea
Red/Blue	The People
Black Trigrams	The Government



Meaning of the Flag

Symbolism | The Dual Forces of Nature

PART	MEANING
Taeguek [Red/Blue Circle]	<p>Translation : “Supreme Ultimate”</p> <p>The RED part represents YANG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masculine, bright, moving, day, fire/sun, hard <p>The BLUE part represents UM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feminine, night, water, soft, calm <p>The Yang and Um together form the “TO/TAO”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The perpetually changing opposite and complimentary forces of existence - BALANCE. <p>The thin part represents the beginning of all things, the tail represents the end.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the Yang Begins, the Um disappears (vice versa) <p>Red - Land Blue - Sky</p>
The “Sine Curve” [Boundary between UM and Yang]	<p>Represents Ki - the vital life force in which everything exists.</p> <p>The KI is energy - it cannot be created or destroyed.</p>
Black Trigrams	<p>Four Visible Trigrams on the Flag (of 8 total)</p> <p>Heaven</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the manifestation of the pure yang principle, is represented by the three unbroken lines <p>Earth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a set of three broken lines placed opposite represents the earth, the manifestation of the pure um principle. <p>The stages between the two extremes of yang and um are represented by the other two trigrams.</p> <p>Fire/Sun</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two lines with a broken line between them signifying fire <p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two broken lines with an unbroken line in the middle,. <p>Together, these four trigrams also symbolize the seasons and the cardinal directions.</p>



The Trigrams

The Four Trigrams on the Flag

Together, the trigrams represent movement and harmony as fundamental principles.

Trigram	Korean name	Celestial body	Element	Virtue	Meaning
☰	<i>Keon</i> (건 / 乾)	heaven (천 / 天)	heaven (천 / 天)	humanity (인 / 仁)	justice (정의 / 正義)
☷	<i>Kon</i> (곤 / 坤)	earth (지 / 地)	earth (토 / 土)	courtesy (례 / 禮)	vitality (생명력 / 生命力)
☵	<i>Kam</i> (감 / 坎)	moon (월 / 月)	water (수 / 水)	intelligence (지 / 智)	wisdom (지혜 / 智慧)
☲	<i>Ree</i> (리 / 離)	sun (일 / 日)	fire (화 / 火)	righteousness (의 / 義)	fruition (결실 / 結實)

The Eight Trigrams and Their Connection to Poomse

The eight patterns of Taekwondo are collectively known as the Taeguek patterns because each symbolizes a specific trigram.

☰	☷	☲	☱	☵	☴	☳	☶
乾	兌	離	震	巽	坎	艮	坤
KEON	TAE	REE	JIN	SON	KAM	KAN	KON

