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Who Owns the Sea?

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Grade Level: 7th Grade (strategy adaptable to other topics and grade levels)

Purpose/Overview:
China's territorial conflicts with neighboring countries not only include land conflicts with India. As China seeks to control potential underwater fossil fuel resources, their conflicts also extend into the East China Sea and the South China Sea and include high-tech "island creation" by China's government. Students will analyze a series of graphics in order to understand and make predictions about these conflicts.

National Geography Standards from *Geography for Life* Geographic Elements & Standards:
The World in Spatial Terms – 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information
Human Systems – 13: How the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface
Environment and Society – 14: How human actions modify the physical environment

Oklahoma Academic Standards for the Social Studies:

OAS 2012	OAS 2019
Grade 6 World Geography: Western Hemisphere	
Literacy Skills Standard 1: The student will develop and demonstrate Common Core Social Studies reading literacy skills.	Read Critically and Interpret Informational Sources: Students will engage in critical, active reading of grade-level appropriate primary and secondary sources related to key social studies concepts, including frequent analysis and interpretation of informational sources.
6.PALS.1.C.7 Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.	**4.A.6-8.2** Integrate the use of visual information (e.g. maps, charts, photographs, videos, political cartoons) with textual information from primary and secondary sources.

Literacy Skills Standard 2: the student will develop and demonstrate Common Core Social Studies writing literacy skills. **6.PALS.2.A** Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content. **6.PALS.2.A.1.B** Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrates an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources.	Engage in Evidence-Based Writing - Students will apply effective communication skills by developing a variety of evidence-based written products designed for multiple purposes and tasks, in order to demonstrate their understandings of social studies concepts, ideas, and content.
Grade 7 World Geography: Eastern Hemisphere	
Content Standard 1: The student will analyze data from a geographic perspective using the skills and tools of geography.	**7.1** The student will analyze data from a geographic perspective using the skills and tools of geography.
2. Integrate visual information, draw conclusions, and make predictions from geographic data and analyze spatial distribution and patterns by interpreting that data as displayed on globes, graphs, charts, satellite and other forms of visual imagery including data from bar and line graphs, pie charts, thematic maps, population pyramids, climographs, cartograms, contour/relief maps, GIS systems, and diagrams.	**7.1.5** Integrate visual information, draw conclusions and make predictions from geographic data and analyze spatial distribution and patterns by interpreting that data as displayed on geographic tools.
Content Standard 5: The student will analyze the interactions of humans and their environment in the Eastern Hemisphere.	**7.4** The student will analyze the interactions of humans and their environment in the Eastern Hemisphere.
2. Integrate visual information to analyze regional problems and policies having spatial dimensions in the Eastern Hemisphere.	**2.B.6-8.1** Draw upon gathered information to analyze how a specific problem can manifest itself in local, regional, and global levels over time, evaluating options for individual and collective solutions.

Geographic Themes: Human-Environment Interaction, Movement

Objectives:
Through analysis of maps, graphs, charts, and pictures, students study the actions of nations competing for control of the East and South China Seas. Students will improve skills in analyzing and drawing conclusions from graphics. Students will also be able to compare the claims of different countries to these waters.

Materials:

- Day 1, Graphics Analysis –
- Color copies of 12 graphics (on 10 pages) – hard copies or loaded onto tablets as a file – enough for every 3 or 4 students to have a set (If using hard copies, laminate them or put them in plastic page protectors in order to use them in future years.)
- Student answer paper – WHO OWNS THE SEA? Conflict in the East & South China Seas – enough for each student (or one per group, if you prefer)
- Day 2, PowerPoint with Notes, Student Response –

- Computer/LCD projector or other projection system
- PowerPoint – Who Owns the Sea?
- Student fill-in notes – one per student
- Reading, Who Owns the South China Sea? – one per student
- Response paper, What Now? – one per student

Time Frame: Two to three 50-minute class periods

Procedures:

<u>Day 1, Graphics Analysis</u> –

1. Divide students into groups of three. Give each student (or each group) a student answer sheet.

2. Explain to students that they will get a series of 10 graphics – maps, graphs, charts, and pictures. They will answer the questions by analyzing each graphic. For example, their answer paper has three questions by the number ①, so each of those questions are related to Graphic 1.

