

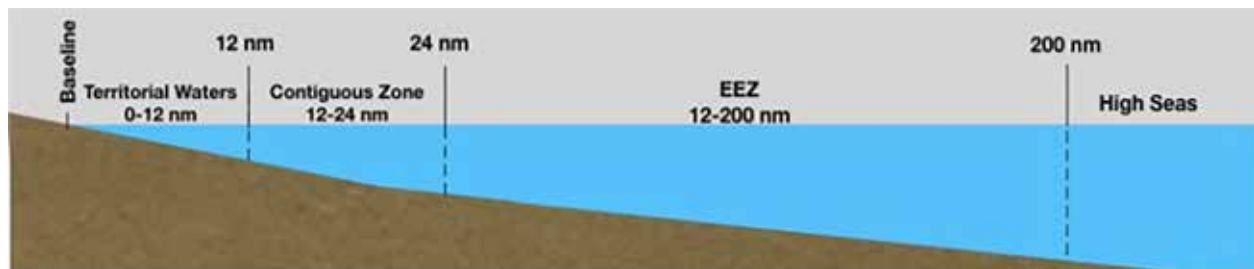
## South China Sea: Key Terms

*Instructions:* Read the following key terms.

**The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**—The ten-member regional group includes Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

**The Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC)**—A code of conduct signed by China and the ten ASEAN countries in 2002. It commits all parties to exercise “self-restraint” in activities that could escalate disputes and creates guidelines for resolution of territorial disputes.

**United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**—An international treaty that defines the rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of territorial waters and regulates sea lanes and ocean resources (see diagram and explanations below). It replaced previous U.N. Conventions on the Law of the Sea and was signed in 1982. It went into effect in 1994 after a required sixty countries ratified it. By 2018, most countries had agreed to the treaty. The United States has not ratified the treaty.



- **Territorial Waters**—Coastal countries have sovereignty (complete authority) and jurisdiction over their territorial waters, which for most countries extends from the coastline at the low water mark (known as a baseline) out twelve nautical miles (nm). These rights extend not only to surface waters but also to the seabed, subsoil, and airspace above. Foreign ships can pass through this zone as long as their passage is deemed “innocent” (meaning they may not engage in prohibited activities such as spying, smuggling, weapons testing, etc.).
- **Contiguous Zone**—Adjacent to a country’s territorial waters, a country may claim limited jurisdiction out a further twelve nautical miles in order to enforce sanitary regulations or customs and immigration laws, protect fisheries, or to promote security.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**—The EEZ overlaps the contiguous zone and extends up to two hundred nautical miles from the baseline. Countries have the right to explore, conserve, manage, and/or exploit living and non-living resources in the water, seabed, and subsoil. When two EEZs conflict, UNCLOS calls for a line to be drawn equidistant from the two coasts. In practice, this can be complicated as countries often make competing claims that need to be resolved.
- **High Seas**—The high seas are open to all countries and include freedom of navigation, fishing, and scientific research, and other activities as permitted by international law.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Regime of Islands (Article 121 of UNCLOS)**

- “1. An island is a naturally formed area of land, surrounded by water, which is above water at high tide.
- “2. Except as provided for in paragraph 3, the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of an island are determined in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.
- “3. Rocks which cannot sustain human habitation or economic life of their own shall have no exclusive economic zone.”