MA’AT STANDARD. INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH SIMULATION TASK

The Divine Nine

Black Fraternal Organizations and the Phoenician Alphabet Legacy

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Date: _____ Class: _____

NJSLS AND NATIONAL STANDARDS

NJSLS ELA: RI.CR.6.1, RI.CI.6.2, W.AW.6.1, with Grades 9 and 10 evidence and central idea extensions. National CCSS: history literacy evidence and argument writing for Grades 6 through 8. Mathematics: NJSLS and CCSS 6.SP.B.5 and 7.RP.A.3. Social Studies: NJSLS inquiry, diverse perspectives, claims and evidence practices; national C3 historical causation and source evaluation. Science: NJSLS and NGSS planning investigations and analyzing data practices, applied to a social science simulation. This is practice alignment, not a claim of a full life science performance expectation.

CENTRAL QUESTION

HOW HAVE BLACK FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS TRANSFORMED COLLEGIATE SOLIDARITY INTO CIVIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND COMMUNITY ACTION?

Objective: Explain distinct organizational histories using linguistic, geographic, civic, mathematical, and scientific reasoning.
DOL: Defend an interdisciplinary argument with evidence from three organizations, an accurate calculation, and a source limitation.

DAY 1. DO NOW

What is the difference between tracing a symbol’s ancestry and explaining an organization’s founding?

Source A. Council and organizations. NPHC was organized at Howard University on May 10, 1930. Its nine current member organizations were founded between 1906 and 1963. A coordinating council and its member organizations have distinct founding histories. [A]

Source B. Alphabet transmission. Early alphabetic writing drew on Kemetic signs through Semitic language adaptation. Phoenician writing was transmitted across Mediterranean networks and adapted by Greek speakers. Letter names such as alep and bet connect with alpha and beta. These relationships document cultural transmission rather than independent Greek invention. [B, D]

Geography and terminology. Phoenician cities such as Tyre and Sidon were on the Levantine coast. Carthage was a Phoenician settlement in North Africa. Geographic contact does not by itself establish one modern racial identity for all ancient Phoenicians. The organizations officially describe their modern letters as Greek; their alphabet has Phoenician roots, and later Greek adaptations include additional letters. These are connected but distinct histories. [A, C, L]

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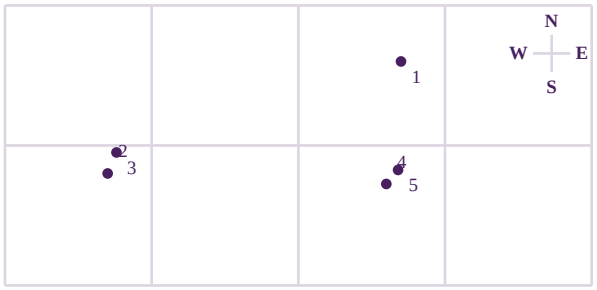
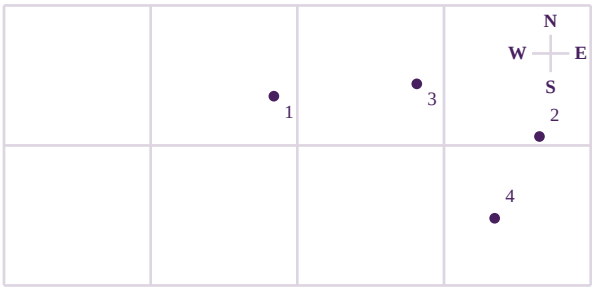
Day 1. Maps, language, and historical claims

G. Founding locations



Angular scale: grid width = 5.0 degrees longitude

H. Mediterranean reference



Angular scale: grid width = 13.75 degrees longitude

Legends: G: 1 Ithaca, 2 Bloomington, 3 Indianapolis, 4 Washington, 5 Baltimore. H: 1 Carthage, 2 Tyre, 3 Athens, 4 Nile region. Dots are approximate modern reference locations, not ancient borders or dated routes. North is up. Longitude is angular position, not a constant ground distance. Maps compiled November 8, 2026 from locations in A, C, and O1 through O9.

1. Use Map H to distinguish Phoenicia’s Levantine location from Carthage’s North African location. Explain why a settlement network is not identical to one modern nation.

2. Explain what alphabet transmission establishes and what additional evidence would be required to establish direct institutional ancestry between ancient communities and the Divine Nine.

QUICK WRITE. Explain why recognizing Phoenician contributions and accurately describing modern organizations can belong in the same historical account. Cite two source labels.

Exit Ticket. Distinguish NPHC’s founding from the founding of one member organization.

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