Getting to Know Them

- Guest Commentary: “Most countries have given up their colonies. Why hasn’t America?”
- Teachers Notes: U.S. Territories and Possessions
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- Island Cards: The Islands: U.S. Territories and Possessions
Not sure if the U.S. still has territories or other possessions? This resource guide provides Teachers Notes: U.S. Territories and Possessions, a concise reference that is accurate as of November 2017. The United States has three Territories, two Commonwealths and three Compacts of Free Association. In addition, the guide includes Possessions — islands in the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean with very different uses.

After reading the guest commentary, “Most countries have given up their colonies. Why hasn’t America?,” and reviewing the island cards, students will have a basic introduction to these U.S.-owned and U.S.-protected islands. The Island Quiz may be used to test their retention or to work in groups to determine the correct answers.

For a more extended introduction, use e-Replica features — Search, Topic and News Alert — and The Post archives for current articles. At the end of Teachers Notes, D.C., states, countries, zones and a bay with special relations with the U.S. are included to add another dimension to this focus. Teachers might organize research of the islands and these entities by acquisition time period, purpose/use, or original country of discovery/colonization. You will find many ways of getting to know them.
Most countries have given up their colonies. Why hasn’t America?

BY DAVID VINE

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With President Trump visiting Puerto Rico next week, another long-ignored part of the United States will draw national attention. In the past three weeks, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have been hit by two powerful hurricanes, causing widespread devastation. Last month, Guam made headlines when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to fire potentially nuclear-tipped missiles at the island.

The people of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam, as well as those in the little-mentioned Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa, are all too accustomed to being forgotten except in times of crisis. But being forgotten is not the worst of their problems. They are trapped in a state of third-class citizenship, unable to access full democratic rights because politicians have long favored the military’s freedom of operation over protecting the freedoms of certain U.S. citizens. Residents of the American territories are ruled from the nation’s capital — a city whose people themselves are second-class citizens lacking representation in Congress — but barred from voting in presidential elections, denied Senate representation and limited to electing a nonvoting member of the...
House of Representatives. (People born in American Samoa actually have fourth-class citizenship because they don’t get U.S. citizenship automatically at birth.)

Which raises a pressing question: Why, in 2017, decades after the civil rights and decolonization eras, does the United States still have colonies and citizens who lack full democratic rights by law?

The answer is largely simple, but troubling: Because the desires and power of the United States military have overwhelmed the desires and rights of colonized peoples.

The tangled history of the military and citizenship in these colonies played out most clearly in Guam, which, along with Puerto Rico, the Philippines and uninhabited Wake Island, became a U.S. colony as a result of 1898’s war with Spain.

After the Spanish-American War, U.S. officials proudly referred to their new possessions as colonies. The Navy designated all of Guam a U.S. naval station. Technically, the island was one large military base: Naval officers served as governors and generally ran Guam like a ship. In a pattern that has mostly continued to this day, the rights of the people of Guam came second to the military’s.

In a series of cases, the Supreme Court upheld the colonized status of Guam’s indigenous Chamorros, whose ancestors had lived there for almost 4,000 years. The court ruled that as “alien races,” Guam’s people (and Puerto Ricans and Filipinos) were entitled to neither U.S. citizenship nor full constitutional rights.

The Navy controlled Guam until World War II, when it became one of the few parts of the United States occupied by Japanese troops. After brutally suffering at the hands of the Japanese for 32 months, Chamorros expected their suffering and bravery to be rewarded with citizenship and self-rule, if not statehood.

Military officials thought otherwise. They wanted direct military — not civilian — control over as many islands in the Pacific as possible. At their urging, the government held onto Guam and the other colonies as what euphemistically became called territories. The government granted the Philippines independence in 1946, but pressured the former colony into a 99-year rent-free lease on 23 military installations.

On Guam, the Navy reestablished military rule and began a major base building campaign that displaced people from their lands or prevented many interned by the Japanese from
returning home. Military installations occupied as much as to 60 percent of the island, transforming it into an increasingly powerful military outpost and high-profile Cold War target.

Only after years of Chamorro protest did Guam become an “unincorporated territory” in 1950. This status provided Chamorros with U.S. citizenship and limited rights to self-governance. Congress, however, maintained ultimate control. In the words of the Department of the Interior, Guam remained a place where “only selected parts of the United States Constitution apply.”

In the decades since 1950, Guam’s status has not advanced. The island has subsequently become a major Navy and Air Force base for deploying forces throughout East Asia and a home for some of the nation’s most powerful weaponry.

