South Asia and the Himalayas

Independence, Democracy, and the Struggle for Self-Determination

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

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

Essential Question: How do peoples gain political freedom, and why do their outcomes differ?

This inquiry examines India, Sri Lanka, Tibet, Nepal and Bangladesh. Compare independence, democracy, autonomy and self-determination without assuming identical histories. Nepal was never formally colonized; Tibet has not achieved independent statehood.

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. India: mass organizing, negotiation and partition.

Day 2. Sri Lanka: constitutional change and popular pressure.

Day 3. Tibet: resistance and unresolved political goals.

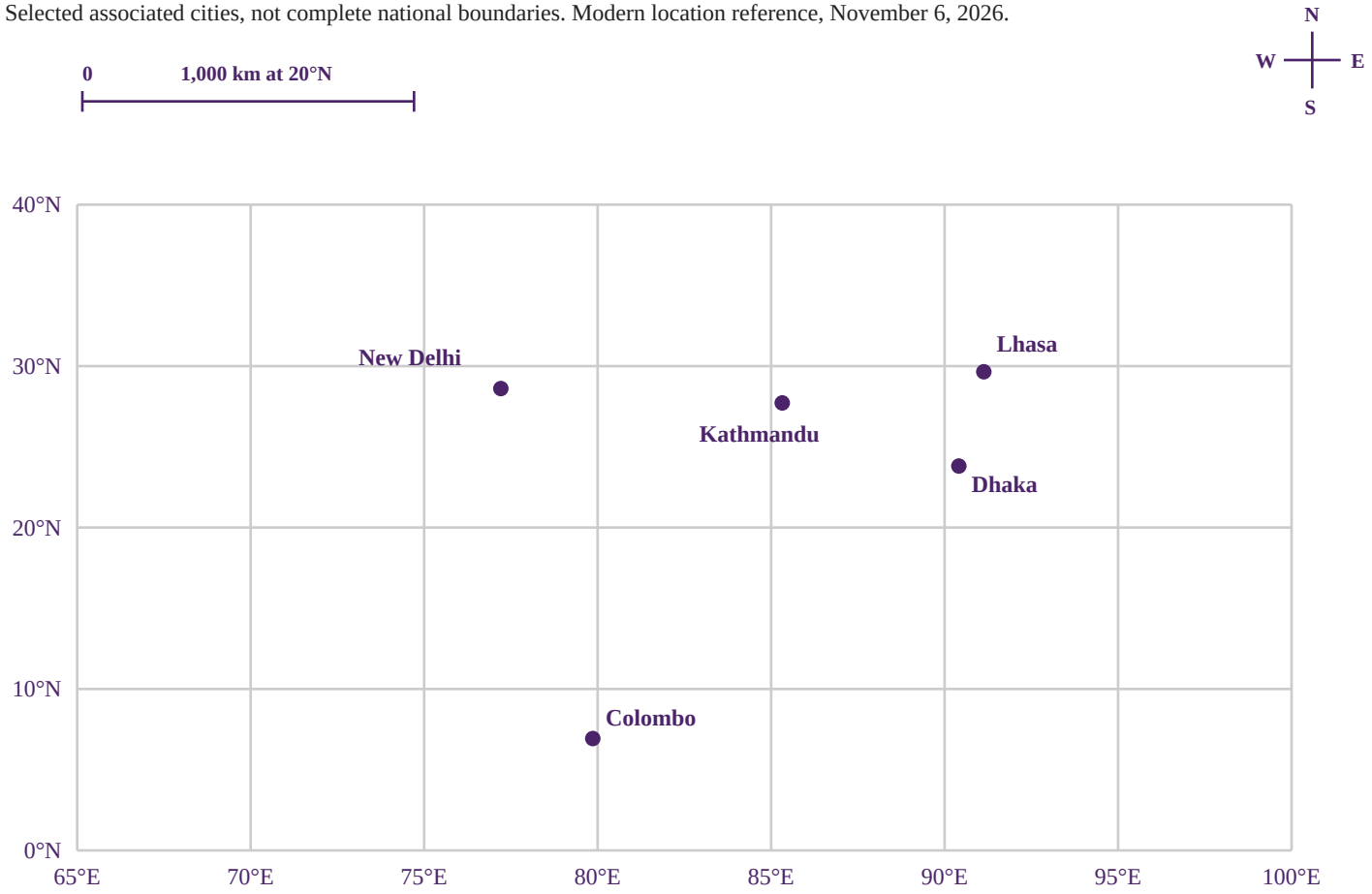
Day 4. Nepal and Bangladesh: democracy and liberation compared.

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

Interdisciplinary: geography and regional connections; ELA and evidence; mathematics and chronology; science and watershed runoff. An Amistad bridge compares political 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. Source: city-center coordinates rounded to hundredths from GeoNames geographical database (geonames.org); historical context from the cited archives and UN records. This point locator does not depict the extent or legal status of Tibet.

Map Task: Which marked city lies farthest east? Which lies farthest south? Explain one limitation of using a point locator to study historical borders or contested territorial claims.

Chronology Task: Arrange these dates with events: 1923, 1947, 1948, 1951, 1959, 1971, 1972. Consult Sources A through E and distinguish recognition, independence, democratic change, an uprising, declaration/victory and republican government.