A comparative study of the varieties and numbers of the animals and plants in the biology textbooks of secondary schools in South and North Koreas

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This study aims to compare the biology textbooks of South Korea and those of North Korea. For this purpose, the numbers of the animal and plant species introduced in the textbooks of the two Koreas are compared and analyzed. The animal species which appear in the South Korean biology textbooks are a total of 227 species. Mammalia and Arthropods are the most in number. In contrast, those in the North Korean textbooks are a total of 304 species. But Mammalia and Arthropods are the most in number, as in South Korea. For Vertebrate, in particular, 57 more species are shown in the North Korean textbooks. The number of plants which appear in the South Korean biology textbooks is a total of 164 species, and Angiosperms and Fungi are the most in number. However, the plants in the North Korean textbooks are a total of 224 species, and Angiosperms and Fungi are the most in number. The North Korean textbooks introduce 78 more species of Seed Plants than its South Korean counterparts. This study will provide the basic materials for the biology education and textbooks in the future unification times of the two Koreas.

I612 A comparative study on biology textbooks of secondary schools in South and North Koreas

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This study compares the biology textbooks of South Korea with those of North Korea by analyzing their organization of the contents, arrangement of teaching subject and amounts, and investigation activities. The ideological teachings in North Korean textbooks are also examined. In South Korean biology textbooks, 'Metabolism' and 'Continuity of Life' are emphasized, while in North Korea 'Diversity of Living Organism' and 'Metabolism' are emphasized. Also, in North Korean textbooks the units of 'Development of Biology' and 'Health and Disease' are not separately dealt with. The investigation activities in South Korean biology textbooks consist of 10 different kinds of activities, but the North Korean counterparts deal with only 5 kinds of activities. The investigation activities in North Korean textbooks are 2.6 times less than those in South Korean textbooks, and the higher the school grade becomes, the less the activities are. Instead, a simple explanation of the observation results replaces investigation activities. The ideological principles which underlie North Korean textbooks are not scientific ones, but Kim, Il-Sung and Kim, Jung-Il's general teachings. The lower grade textbooks contain higher portion of their teachings.