Why have territories like Guam become so central to U.S. military might? Precisely because the people there lack the full rights of citizenship. The U.S. military has hundreds of foreign military bases throughout the world — an estimated 800 bases in around 80 countries and possessions worldwide. But while bases in foreign countries are a major source of U.S. power globally, these bases usually encounter restrictions from local laws and the possibility of protest or eviction, as happened in Okinawa, Japan, and the Philippines.

The military also faces limits on its presence within the 50 states. Military bases in the states generally come with environmental regulations and other constraints under U.S. law, as well as oversight from powerful members of Congress.

But bases in Guam and the other territories, by contrast, offer the military unmatched freedom from many of the restrictions found at home and abroad. As Maj. Gen. Dennis Larsen bluntly told a reporter in 2004: “Guam is a U.S. territory. We can do what we want here, and make huge investments without fear of being thrown out.”

The military frequently has used this freedom to behave with casual disregard for people in the U.S. colonies, acting in ways that would be unimaginable in the 50 states or in a foreign country. After World War II, the military disposed of hundreds of thousands of pounds of ordnance in Guam and the Northern Marianas through detonation, burning or dumping at sea. A dumpsite near Guam’s Andersen Air Force Base has leached dangerous and toxic compounds, and the base itself is on the Environmental Protection Agency’s list of the nation’s worst environmental contamination sites.

Recently, the military has started a major buildup on Guam to relocate troops from Okinawa. The original plan proposed seizing almost 1,800 acres of private and protected lands, increasing Guam’s total population by 50 percent without expanding civilian infrastructure to handle the growth, as well as building a shooting range atop sacred Chamorro land.

In Manhattan, this would be akin to seizing land more than twice the size of Central Park, adding more than 800,000 people without adding new schools, hospitals or sewer systems and building a shooting range atop the 9/11 Memorial.

Although each U.S. colony has its own complicated history, these places have remained colonies to a great extent because the military can operate there without fearing eviction and with greater freedom than in the 50 states. This fact, as well as ongoing racism against people the Supreme Court called “alien races,” is why the United States still has third- and fourth-class citizens.

The United States is decades overdue in acknowledging these colonial relationships, admitting their impoverishing effects and giving the people of the U.S. colonies the democratic rights they deserve. Given all Guam’s people have suffered, while they sit on the front lines of the nuclear conflict with North Korea; given how Puerto Ricans and U.S. Virgin Islanders are now suffering, only to have the government overlook them once more, don’t they — and American Samoans and Northern Marianans — deserve full democratic rights? Don’t they deserve the freedom to choose their relationship with the rest of the country, be it statehood, independence or some other political arrangement that doesn’t perpetuate the idea that all humans are clearly not created equal under the law?

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American Territories, Commonwealths and Compacts of Free Association

Below is a quick reference for planning of student activities and discussion.

**Territories**
- American Samoa: Held since 1878, coaling station
- Guam: Held since 1898, military significance
- U.S. Virgin Islands: Held since 1917, military significance

**Commonwealths**
- Northern Mariana Islands: Held since 1947, commonwealth in 1978
- Puerto Rico: Held since 1900, commonwealth in 1902

**Compacts of Free Association**
- Republic of the Marshall Islands: Held since 1947, used for nuclear weapons testing
- Republic of Palau: Trusteeship, 1947, independence, 1994
- Federated States of Micronesia: Held since 1978, independence, 1986

Teachers may give students the above dates and ask them to create a timeline of acquisition. To this basic timeline may be added dates of wars and treaties.

The U.S. territory of Guam was the target of threats from North Korea, but tourists attracted to the island have not been deterred by the conflict.

Brief descriptions and history of U.S. territories, possessions and influenced areas follow.

* In the listings that follow, an asterisk indicates that taxes are paid. For specific IRS tax information visit: [https://www.irs.gov(individuals/international-taxpayers/individuals-living-or-working-in-us-possessions](https://www.irs.gov(individuals/international-taxpayers/individuals-living-or-working-in-us-possessions)
Territory of American Samoa [American Samoa] *
https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/american-samoa
https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1842.htm
https://www.americansamoa.gov

Capital: Pago Pago

In 1914 New Zealand occupied the former German protectorate of Western Samoa, previously known as the Navigator’s Islands. The United States established diplomatic relations with the Independent State of Samoa (then called Western Samoa) in 1971, following its independence in 1962 from its New Zealand-administered trusteeship. U.S. consular relations in the Samoan islands date back to 1856 when the first U.S. Consul was posted in Apia. Currently, the U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand, resident in Wellington, is also accredited to Samoa. The daily management of the U.S. Embassy in Samoa is carried out by a resident Charge d’Affaires.