3. Hand out Graphic 1 to each group. Give them a couple of minutes to find the answers to the three questions by the number ①, then go over the questions together. Remind students that some questions require inference or will use prior knowledge. This is not a test, and if they can't figure something out, they should treat it like a puzzle (instead of like a life-or-death situation).

4. After answering questions and clarifying as needed, collect Graphic 1 and give each group Graphic 2. Give them 2-3 minutes to answer those two questions. (One option is to use a timer – there are several available online – and project that for them to see. It tends to keep them on task! And you can always give them a little extra time if several groups are struggling.)

5. Continue this way, collecting the previous graphic and distributing a new graphic to all students at the same time, until all twelve are completed. (If you use the graphics as a file loaded onto tablets, they will simply finish at each group's pace.)

6. Go over answers, allowing time to discuss. (This may spill over into a second day.)

<u>Day 2, PowerPoint with Notes</u> –

7. Distribute a copy of fill-in notes to students. Show the PowerPoint, talking about the information as they fill in the blanks.

Assessment:
Distribute the reading, "Who Owns the South China Sea?" Go over this briefly with students.

Then distribute the "What Now?" response paper. Using information gained in the lesson, as considering the perspectives from the "Who Owns the South China Sea?" paper, have students write a 1-paragraph opinion stating how they think US leaders should respond to the conflict.

Resources:
YouTube: "Chinese jet intercepts U.S. surveillance plane," 2 minute news report form 2014, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJuzyCY7rxw

YouTube: “Chinese Military Confronts U.S. Spy Plane: Leave Immediately! You Go! Please Go Away Quickly!” 6:20 minute news report from 2015, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlU_syd__c

YouTube: “Satellite images show military buildup in South China Sea,” 2 ½ minute news report from July 2016, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_-b98cAU7k

Name: _____ Hour: ____

WHO OWNS THE SEA? Conflict in the East & South China Seas

Use the graphics to figure out the answers to each set of questions.

Graphic ①

★ Study the color map on Graphic 1.
← On the map on your worksheet, **label** the East China Sea and the South China Sea as follows:

E = East China Sea *S*= South China Sea

Graphic ②

★Compare Graphic 2 to Graphic 1. **Which sea** is Graphic 2 showing:

____ the East China Sea or
____ the South China Sea?

★Based on Graphic 2's map and map key, **what resources** in this sea do both China and Japan want? _____ & _____

Graphic ③

★Based on the graph, which of the two countries will **need more resources** in the future?
_____

Graphic ④

★In which country do more people **expect a military conflict** to start between China and Japan in the near future? _____

★In which country were the **fewest people unsure** of whether or not there would be a military conflict? _____

Graphic ⑤

★The political cartoon on this graphic uses the idea of an auction to state an opinion about the China-Japan conflict over the Diaoyu (or Senkaku) Islands. One joke in the cartoon is that the auctioneer is saying, "going once, going twice." **Why is "going twice" a joke about the conflict over the islands?** _____
_____

★What is the auctioneer **standing on**?_____

★**What will happen** when he bangs the gavel to say the auction is over? _____
_____

Graphic ⑥

★Compare Graphic 6 to Graphic 1. **Which sea** is Graphic 6 showing:

____ the East China Sea or ____ the South China Sea?

★**How many different countries** are claiming overlapping areas in Graphic 6? _____

★**What resources** make this area so valuable to these countries? _____ and _____

Graphic ⑦

★The three photographs are all photos of **the exact same place** in the South China Sea. How do you think it was possible for it to change from an underwater coral reef to an abovethe-water island? _____

_____

★Look a the last photograph on Graphic 7. **What seems to have been built** on this new island? _____

Graphic ⑧

★Which country has **more military outposts** on the Spratley Islands? _____

Graphic ⑨

★Sometimes a "military outpost" isn't much more than a hut or a rusty ship. Look at the differences in countries' aircraft capabilities and then answer this: **Which country has a more powerful air force in the South China Sea?** _____

Graphic ⑩

★Look closely at the part of the airstrip circled in red. **Something is not quite right** about it. What is it? _____

★**What does this show** about a problem with building on an artificial island?

