Asia and the Western Pacific

Origins, Colonial Rule, and the Continuing Struggle for Self-Determination

Grades 6 through 12. Five Day Research Simulation Task. Ma’at Standard.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

Essential Question: When does a people gain meaningful control over its future?

This inquiry begins with societies before conquest and follows men’s and women’s struggles for political voice. The selected places span Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the western Pacific; they are not all geographically South Pacific. “Independence,” “autonomy,” “liberation,” and “self-determination” require distinct evidence.

Standards and Literacy Connections

NJSLS Social Studies: 6.2.12.HistoryCC.3.c (imperial policies and Indigenous responses); 6.2.12.HistoryCC.5.c (colonial legacies); 6.2.12.HistoryCC.5.g (women’s movements). NJSLS ELA Grade 6 anchor: RI.CR.6.1, RI.PP.6.5, RI.MF.6.6, W.AW.6.1. CCSS/CCLS: RH.6 to 8.1, .6, .7; WHST.6 to 8.1; older scholars use RH.9 to 10.1 and RH.11 to 12.1 and corresponding argument writing pathways. Selected connections, not complete coverage of every expectation. High school history expectations guide adapted middle school access.

Five Day Sequence

Day 1. Malaysia, origins, coalition politics and women’s organizing.

Day 2. Philippines, revolution and successive foreign powers.

Day 3. Guam, CHamoru resistance and ongoing decolonization.

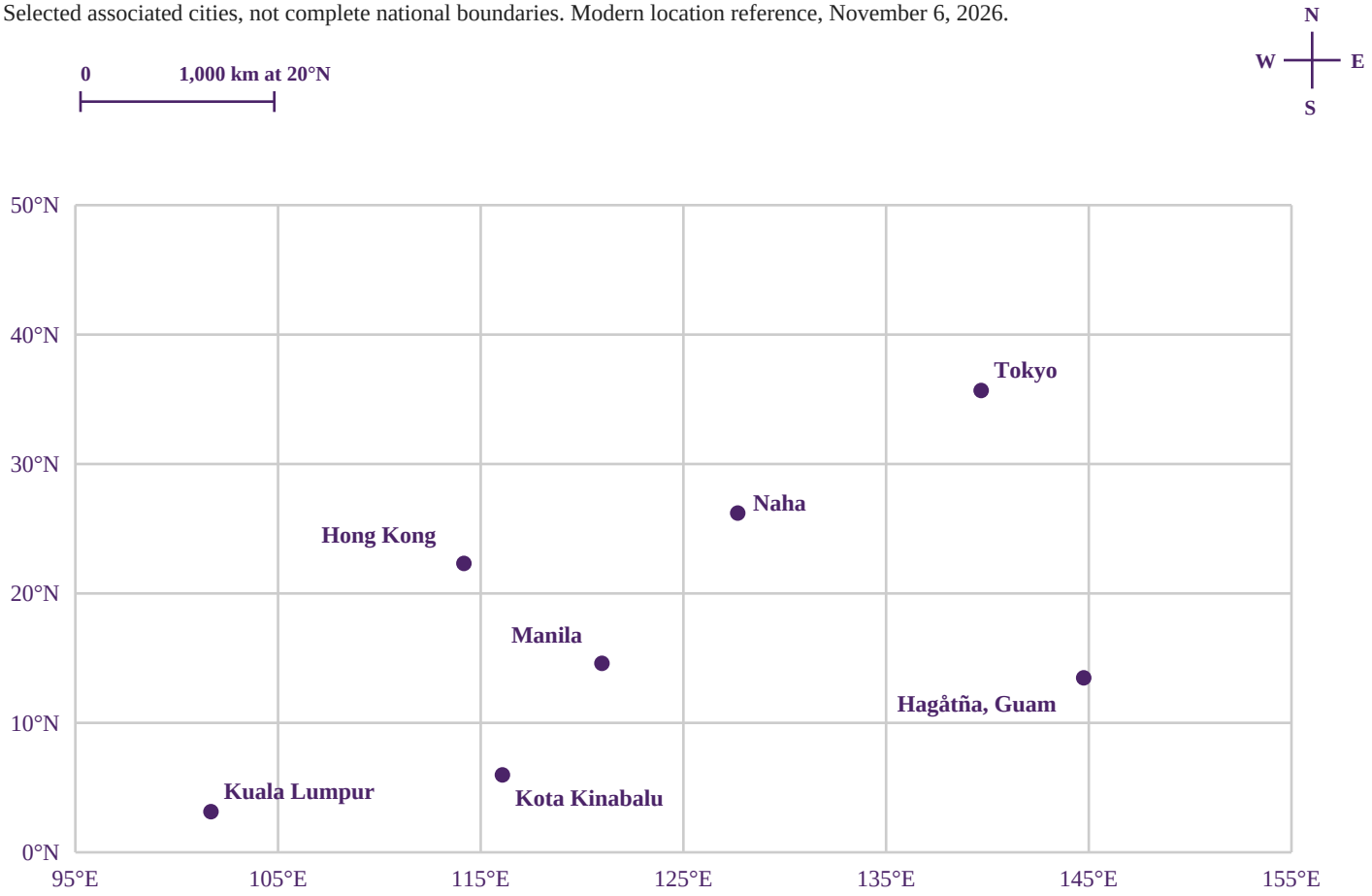
Day 4. Japan, Okinawa and Hong Kong, comparing sovereignty and local voice.

Day 5. Daily Do Now, 15 questions, RACE argument and closing Quick Write.

Interdisciplinary: geography and ocean connections; ELA and evidence; mathematics and chronology; science and island runoff. An Amistad bridge compares self-determination claims while preserving different histories.

Geography: Locating the Inquiry

Selected associated cities, not complete national boundaries. Modern location reference, November 6, 2026.



Legend: purple dots mark selected cities. Equirectangular coordinate grid; east-west scale applies at 20°N only, not at every latitude. No political boundaries are drawn, and modern locations do not imply historical borders. Sources: geographic coordinates rounded to hundredths of a degree; historical context from the cited national museums, archives and UN records.

Map Task: Which marked city lies farthest east? Why are both Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu included when studying Malaysia? Explain one limitation of using this locator to study colonial borders.

Chronology Task: Arrange these dates with events: 1763, 1898, 1952, 1957, 1963, 1972, 1997. Consult Sources A through E, and distinguish a declaration, a recognition, a sovereignty transfer and an administrative change.