Over the years the United States and Samoa have enjoyed a close friendship based on trust and mutual interest, strengthened by people-to-people ties between the two countries, particularly among Americans of Samoan descent. Due to cultural and historical links, Samoans share a special affinity for their “brothers and sisters” in the U.S. territory of American Samoa and frequent cultural and other exchanges, as well as close family and personal ties, have underpinned the relationship between the two Samoas and the U.S.-Samoa relationship more broadly.

In regional and international forums the United States and Samoa work together to mitigate disaster risk, manage fishery resources and promote sustainable economic development in the Pacific region. In June of 2012 the United States and Samoa signed a Mutual Law Enforcement Agreement that allows Samoan maritime officials to utilize U.S. Coast Guard and Navy vessels to provide maritime policing in Samoan waters.

Territory of Guam [Guam] *

Capital: Hagatna

Spain ceded Guam to the U.S. in 1898 after the Spanish-American War. For three years it was held by Japan, 1941-1944. Currently, U.S. military bases are a significant presence.

The Territory of Guam, commonly known as Guam, is an unincorporated territory of the United States of America. It is the largest and southernmost of the Mariana Islands. Until 1951 it was under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Navy Department when administration transferred to the Department of the Interior.

Federated States of Micronesia
https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1839.htm

Capital: Palikir

Following World War II, the Caroline Islands, a widely scattered archipelago became part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, administered by the United States through the Department of Interior Office of Insular Areas (DOI/OIA). The eastern four island groups adopted a constitution in 1979 and chose to become the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

The FSM became independent in 1986, when it entered into a Compact of Free Association with the United States that included 15 years of substantial development aid. An Amended Compact was negotiated in 2003 for an additional 20 years of financial assistance under bilateral management. The basic relationship of free association continues indefinitely.

NOTE: Information found in these briefs came primarily from the websites provided.
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [NMI] *
https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/57533.pdf  
http://www.paclii.org/pits/en/country_information.shtml#cnmi

Capital: Saipan

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was named Islas de los Ladrones (Islands of the Thieves) in 1521. Renamed the Marianas in 1667, the islands were nominally a possession of Spain until they were sold to Germany in 1899, except for Guam that was ceded to the U.S.

The islands belonging to Germany were seized by Japan in 1914 and were mandated to Japan by the League of Nations in 1920. U.S. forces occupied the Marianas in World War II. In 1947 the group (excluding Guam) was included in the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Separate status was approved for the islands as a commonwealth in political union with the U.S. in 1975. They became internally self-governing under U.S. military protection in 1978, and trust territory status officially ended in 1986.

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico*

Capital: San Juan

Christopher Columbus named the island San Juan Bautista and the capital city Ciudad de Puerto Rico (Rich Port City). In 1993, the island celebrated the 500th anniversary of its discovery by Columbus. Having been settled by Juan Ponce de Leon, it remained a Spanish possession for more than 400 years.

Under the Treaty of Paris in 1898 (ending the Spanish-American War), Puerto Rico became a U.S. possession. In 1917 Puerto Ricans became U.S. citizens. Today it is organized into 78 municipalities. Puerto Rico directly elects one person to serve a four-year term as a commissioner to the U.S. House of Representatives. Citizens do not have the right to vote for president and vice president of the U.S.

Products manufactured in Puerto Rico are “Made in the USA.” Most of these products are shipped to the U.S. mainland.

Republic of the Marshall Islands
https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/26551.htm

Capital: Majuro, an atoll of 64 islands; government are buildings on three fused islands

After gaining military control of the Marshall Islands from Japan in 1944, the United States assumed administrative control of the Marshall Islands under United Nations auspices as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands following the end of World War II. The Marshall Islands signed a Compact of Free Association with the United States in 1983 and gained independence in 1986 with the Compact’s entry into force. From 1999-2003, the two countries negotiated an Amended Compact effective 2004.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is a sovereign nation. While the government is free to conduct its own foreign relations, it does so under the terms of the Compact. The United States has full authority and responsibility for security and defense of the Marshall Islands, and the government of the Marshall Islands is obligated to refrain from taking actions that would be incompatible with these security and defense responsibilities. The United States and the Marshall Islands have full diplomatic relations. Marshallese citizens may work and study in the United States without a visa, and serve in the U.S. military.
Republic of Palau
https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1840.htm

Capital: Ngerulmud

Following World War II, in 1947 under UN auspices as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the United States assumed administration of Palau. In 1982, Palau signed a Compact of Free Association with the United States. Palau gained its independence and established diplomatic relations with the United States in 1994, with the entry into force of the Compact, under which the U.S. remains responsible for Palau’s defense for 50 years. Palau is a sovereign nation and conducts its own foreign relations.

