Leading Women of Africa and the African Diaspora

Grades 6 through 12 | Five Day Research Simulation Task

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

NJSLS Social Studies: 6.3.8.CivicsPD.3. NJSLS ELA: RI.CR.6.1, RI.IT.6.3, W.IW.6.2, SL.PE.6.1. CCSS/CCLS: RH.6?8.1, WHST.6?8.2. High school extensions: RH.9?10.1, RH.11?12.1, WHST.9?10.2, WHST.11?12.2. Sources A?D are instructional secondary summaries. Cite paragraph labels. References are in the Teacher Guide.

Day 1 Source A

Sovereignty and Resistance

Do Now

What gives a community the right to govern itself?

A1 Hatshepsut

Hatshepsut governed Kemet in the fifteenth century BCE as Naswt Biti, a ruler of the Two Lands. Her reign supported trade, including an expedition to Punt, and major building projects. Her mortuary temple at Deir el Bahri expressed royal authority through architecture and images. Her example shows that women exercised state power in ancient Africa, long before European colonial rule.

A2 Amanirenas

Amanirenas was a kandake, or royal woman ruler, of Kush in the first century BCE. Kush lay south of Kemet in the Nile Valley, in what is now Sudan. She led Kushite resistance against Roman expansion. Warfare was followed by a peace settlement. Her leadership illustrates that African kingdoms negotiated with powerful neighbors as well as fought them.

A3 Nzinga Mbande

In the seventeenth century, Nzinga ruled Ndongo and Matamba in the region of present day Angola. Portuguese expansion and the trade in enslaved people threatened the region. She used diplomacy, changing alliances, and military resistance to defend political authority. Her participation in systems involving captivity also complicates her legacy. Resistance to an outside empire did not automatically mean equal freedom for everyone.

A4 Yaa Asantewaa

Yaa Asantewaa was the queen mother of Ejisu in the Asante confederacy, in present day Ghana. In 1900 she helped lead resistance to British colonial domination after the British governor demanded the Golden Stool. The stool embodied Asante unity and sovereignty. British forces defeated the uprising, and she was exiled to the Seychelles. Military defeat did not erase the resistance or its importance to later generations.

A5 Queen Nanny of the Maroons

In eighteenth century Jamaica, Nanny helped lead Windward Maroon communities resisting British slavery. Maroons built communities beyond plantation control. Mountainous terrain, local knowledge, and collective defense helped protect their independence. Jamaican oral traditions preserve her memory alongside documentary records. These forms of evidence should be compared carefully rather than treated as identical accounts.

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Day 1 Evidence and Writing

Evidence Analysis

Compare two rulers in Source A. Identify one threat, one strategy, and one outcome for each. Cite paragraph numbers.

Interdisciplinary or Source Analysis

How did geography support Nanny’s resistance? Explain one connection using A5.

Quick Write

How could a leader’s resistance be historically important even if her forces were defeated? Use A4.

Exit Ticket

Name one leadership strategy from today. Cite a paragraph and explain what the strategy could accomplish.

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