

**National Council for Geographic Education
Curriculum & Instruction Committee
Geography Club**

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Ninth Month Activities

Geography for Life: National Geography Standards

The World in Spatial Terms

Standard 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information

Standard 3: How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface

Places and Regions

Standard 4: The physical and human characteristics of places

Standard 5: That people create regions to interpret the Earth's complexity

Human Systems

Standard 9: The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface

Standard 12: The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement

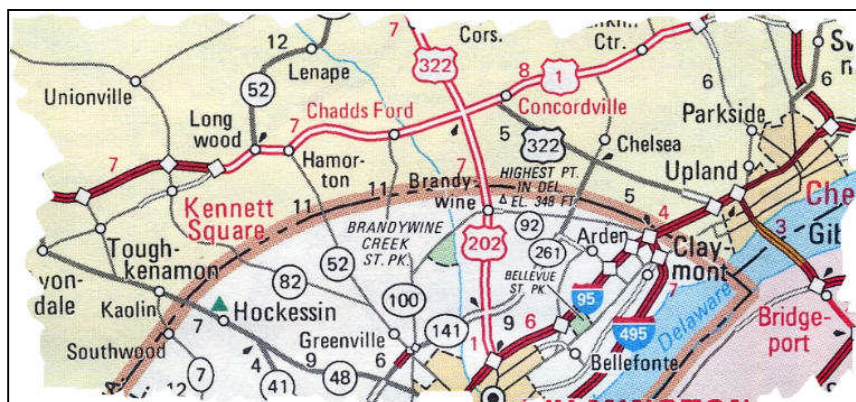
Environment and Society

Standard 15: How physical systems affect human settlement

I. Warm-up Activity: Map Scraps

Examine each "Map Scrap" and try to determine the locations. Use an atlas and other reference materials to answer the questions.

Map Scrap 9-1



Map: American Automobile Association

Questions:

1. The arc-shaped boundary marks the border of which two states?
2. Which state is located to the east across the river shown on the map?
3. What river and bay lie to the east of one of the states shown on the map?
4. What large bay lies southwest of this portion of the map?
5. This portion of the map is the northern end of what peninsula?

Map Scrap 9-2



Map: American Automobile Association

Questions:

1. Which two states are shown on this map scrap?
2. What river shown on the map scrap forms part of the border between the two states?
3. Which body of water lies to the west?
4. North of the portion shown on the map scrap is a peninsula and a national park that share the same name. Name them.
5. What mountain range, noted for its volcanic peaks, lies to the east of the area shown on the map scrap?

II. Activity: On the Border

Note to teachers/sponsors: The activities that follow are suggestions. You are encouraged to adapt them as you need to, so they are useful to the ages and abilities of your group. Feel free to “pick and choose” from these activities. Also, use them as springboards to other activities that fit the interests of your students. You may also want to incorporate a field study experience, if applicable.

Introduction

Boundaries are evident on any political map. An examination those lines drawn on the map reveal several differences. Some are ruler-strait lines while others wind and wiggle across the landscape. This activity will examine boundaries in general and look at some examples of notable and unusual boundaries.

Materials needed:

Political and physical maps of the United States and the world
World atlas (optional)

Getting Started

Have students look at a political map of the United States focusing on the state borders. Ask them what they notice about the boundaries shown on the map. How are they alike and different? Are there any patterns they notice about them? Compare the political map with a physical map. What physical features lie along the boundaries between states?

With the students' observations as background, provide students with a definition. *Boundary* - commonly refers to an imaginary line that divides one country from another. Boundaries can divide states, counties, cities or other political units. Boundaries between countries are generally formed in stages. First the boundary is defined by agreement or treaty. This written description is then delimited, or drawn on a map. Finally, the boundary is demarcated, or marked on the landscape in some fashion.

Look at the U.S.-Canadian border on the map. Through negotiation and treaty the boundary was defined (remember Fifty-Four Forty or Fight!) see <http://geography.about.com/library/weekly/aa031600a.htm> for an overview. Next, the boundary was delimited on the map, as we see on the political map. Finally, the boundary was demarcated on the landscape in a variety of ways; at border crossings and by boundary markers and clearings. See <http://media.msnbc.msn.com/j/msnbc/1573000/1573744.widec.jpg> for clearing and <http://www.blorch.net/photoalbum/border.jpg> for a marker.

Additionally, boundaries are not confined to the surface. They form a vertical plane that extends beneath the surface, including claims to any resources. The plane extends above the land surface to include the airspace over the territory. Boundaries also extend offshore. Coastal countries may claim up to 12 nautical miles offshore as territorial sea. An additional 188 nautical miles may be claimed as an "exclusive economic zone" with rights to resources and fish within the zone.

Physical Boundaries

Return to the U.S. political map. Have students look for borders that follow physical features such as rivers and mountains. What shape do these borders have? What are some notable examples? Have students work in teams to identify major rivers and mountains that form the boundaries between states. Students can make a list of state boundaries that lie on major rivers. Have them construct a chart that identifies the complete and partial boundaries formed by major rivers. An example follows.