The United States and Palau cooperate on a broad range of issues, including strengthening regional security, promoting sustainable development, addressing climate change, and protecting fisheries and the environment. Approximately 500 Palauans serve as volunteers in the U.S. armed forces, and Palau also has one of the highest levels of voting coincidence with the United States at the United Nations.

Territory of U.S. Virgin Islands *

Capital: Charlotte Amalie

Between 1754 and 1917, St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix were Danish colonies. The U.S. officially purchased these Virgin Islands from Denmark on March 31, 1917, for $25 million. The sinking of the Lusitania was the catalyst for purchase after several failed attempts to secure these islands in the eastern Caribbean Sea. In 1920 it was determined that Virgin Islanders had “American nationality” but not the “political status of citizens.” Full U.S. citizenship was extended in 1932 by an act of Congress.

Sugar cane had been its main crop until slavery was abolished. Its tourism industry was severely damaged by hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

Wake Island or Wake Atoll
https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/272098.pdf
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Pacific_Remote_Islands_Marine_National_Monument/
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/wake_atoll/

Capital: Uninhabited, no capital
Administered from Washington, D.C. (Fish & Wildlife Service)

Wake Island is U.S. territory, over which U.S. sovereignty is based, in part, on nearly uninterrupted possession and administration since 1898, when the United States first claimed possession of the uninhabited atoll, formalizing its claim in 1899.

The United States has engaged in extensive military and commercial activities on Wake Island since at least 1935, maintains absolute administrative control of Wake Island, has continued to occupy and use Wake Island, and strictly regulates access to Wake Island. (page 528, Digest of United States Practice in International Law)

This remote Pacific island is about 11 times the size of the National Mall. No indigenous inhabitants; 200 civilian contractors providing services to U.S. military personnel and contractors reside on the island. Originally used for a cable station, Wake gained military significance. In 1940-41, the U.S. constructed air and naval bases; in December 1941 the island was captured by the Japanese and held until the end of WWII.
Possessions of the United States

Midway Islands (or atolls)
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Midway_Atoll/about/
Virtual_Visit.html
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Midway_Atoll/
✓ Administered from Washington, D.C. (Fish & Wildlife Service)
✓ Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Battle of Midway National Memorial (2000)
✓ Within Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
https://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/education/virtual_visits.html
Claimed in 1876, annexed in 1908, military significance Currently closed to the public; visit by virtual tour

Navassa Island
https://coastal.er.usgs.gov/navassa/
✓ Administered from Washington, D.C. (Dept. of Interior, USGS)
✓ Navassa National Wildlife Refuge l “Galapagos of the Caribbean”
Uninhabited, 5 km island in the Caribbean Sea between Haiti and Jamaica
Since 1857, guano production; preserve coral reef, native wildlife and plants; closed to public, for wildlife research

Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/pacific_remote_islands_marine_national_monument/
One of the largest marine conservation areas in the world; it was established on January 6, 2009, by President George W. Bush under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. Five main islands, atolls and reef are administered by U.S. departments. These are:

- Baker Island
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Baker_island/
✓ Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge Administered from Washington, D.C. (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Claimed under the Guano Act of 1856

- Howland Island
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/howland_island/
✓ Howland Island National Wildlife Refuge, near the equator Administered from Washington, D.C. (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Claimed under the Guano Act of 1856

- Jarvis Island
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Jarvis_Island/
✓ Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuge Administered from Washington, D.C. (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Claimed under the Guano Act of 1856

- Johnston Atoll
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/johnston_atoll/
✓ Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, near the equator Administered from Washington, D.C. (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Since 1858, for guano production

- Kingman Reef
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/kingman_reef/
✓ Kingman Reef National Wildlife Refuge Administered from Washington, D.C. (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Since 1922; stopping point for air traffic
An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

**Palmyra Atoll**
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/palmyra_atoll/
✓ Administered from Washington, D.C. (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
✓ Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, near the equator
Since 1898, was part of the Hawaii acquisition

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai’i manages a small research camp at Palmyra Atoll for the Palmyra Atoll Research Consortium.

