Key Figures in Asian History and Culture

Ideas, Leadership, and Change • Grades 6 to 12 • Five Day Research Simulation Task

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

Essential Question: How do ideas, leadership, and writing shape a society?

Inquiry: Compare four figures from different places and periods. Use evidence to explain contributions, power, and the limits of surviving sources. These figures introduce selected traditions; they do not represent all of Asia.

Standards and Literacy Connections

NJSLS Social Studies (2020): 6.2.8.HistoryCC.3.a examines religion and conflict in classical civilizations (Days 1 to 2). 6.2.8.HistoryCA.3.a evaluates enduring achievements of India and China (Days 1 to 2). These are selected connections, not a claim that the unit covers each expectation in full. Japan and the Philippines extend the comparative inquiry.

NJSLS ELA (2023), Grade 6 anchor: RI.CR.6.1 (textual evidence); RI.PP.6.5 (purpose and perspective); RI.MF.6.6 (integrate formats); W.AW.6.1 (argument). Grades 7 to 12 increase complexity through the Teacher Guide.

CCSS/CCLS literacy: RH.6 to 8.1, RH.6 to 8.6, RH.6 to 8.7 and WHST.6 to 8.1; extensions RH.9 to 10.1, RH.11 to 12.1, WHST.9 to 10.1 and WHST.11 to 12.1. These are literacy connections rather than additional New Jersey standards.

Five Day Path

Day 1: Confucius • Source A • read, question, discuss, write.

Day 2: Ashoka • Source B • read, question, discuss, write.

Day 3: Murasaki Shikibu • Source C • read, question, discuss, write.

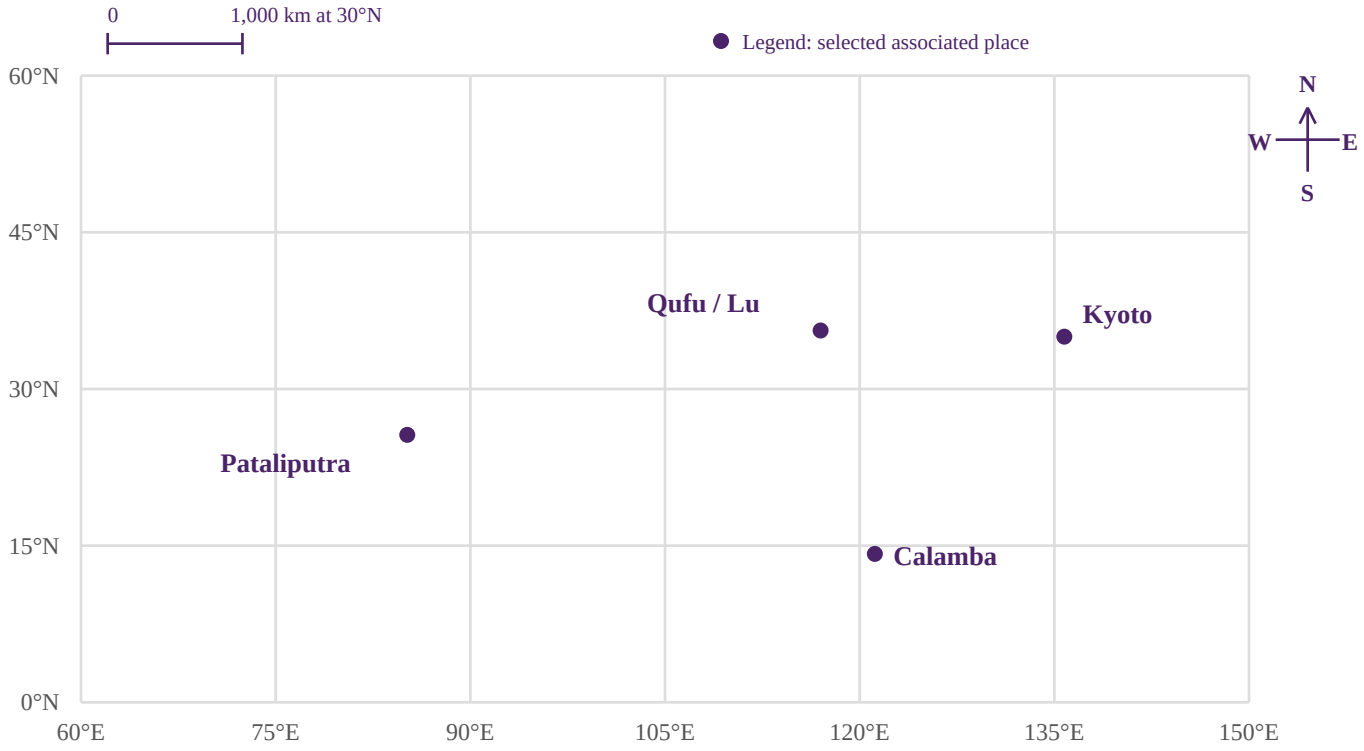
Day 4: José Rizal • Source D • read, question, discuss, write.

Day 5: Do Now, fifteen multiple-choice questions, a RACE argument, and a closing Quick Write. Use the comparison organizer to prepare.

Interdisciplinary: Geography locates four settings; ELA analyzes form and argument; civics examines authority; mathematics sequences BCE/CE dates. The optional Amistad bridge compares literacy and power through Frederick Douglass without treating distinct systems as identical.

Geography and Chronology

Locator Map: Selected Places in South, East, and Southeast Asia



Geographic point map, equirectangular coordinate grid. Dots mark selected associated places, not a person's full travels or an empire's extent. Boundaries and coastlines are omitted. Coordinates are approximate. Classroom locator compiled November 6, 2026, from the associated places named in Sources A through D. Scale is valid east to west at 30 degrees north only, not for all latitudes or diagonals.

Place key: Qufu/Lu: Confucius, East Asia (present day China). Pataliputra: Mauryan capital near present day Patna, South Asia (India). Kyoto: Murasaki's court setting, East Asia (Japan). Calamba: Rizal's birthplace, Southeast Asia (Philippines).

Chronology: Confucius, 551 to 479 BCE → Ashoka's edicts, third century BCE → Murasaki's writing, early eleventh century CE → Rizal, 1861 to 1896 CE. The sequence is not drawn to scale. There is no year zero between 1 BCE and 1 CE.

Map Task: Which marked place lies farthest south? Which lies farthest west? Explain why sharing a continent does not mean these figures shared a government or historical period.