_____

Graphic ⑪

★In February of 2016, China installed surface-to-air missiles on an island in the Paracel Islands. These islands are claimed by Vietnam and by China. Find the Paracel Islands on the Graphic 11 map. What **is the approximate latitude / longitude of the islands?** (You should easily figure it out within 3°) ___°*N*___°*E*

★ What **major line of latitude** passes through the Indonesian archipelago? _____

Graphic ⑫

★Of the countries on the graph**, which is most worried** that disagreements about who controls what areas might cause war? _____

NAME: _____ Hour: _____

WHAT NOW?

China says they will **never** give up the South China Sea and will defend the area. **The United States says** their military ships and planes will **continue** traveling through the area.

Both are powerful nations with large militaries. The US has a stronger military. China has the most to lose. But **neither** country wants war.

What should the United States leaders do? Can a peaceful solution be found? Should they attack China's "new islands"? Should they keep US military ships and planes out of the area? Should they suggest some solution to China's leaders?

In the space below, give **YOUR opinion on what US leaders should do about this situation.**

In your paragraph, make sure **you explain WHY you believe this is the best decision.**

Image source: http://www.allsingaporestuff.com/article/prc-says-it-will-go-war-america-if-they-are-not-allowed-buildsouth-china-sea

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Who Owns the Sea?

EAST CHINA SEA

In the East China Sea, there is territory claimed by both _____ and _____. A focus of this conflict is a small group of islands. This area has oil and gas underwater. _____ countries want that oil and gas.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

China claims the _____ South China Sea. But _____ nations also claim parts of that sea.

As in the **East** China Sea, these countries in the **South** China Sea are all after the _____ and _____ under the area's shallow ocean floor.

Countries try different ways to claim some of the _____ atolls, reefs, and tiny islands in the area. China and Vietnam have both "_____ land from the sea". This means "building _____" on area reefs. Most of these are built by China.

In February 2016, China even put land-to-air _____ on Woody Island in the South China Sea. This is especially strange since China doesn't legally _____ the tiny island.

China is much _____ and more _____ than the other countries, so that government seems to do whatever it wants to do.

Chinese ships patrol the South China Sea. Their ships have _____ and _____ fishing boats from Vietnam and the Philippines. Many countries worry that war may break out with China over conflicting territory claims.

But there's something else happening that many ignore. _____ _____ are killed when ships dig up the seafloor to build islands. Corals are invertebrate animals. They _____ just re-grow after they die.

So, let's review:

1. China is in conflict with many of its neighbors. It is about territory claims and the _____ and _____ resources under the sea.

2. Countries around the world worry that it will get ugly (or uglier), and possibly turn into _____.

3. The shallow ocean reefs are destroyed as countries kill the _____ and stack it up to form islands.

http://wpmedia.news.nationalpost.com/2015/04/unknown.png?w=620&h=547

WHO OWNS THE SOUTH CHINA SEA?

CHINA'S POSITION:

China's claim to the South China Sea is based in history.

As proof, they have ancient sea maps used by Chinese ships.

China officially claimed the South China Sea in 1947. This was two years after World War II ended. Japan had lost their power in East Asia and China had become the most powerful country in the region. By this time, China had mapped and named 291 islands and reefs in the region.

Other countries in the area say China does not have a right to control these waters. The Philippines even filed charges against China in the World Court, accusing China of breaking international law. In June 2016, the World Court decided in favor of the Philippines, saying that China cannot claim the entire South China Sea.

But China is ignoring the legal decision. China says it is unfair for modern international law to judge their South China Sea claim. China points out that they officially claimed the South China Sea in 1947, over ten years before international Law of the Sea was written. (The Geneva Conventions on the Law of the Sea were first signed by nations in 1958.) **China's position is that it is wrong for a new law to take away a region they already claimed before the law ever existed.**

The floor under the South China Sea may contain **large oil and natural gas reserves.** Control over the region could give China a level of energy security and independence. With their huge population and growing economy, **future energy sources are very important to China.**

Even if China's leaders wanted to give up their claims, it would be difficult to do. The leaders do not want to risk making their citizens believe the government is weak. **Their citizens feel strongly that these waters belong to China.**

For these reasons, **China has stated many times that it will defend its territory in the South China Sea.**

Adapted from *Everything You Need to Know About the South China Sea Conflict in Under Five Minutes* by retired Air Force Academy Professor William Johnson. Accessed at http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2015/06/09/everything-you-need-to-know-aboutthe-south-china-sea-conflict-in-under-five-minutes/

WHO OWNS THE SOUTH CHINA SEA?

THE UNITED STATES' POSITION:

The United States claims that the South China Sea is international water. They state that control in the area should be determined by the United Nations Convention on Laws of the Sea. **Law of the Sea** states that countries can't claim sovereignty over any land that is underwater at high tide. It also states that **countries cannot claim an area simply by building on an under-water structure (such as a reef) to raise it above sea level.**

The US government is concerned that **China could use control of the sea to threaten or to even stop trade shipments** to countries in East and Southeast Asia. This could be a very big deal since about one-third of all international ship traffic sails through the South China Sea.

Of course, **control of the sea would also allow China to keep foreign military forces out**, including US military ships and planes.

So while the US government says it does not have any specific rights to waters in the South China Sea, the US is very interested in keeping those waters open to all countries. Therefore, the **US has continued to send military ships and planes through the area, angering China.**

China's smaller neighbors, including Vietnam and the Philippines, receive help from the US military. This help includes information and equipment for spying on China's activities in the sea. It also includes modern military equipment.

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East Asia

East China Sea
South China Sea
RUSSIA
KAZAKHSTAN
MONGOLIA
CHINA
INDIA
BURMA
LAOS
THAILAND
VIETNAM
CAMBODIA
MALAYSIA
BRUNEI
INDONESIA
PHILIPPINES
JAPAN
NORTH KOREA
SOUTH KOREA
TAIWAN
NEPAL
BHUTAN
BANGLADESH
SRI LANKA
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
EAST TIMOR
AUSTRALIA
Indian Ocean
Philippine Sea
Sea of Japan
Sea of Okhotsk
Yellow Sea
Bay of Bengal
Andaman Sea
Gulf of Thailand
Java Sea
Celebes Sea
Banda Sea
Arafura Sea
Timor Sea
Gulf of Carpentaria
North Pacific Ocean
Tropic of Cancer
Tropic of Capricorn
Equator
Scale 1:46,000,000
Azimuthal Equal-Area Projection
0 500 1000 Kilometers
0 500 1000 Miles
Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.
803065AI (R00732) 5-04

①

http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=8270

③

http://www.maritime-executive.com/media/images/article/content/projected_natural_gas_consumption%20china%20and%20japan.png

④

Answers to the question, "Will there be a military conflict between Japan and China in the future?

Source: the 9th Japan-China Opinion Poll / Copyright © Genron-NPO and China Daily

A. There will be conflict within a few years.
B. There will be conflict in the future.
C. There will not be conflict in the future.
D. Don't know
E. No response

http://www.cfr.org/councilofcouncils/global_memos/p32416

This small island chain is part of the same archipelago

⑤

that forms Japan. The Japanese call them the Diaoyu

Islands. The Chinese call them the Senkaku Islands

http://www.standupamericaus.org/sua/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Senkaku-Dispute-Map.jpg

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-japan-idUSBRE9AM02920131124

http://www.cagle.com/tag/diaoyu-islands/page/2/

⑥

COUNTRIES CLAIMING OWNERSHIP

- China
- Vietnam
- Malaysia
- Brunei
- Philippines

⑦ **Fiery Cross Reef** in the **Spratly Islands**

Jan. 2006

April 2015

close-up of the northeast part July 2015

http://www.dw.com/en/images-reveal-vietnams-expansion-in-the-south-china-sea/a-18451614

⑧

http://www.smh.com.au/cgstatic/12z7v7/2905_spratly_map_729.png

⑨

http://static3.businessinsider.com/image/568ac459c08a809b088b69b8-1070-722/screen%20shot%202016-01-

04%20at%202.12.27%20pm.png

Pag-asa Island, the second largest island in the Spratly Islands, is controlled by the **Philippines.** About 40 soldiers and 200 civilians live there.

Adapted from https://i1.wp.com/www.southchinasea.org/files/2011/08/Southeast-Asia-Reference-Map-CIA-World-Factbook.jpg

⑫ Question:territory disputes between China and Are you concerned that its neighbors may lead to war?

Answers by country:

Not concerned
Concerned
Philippines 6% 93%
Japan 13 85
Vietnam 12 84
South Korea 16 83
India 9 72
U.S. 31 67
China 34 62
Bangladesh 38 55
Indonesia 38 52
Source: Spring 2014 Global Attitudes survey. Q110.
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