The First World War

The Berlin Conference and the Partition of Africa

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

Five Day Research Simulation Task

Grade 6 literacy level with world history content extension

Essential Question

How did European imperialism in Africa contribute to the conditions before the First World War, and how did the war affect African peoples?

Your Research Task

Read the sources, compare maps, examine a timeline, discuss evidence, and write a RACE response. Explain the absence of African consent and distinguish an underlying cause from an immediate trigger. Cite sources by letter and paragraph number.

Key Vocabulary

Imperialism means extending power over other peoples. Partition means dividing territory. Sovereignty means authority to govern. Consent means freely given agreement. Alliance means an agreement to cooperate. Militarism means prioritizing military power. Nationalism means strong identification with a nation. Mobilization means preparing armed forces for action. A Mandate was territory administered under League of Nations oversight.

Find Your Daily Writing Pages

Day 1 page 3 Day 2 page 5 Day 3 page 7

Day 4 page 9 Day 5 page 19

NJSLS Alignment

Grade 6 ELA standards and Social Studies world history content standards are identified with descriptions in the Teacher Edition. The imperialism and war content codes are high school extensions, not Grade 6 content expectations.

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Source A The Berlin Conference

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Secondary source summary written for this RST

1. In November 1884, representatives of 14 states met in Berlin. The conference ended in February 1885. African representatives were excluded. European powers negotiated rules about commerce, navigation, and territorial claims without the consent of the African peoples whose lands and futures were at stake.

2. The conference did not draw every African border. It established a framework that accelerated a partition already underway. Britain, France, Germany, Portugal, and other powers expanded control through later negotiations and conquest. African societies had their own political institutions and interests. Agreements among empires did not make conquest consensual or just.

3. The meeting sought to manage competition among outside powers. Its rules helped those powers recognize one another’s claims while excluding the people living on the land. Historians must therefore ask both what officials agreed to and whose authority they refused to recognize.

Source Question 1 Whose interests were represented, and whose interests were excluded? Cite a paragraph.

Source details and access links appear in the Teacher Edition. These readings are instructional summaries unless explicitly marked as quotations.

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