**Wake Atoll**
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/wake_atoll/
✓ Administered from Washington, D.C. (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
✓ Wake Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, near the equator
See Wake Island

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**Owned and Influenced by the United States**

Also having a special relationship with the United States currently or in its past are current states, federal district and countries. Students may be grouped to learn more about each as U.S. possessions and its role in international relations.

**Alaska**
Purchased in 1867; Statehood on January 3, 1959

**District of Columbia**
Founded on July 16, 1790  Maryland and Virginia ceded land

**Hawaii**
Annexed in 1900  Territory; statehood on August 21, 1959

**Cuba:**
- **Guantanamo Bay**  since 1898  military significance; U.S. possession
- **Dominican Republic**  1916-1924  Quell unrest, stabilized finance and infrastructure
- **Haiti**  1915-1934  Quell unrest, to protect U.S. citizens and U.S. financial interests
- **Nicaragua**  1912-1933  During insurrection, to protect U.S. lives and property; gained U.S. control of proposed Nicaragua canal

**Panama Canal Zone**

**The Philippines**
Island IQ

The United States of America is composed of more than its 50 states. Over the years, the government has acquired territories and possessions. Many of these are islands, atolls and reefs. What do you know about them?

1. Which of the following is NOT true?
   a. The Northwest Ordinance, 1787, provided for the first territorial delegate to the House of Representatives.
   b. Following the Spanish-American War, Puerto Rico and the Philippines were provided resident commissioners to the House of Representatives.
   c. Wake Island, annexed in 1899 for a cable station, became a strategic refueling site.
   d. American Samoa is the northernmost territory of the U.S.

2. After hurricanes hit, many Puerto Ricans left Puerto Rico to live in Florida. If they continue to live there, may they vote in the 2018 mid-term elections?
   a. Yes  b. No  c. Only if they get their U.S. passport  d. If they are sponsored by a U.S. citizen

3. What is the national citizenship of a person born in Puerto Rico whose parents were both also born in Puerto Rico?

4. What is the national citizenship of a person born in Guam whose parents where both born in Guam?

5. Of the thousands of islands under the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, one archipelago has become a commonwealth whose residents are U.S. citizens. This one is:

6. Do you think the federal government should or should not provide financial assistance to help the U.S. Virgin Islands recover from hurricane damage?
   a. Should  b. Should not  c. Only to U.S.-owned businesses  d. Only for ports and airports to reopen

7. May citizens of Guam, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands serve in the U.S. military?
   a. Yes, all may volunteer for military service.
   b. Only citizens of the U.S. Virgin Islands may serve in the U.S. military.
   c. Only male residents who pass literacy and physical tests may serve.
   d. Only residents of Puerto Rico may serve in the U.S. military.

8. If an individual has income from American Samoa, does he or she have to file a tax return there and in the U.S.?
   a. Yes. Tax departments always get their money.
   b. No, only in the U.S.
   c. No, only in American Samoa.
   d. Most likely, especially if residency is established in American Samoa.
9. American passengers arriving in Guam on direct United Airlines flights from L.A.
   a. Must have visas.
   b. Skip immigration and proceed directly to Guam Customs and Quarantine.
   c. Register their housing, income and marriage status.
   d. Receive a lei.

10. Many American professional sports teams are composed of foreign-born athletes. Do those who play for U.S. baseball and basketball teams automatically become U.S. citizens?
    a. Yes     b. After four winning seasons  c. No     d. Only if they were born in Europe

11. Currently, delegates to the House of Representatives do all but the following:
    a. All represent islands except the delegate representing D.C.
    b. Speak, introduce bills and resolutions and offer amendments on the House floor
    c. Vote in all committees except the Committee of the Whole
    d. Represent territories where the U.S. exercises control and are expected to become states

12. Which of the following is NOT true?
    a. The United States, wanting access to their rich deposits, claimed more than 50 islands under the Guano Islands Act, 1856.
       https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/when-the-western-world-ran-on-guano
    b. American farmers demand for fertilizer to restore their worn-out fields, resulted in U.S. annexation of islands beyond its borders.
       http://americanhistory.si.edu/norie-atlas/guano-islands-act
    c. After the sinking of the Maine, the U.S. saw the strategic military importance of the Virgin Islands. They were bought from Spain in 1917.
    d. Near the end of the Spanish-American War, U.S. forces invaded Puerto Rico, one of Spain’s two main possessions in the Caribbean Sea.
       http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/u-s-takes-control-of-puerto-rico
Territory, Possession, Sovereignty

You are assigned a U.S. territory (current or former), compact or possession for which you are to become an expert. Where do you search for reliable information on its history — before and after relations with the United States began?

