THE GEOGRAPHY OF ASIA THROUGH ELA, MATHEMATICAL AND SCIENTIFIC LITERACY

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

Grade 6 | Five Day Reading and Reasoning RST

Essential Question

How do physical geography, climate processes, and quantitative evidence explain settlement, movement, and human activity across Asia?

Learning Targets

Interpret physical, political, and climate maps; explain geographic cause and effect; calculate scale, rainfall, density, and trade quantities; evaluate evidence; and write a supported RACE response.

Five Themes of Geography

Location identifies where a place is. Place describes physical and human characteristics. Human environment interaction examines adaptation and change. Movement follows people, goods, and ideas. Region groups places by shared features.

Reading and Annotation Protocol

Underline the central idea. Circle unfamiliar vocabulary. Box quantities and units. Note cause and effect in the margin. Cite Source One, Two, or Three and Map A, B, or C when using evidence.

Map and Data Guidance

Maps have legends, compass directions, and a distance bar calibrated at 30° north. Distortion increases away from that latitude. River paths and climate focus areas are generalized. All classroom numerical datasets are fictional models, not measured regional statistics.

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Source One Physical Geography, Regions, and Settlement

Asia occupies the eastern portion of Eurasia and is commonly described as the largest continent by land area. Its western boundary with Europe is a geographical convention rather than an ocean separating two landmasses. The Arctic Ocean lies to the north, the Pacific to the east, and the Indian Ocean to the south. Most Asian land lies north of the Equator, but parts of island Southeast Asia extend south of it. A continent is therefore a useful regional label, not a claim that every place inside it is alike.

The Himalaya rise along the northern edge of the Indian subcontinent. The Tibetan Plateau lies to their north. These highlands influence routes, water supplies, and climate. Steep slopes make transport difficult, while snow and ice contribute water to downstream systems. Mountains are neither complete barriers nor automatic sources of prosperity. People construct roads, use passes, and make decisions about access and risk.

The Ganga, also called the Ganges, supports communities in northern India and Bangladesh. The Yangtze crosses China, and the Mekong links several countries in Southeast Asia. Rivers provide water, transport opportunities, and fertile floodplain soils. Floods may damage settlements and crops. A river basin includes the land drained by a river and its tributaries, so upstream decisions can affect downstream communities across political borders.

Political maps identify countries and boundaries; physical maps emphasize terrain and waterways. A country can include many climates, languages, and landscapes. China includes dry interior areas and wetter eastern regions, while India includes mountains, plains, coasts, and dry areas. Geographers compare specific places instead of treating Asia as one culture or environment. Map B is a small scale overview, not a legal statement about disputed borders.

The five themes connect these patterns. A river's coordinates describe location; its floodplain describes place; irrigation illustrates human environment interaction; river transport illustrates movement; and a river basin forms a region. A settlement explanation should consider water and terrain alongside technology, government, history, and community choices.

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