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Group: 2 (Form 3-5)

Topic: Dear America

### **Dear America,**

I am Malaysia. I believe you have heard very little of me, for I am easily overlooked by a country as big as you. Trust me, I am less than a quarter of your size.

I have 14 states altogether. Most of my states are in a peninsula, located just below Thailand. At the end of the peninsula, one of my states, Johor, is just a bridge away from Singapore, which I am pretty sure you know quite well. I am also located on the east of Sumatra, Indonesia. Two of my states, Sarawak and Sabah, are located on Borneo Island. In between the two of them, there is a small country called Brunei. Towards the south of Sarawak and Sabah is Kalimantan, Indonesia. If you must know, Sarawak and Sabah are separated from my other states by the South China Sea.

My national flag is called the Stripes of Glory. As I have mentioned, I have 14 states altogether. This is actually the relevance of the 14 red and white stripes on my national flag. The red and white stripes on our flags are quite similar to yours, don't you think? However, we have a different way of showing the number of states that we have on our flags. Unlike you, I do not have 14 stars on my flag, but I do have one yellow star, with 14 points to represent each state of my country. Now, I would like to tell you the meaning of the colours on my flag. Red represents bravery, white is for purity, blue is for unity of my country, and lastly yellow symbolises royalty.

Now, I would like to tell you about Malaysians. As of July 2010, Malaysia's population is estimated to be 28,334,000. Malaysians are of many different races and religions. Yes, Malaysia may be a Muslim country, however non-Muslim Malaysians are free to practice their own religion. The three main ethnics of Malaysia are Malay, Chinese and Indian. There are many other ethnics, especially in East Malaysia. One of the things I am very proud of my country is the unity of Malaysians despite their differences in race and religion. They get along very well and are each other's support system when times get rough for the country. It is not always that you see a country whose people are of different races and religions in unity. Other than that, food also exists in a very wide variety. This is because of the different cultures that I have. With that, I would like to bring up the fact that Malaysia has probably more religious festive seasons throughout the year compared to other countries because of the different religions practiced by Malaysians. During these festive seasons, Malaysians get to taste a wide variety of food and indulge in the culture of different races. This contributes to the reasons why Malaysians are very much in unity. I am very proud to say that I am indeed rich in cultural diversity.

I am not sure if it would ring any bells, but if you have ever heard of the Petronas Twin Towers, they are in fact located in my capital state, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. These towers are the most iconic towers in Malaysia. They are 88 floors

high. For those who would like to see Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 17 metres above ground, they can walk across the Sky Bridge located on the 41<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> floors that connects the two towers. Kuala Lumpur is also famous for shopping malls and districts. One example is the Bukit Bintang district in Kuala Lumpur. It is a very busy entertainment district, even at night. I also a very big theme park called the Sunway Lagoon. Sunway Lagoon provides more than 80 attractions spread all over the theme park. In another one of my state, Melaka, there is the famous A Famosa, the Portuguese fortress. A Famosa is one of the oldest European architectural structures in South East Asia. I have many wildlife national parks as well as marine parks. Manukan Island, an island just off the coast of Kota Kinabalu, Sabah is one of the marine parks that I have. Call me conceited, but I have to say that I am a very beautiful country.

Dear America, I may be a small country compared to you. I may not have the luxury of the four seasons that you experience. The bigger countries in this world may often overlook me. However, I shall not let my pride and glory be stepped upon. So dear America, come hither, as I am a treasure that you have yet to discover.

Yours truly,  
Malaysia