Unified Silla Dynasty
- 668 AD to 935 AD
Unified Silla (668 to 935 AD)

- Silla skillfully used Tang’s military to unify Korea.
- Unified Silla outsmarted Tang after the unification – defeated a Tang takeover, became a tributary state;
  - Chinese “tributary state” in name, an independent country in fact;
  - Capital city in Gyeongju;
  - High level of civilization and economic development;
  - Buddhist state, building Bulguksa Temple.
Unified Silla Highlights

- **Unification**: Silla unified Korea.
- **Independence**: Unified Silla resisted Tang’s military take over, remained independent.
- **Acceptance**: adopted Chinese political/social systems.
- **Hierarchical**: Divided by birth right. Classes were deliberately kept apart by color coded clothing, building codes, etc.
- **Openness**: Trade with China, Japan, and possibly the middle east.
- **Technical achievements**: celadon porcelain, dome tombs, architecture, metal work, crafts...
United Suilla Architecture:
Buluksa Temple
Bulguksa Temple

- A masterpiece of the golden age of Korean Buddhism during Unified Silla period.
- A UNESCO world-heritage site
- Destroyed by Japanese in invasion in 1590s
- Rebuilt and expanded starting in 1604
- Remains one of the most important Buddhist temples in Korea
Silla on Youtube
Questions

- What are some of the important achievements in the three kingdoms of Gorgoyeo, Baekje and Silla. How did these achievements contribute to the develop of Korea as a nation/society?

- What role did China play in the establishment of the United Silla Dynasty? How did United Silla out-smart China’s ambitions?

- What long term influence did Unified Silla have on the development of Korean society?