What means are available for learning the most current information on the island or land? Using the Monitor feature of the e-Replica edition, you can set up a Topics account or receive immediate News Alerts.

**Here's how you can create a Topics account.**

- After opening the current e-Replica issue of *The Washington Post*, select the My Topics tab under the Navigation Menu.
- Click on “See All” if you have already established some topics.
- Select “Create your first Topic” to open a dialogue box where you can enter your search terms to create a monitor.
- In the space provided, type in your Search Term. Make this a specific request and within quotation marks.
- Be sure to select which publications you want PressReader/e-Replica to search for you.
- You may even select a language other than English in which to read. See the list of available languages into which *Post* articles are translated.
- Under “Results Located” indicate whether you want only headlines, only the body of the article, or both locations to be monitored.
- If you check “Top Stories,” Press Reader will narrow your search to send you only the best articles that match your topic’s search. This choice should eliminate duplication of content.
- To retrieve your Topic feed, click on My Topics from the left navigation menu or your Home Feed.

**Here's how you can create Email Alerts.**

These alerts arrive immediately to your inbox every time a new story related to your topic is available.

- After you log in, click on your name in the top right corner.
- Select “Manage Account” and then “Notifications.”
- Be sure the “Service Alerts” checkbox is marked.
- Choose the topic for which you want to receive alerts and frequency.
- For frequency of e-mail notification, you have three choices: once a day, every other day and as-it-happens. Select the one you want.
- After reviewing the information that you have provided, hit the Save Monitor button.
- If you are receiving too many alerts, you can return to change frequency or to narrow the topic.

Before setting up a Topics monitor, you might experiment with different terms. Do a search for the following terms in the e-Replica edition. How do the results vary with the use of quotation marks? Next select different date ranges to see how this influences the search results.

- Hawaii
- “Hawaiian sovereignty”
- “Hawaii” “Kingdom of Hawaii”
- “Nation of Hawaii”
Corals appear pale white after a bleaching event in American Samoa, when the XL Catlin Seaview Survey responded to a NOAA coral bleaching alert.

Bird Island Lookout at the north end of Saipan.
Federated States of Micronesia

LOCATION

POPULATION

RELATION WITH U.S.

SOURCES OF INCOME

Territory of Guam

LOCATION

POPULATION

RELATION WITH U.S.

SOURCES OF INCOME

Two Lovers' Point is located near the island's major resort areas.
Navassa Island

LOCATION

POPULATION

RELATION WITH U.S.

SOURCES OF INCOME

Palmyra Atoll

LOCATION

POPULATION

RELATION WITH U.S.

SOURCES OF INCOME

Pink coral is seen on the Palmyra Atoll, which had an existing 50-mile safeguard.

THE ISLANDS: U.S. TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS
Midway Island or Midway Atoll

**LOCATION**

**POPULATION**

**RELATION WITH U.S.**

**SOURCES OF INCOME**

Laysan albatross in the rain.

NOAA/ANDY COLLINS

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

**LOCATION**

**POPULATION**

**RELATION WITH U.S.**

**SOURCES OF INCOME**

Tropical rain forest of Puerto Rico.

RICKY CARIOTI/THE WASHINGTON POST

THE ISLANDS: U.S. TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS
A film by the U.S. Air Force documents the megaton-caliber nuclear tests conducted in 1954 in the Marshall Islands. The first detonation in this clip is the 15-megaton Castle Bravo shot, the largest-ever U.S. test, which exploded with 1,000 times the force of the Hiroshima bomb.

The world-famous rock islands of Palau jut up out of the North Atlantic southeast of the Philippines.
**Territory of U.S. Virgin Islands**

**LOCATION**

**POPULATION**

**RELATION WITH U.S.**

**SOURCES OF INCOME**

![Cruise ships in Charlotte Amalie harbor.](CIA.GOV)

**Wake Island or Wake Atoll**

**LOCATION**

**POPULATION**

**RELATION WITH U.S.**

**SOURCES OF INCOME**

A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor is launched on Wake Island during a test in Nov. 2015.

![A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor](DOD’S MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY)