



## What's In A Name? Maritime Conquest and Place Name Changes

**Rationale:** The purpose of this lesson is to expose students to the historical patterns of place name changes based on maritime conquest and colonization. Students will use the World Historical Gazetteer website <https://whgazetteer.org/> to identify and study a number of coastal cities in Asia whose names have been historically impacted by maritime conquest from outside powers. Students will then learn about the history of conquest in Taiwan in detail, with a specific focus on the former capital and port city of Tainan, Taiwan, and the place name changes it has undergone in the last centuries as a result of maritime conquest and colonization.

### **Procedures:**

1. The class will begin with a general brainstorming discussion about coastal settlements and ports that they have studied in previous history classes. (examples could include the 4 ancient river valley civilizations). Questions to discuss include, “Why were these areas the first to be settled? Why and how did they develop and grow? What were their economic strengths/attributes? Why were these settlements attractive to outside powers? What were some pros and cons of coastal settlements and ports?”
2. Students will be instructed to go the WHG website and click on the “Explore open access historical place data” menu option and then click on the “Places” option to find the place name variants of the following modern cities:
  - Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
  - Mumbai, India
  - Port Klang, Malaysia
  - Busan, South Korea
  - Tainan, Taiwan
3. Using a graphic organizer, students will work in groups to list the place name variants for each city and then research each city and its place name variants to try to determine when, by whom, and why place name variants happened. Students will then share their findings with the class.

4. Together, the class will then refer back to the original discussion questions about coastal settlements and port cities to determine if these answers apply to the examples they have just researched.
5. The class will then go into a more in-depth study of Tainan, Taiwan as a case study for maritime conquest and place name changes. Students will learn about Spanish and Dutch colonization of Taiwan, the Zheng family's successful attempts to vanquish Dutch rule there, and the subsequent occupation of Taiwan by Japan.

**EXTENDED ACTIVITY:** Students will complete the accompanying DBQ activity for further/deepened understanding of maritime conquest and colonization of the island of Taiwan.