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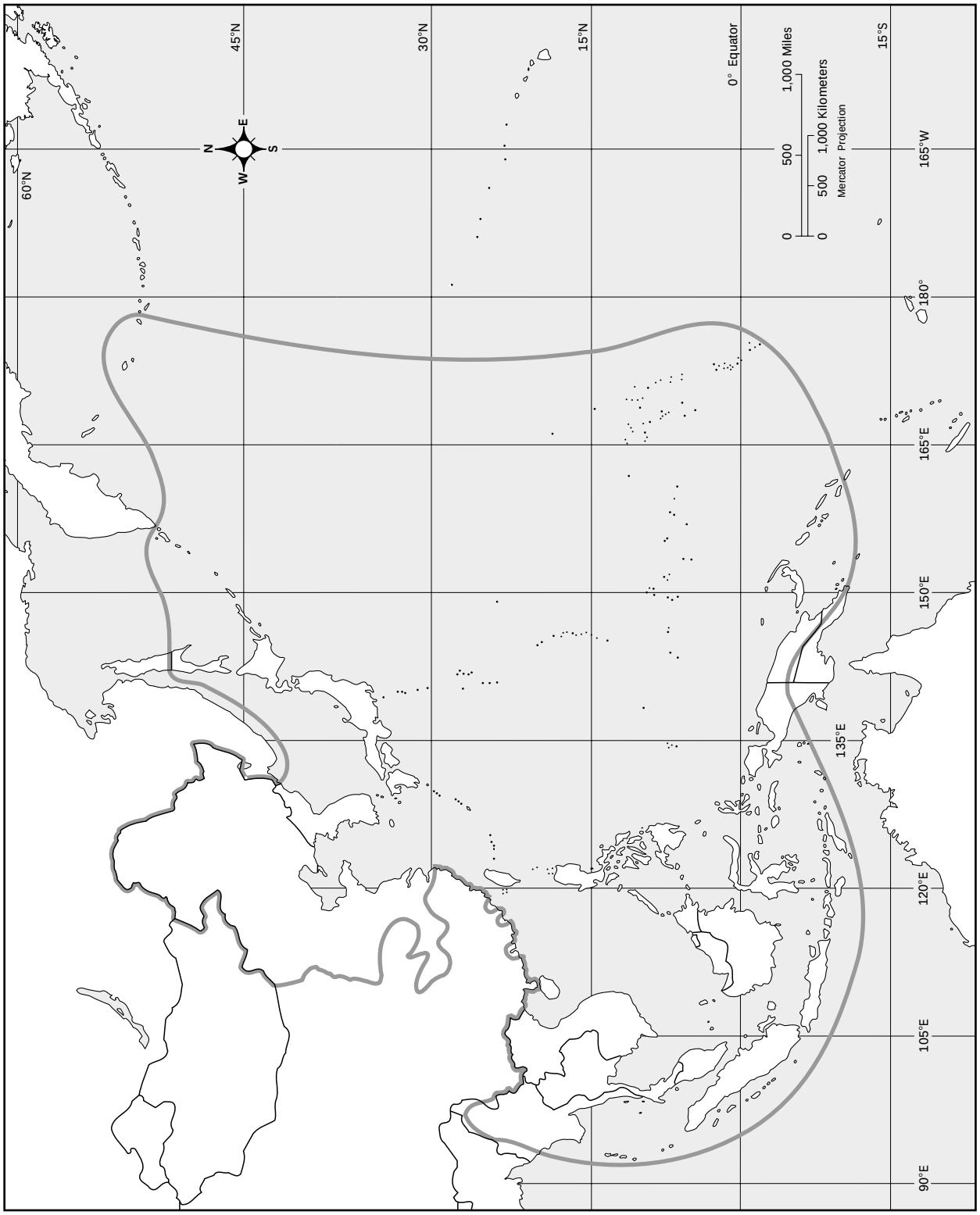
MAP 20

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

AMERICAN HISTORY OUTLINE MAPS

World War II in the Pacific



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Teaching Suggestions

World War II began in Asia in 1931 when Japan invaded Manchuria in northeastern China and established a puppet government. From this base, the Japanese seized more territory in China and in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. For several years, European countries and the United States focused their efforts on war in Europe rather than on defending their colonies from the Japanese. This map shows the main action of World War II in the Pacific.

1. Have students color the areas that belonged to Japan before 1931. Have them label the peninsular country on the mainland of Asia and the island to the south that belonged to Japan.
2. Ask students what longitude marked the easternmost limit of Japanese possessions in the Pacific.
3. Have students mark Tokyo and Pearl Harbor on their maps. Have them measure the distance between the Japanese capital and the target of the Pearl Harbor attack.
4. Have students mark on their maps the cities in Japan that were the targets of atomic bomb attacks. The planes that dropped these bombs took off from Tinian Island. Have students mark this island on their maps. Have them measure the distance the planes had to fly from Tinian Island to their target cities.

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