<u>River</u>	<u>Complete Boundary</u>	<u>Partial Boundary</u>
Mississippi River	Iowa - east Illinois - west Missouri - east Tennessee - west Arkansas - east Mississippi - west	Minnesota - east Wisconsin - west Kentucky - west Louisiana - east

River	Complete Boundary	Partial Boundary
Missouri River		South Dakota - south Nebraska - east Iowa - west Kansas - east Missouri - west

Where do mountains form part or all of state borders? Have students use a political and physical map to locate the Appalachian Mountains and note the state boundaries that follow the mountains. North Carolina and Tennessee are but one example. Do the same for the Rocky Mountains.

What other physical features form the boundaries between states?

Geometric Boundaries

Looking at the map of the United States we note many straight line boundaries. These geometric boundaries usually follow a line of latitude or longitude. Which part of the United States has more geometric boundaries? Note that these geometric boundaries often cut across physical features such as the Rocky Mountains and rivers.

United States Boundary

Have students examine the boundary between the United States and Mexico and the United States and Canada.

What river forms much of the U.S.-Mexican boundary? Which states share a geometric boundary with Mexico?

The U.S. - Canadian boundary is more complicated. Starting in the east, compile a list of geometric and physical features that form the boundary. What water feature dominates the border in the Midwest?

U.S. State Boundaries

How well do you know your state boundaries? Use a map of your state and note all the physical features that form parts of your state boundary. What line of latitude or longitude forms any geometric boundary? Research any unusual boundary features and any boundary disputes, past or present, with neighboring states.

Locate some interesting and unusual state boundaries in the United States. Use a political map of individual states or U. S. regions to see if you can find . . .

1. Four states boundaries that meet at one point.
2. A lake at the angle formed by the Nevada-California boundary.
3. A dam and lake that lie on the Arizona-Nevada border.
4. Swamp that straddles the Florida-Georgia border.
5. A national park on the North-Carolina-Tennessee border.
6. Plains region along the Texas-New Mexico border.
7. River that forms the New Jersey-Pennsylvania boundary.
8. A geometric border that is not a straight line that forms the border between two Middle Atlantic states.

9. A lake that forms part of the boundary between Vermont and New York.
10. A well-known geometric “line” surveyed by Mason and Dixon forms the boundary between these two states.

Can you find any other unique and unusual state boundaries? Write clues for any that you find.

Boundaries around the World

Using a political map of the world or a region of the world, have students examine the boundaries between countries. Have them locate examples of boundaries along physical features such as mountains and rivers. Some examples might include the Pyrenees Mountains and the Alps in Europe, the Andes Mountains in South America, the Amur River in Asia, and the Himalaya in Asia.

Another activity would be to research barriers that have been constructed to demarcate historic or present borders. For example, the Great Wall of China was constructed on the northern boundary of China. Hadrian’s Wall in northern Great Britain marked the northern extent of the Roman Empire. More recently the Berlin Wall was a stark barrier dividing the city of Berlin during the Cold War. The Iron Curtain was a barrier dividing Europe during that period.

Exploring other Boundaries

There are other types of boundaries besides political ones. Countries and regions are often divided by language, religion, or ethnicity. You can find examples of these kinds of boundaries on thematic maps in a world atlas. An ethnic map of the Balkan Peninsula in Europe reveals a patchwork of many ethnic groups spreading across national borders. Similarly, a language map of Europe reveals language families spread across the continent.

Other thematic maps may show demographic and socio-economic information such as population growth (net increase), birth rate, death rate, and per capita gross national product. It should be noted that these “boundaries” are not like political boundaries in that they show generalized data on a map rather than a delineated line. There are always exceptions within and transition zones between these non-political boundaries.

III. Geo-Questions

Political geography and borders are the focus of this month’s questions.

1. What three rivers form the eastern and western borders of Iowa?
2. Which of the Great Lakes does not border the state of Michigan?
3. Which U.S. state only borders one other state?
4. What national park lies on the border between Minnesota and Canada?

5. Which U.S. state has a section called the “Bootheel” because it resembles the heel of a boot projecting south from the rest of the state?
6. Which Canadian province and territory border Alaska?
7. Which country became landlocked in 1884 as a result of a war with Chile?
8. Which Mediterranean island nation is divided by a boundary that separates Turkish and Greek nationalities?
9. Islands that lie in an archipelago north of Japan are claimed by Japan and Russia. Name this island group.
10. Southeast Asia has many countries with elongated and fragmented borders. Which country has part of its territory on the Malay Peninsula and part on the island of Borneo?

Answers

I. Map Scraps

Map 9-1

1. Delaware and Pennsylvania
2. New Jersey
3. Delaware River and Delaware Bay
4. Chesapeake Bay
5. Delmarva Peninsula (named for the three states that make up the area - Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia)

Map 9-2

1. Washington and Oregon
2. Columbia River
3. Pacific Ocean
4. Olympic Peninsula and Olympic National Park
5. Cascade Range

II. Activity: On the Border

U.S. State Boundaries - See if you can find. . .

1. Four Corners - Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado
2. Lake Tahoe
3. Hoover Dam and Lake Mead
4. Okefenokee Swamp
5. Great Smoky Mountains National Park
6. Llano Estacado (Staked Plain)
7. Delaware River
8. Delaware and Pennsylvania
9. Lake Champlain
10. Pennsylvania and Maryland

III. Geo-Questions

1. Mississippi River on the east, and Missouri River and Big Sioux River on the west
2. Lake Ontario
3. Maine only borders New Hampshire
4. Voyageurs National Park

5. Missouri
6. British Columbia and Yukon Territory
7. Bolivia
8. Cyprus
9. Kuril Islands
10. Malaysia