

Exercise walk-through

# 4.5

## The Function of Political Boundaries

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AP Human Geography

# Boundary history and geometry

| Type                | Evidence needed                                                                                                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Antecedent</b>   | Predates later intensive settlement or cultural landscape development; not evidence that Indigenous inhabitants were absent. |
| <b>subsequent</b>   | Develops after settlement and cultural landscapes.                                                                           |
| Consequent          | Drawn to reflect cultural divisions, often treated as a subsequent type.                                                     |
| <b>superimposed</b> | Imposed with little regard for existing cultural patterns.                                                                   |
| Geometric           | Follows straight lines or geometric rules; geometry does not establish origin.                                               |

# Boundary classification: attempt

## **Original treaty history**

An external authority imposes a straight line across two existing language communities without consulting them. Later the border ceases to function, but its checkpoints remain.

Classify the line at creation by geometry and origin. Classify the later traces. Explain why one label alone is incomplete.

## Boundary classification: worked check

| Dimension      |          | Evidence and classification                                                                   |
|----------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Geometry       |          | Straight-line rule: geometric.                                                                |
| Origin         |          | Imposed without regard to existing communities: superimposed.                                 |
| <b>relic</b>   | / relict | No longer a functioning political border, but traces remain.                                  |
| Interpretation |          | Categories can overlap. A straight line can be negotiated; a curved line can be superimposed. |

## Land-cover evidence and political boundaries



Historical clear-cut logging photograph

A visible land-cover edge is not necessarily a political border.

The photograph shows landscape change. Establish jurisdiction with maps, records and boundary descriptions.

Do not infer who controls the land or how a boundary originated from this image alone.

# Establishing and administering boundaries

| Activity       | What it does                                                                                           |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Definition     | Agrees wording describing the territorial division.                                                    |
| Delimitation   | Draws the agreed line on a map.                                                                        |
| Demarcation    | Marks locations physically, for example with posts; a continuous fence is not required.                |
| Administration | Manages crossings and enforcement. A legal line and its crossing arrangements are different questions. |

## Exercises 2.1-2.2

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**2.1** Define gerrymandering.

[2]

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**2.2** State what an allocational boundary dispute is about.

[2]

## Exercises 2.1·2.2

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**2.1** Define gerrymandering.

[2]

**2.1**

- drawing electoral district boundaries unfairly to give one party or group an advantage
- 

**2.2** State what an allocational boundary dispute is about.

[2]

**2.2**

- a disagreement over resources such as oil, gas, or water that cross or lie beneath the boundary

## Exercise 2.3 (a)

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**2.3** Two states agree where their border is but argue over the oil field beneath it.

(a) Name this dispute type.

[1]

## Exercise 2.3 (a)

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**2.3** Two states agree where their border is but argue over the oil field beneath it.

(a) Name this dispute type.

[1]

(a)

- allocational

## Exercise 2.3 (b)

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**2.3** Two states agree where their border is but argue over the oil field beneath it.

(b) Name the dispute type if instead they argued over the treaty's exact wording. [1]

## Exercise 2.3 (b)

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**2.3** Two states agree where their border is but argue over the oil field beneath it.

(b) Name the dispute type if instead they argued over the treaty's exact wording. [1]

(b)

- definitional

## Exercises 3.1-3.2

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**3.1** Redrawing district lines to favour one political party is

[1]

☐

- A redistricting
- B gerrymandering
- C devolution
- D demarcation

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**3.2** Two countries dispute exactly where a river boundary lies after the river shifted. This is a

[1]

☐

- A definitional dispute
- B locational dispute
- C operational dispute
- D allocational dispute

## Exercises 3.1-3.2

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**3.1** Redrawing district lines to favour one political party is

[1]

☐

- A redistricting
- B gerrymandering
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**3.1 B**

- unfair redrawing to favour a party is gerrymandering

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**3.2** Two countries dispute exactly where a river boundary lies after the river shifted. This is a

[1]

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- A definitional dispute
- B locational dispute
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- D allocational dispute

**3.2 B**

- disagreement over the line's position = locational dispute

## Exercise 3.3 (a)

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**3.3** Neighbours disagree over how a shared border crossing should be managed and policed.

(a) Name this dispute type.

[1]

## Exercise 3.3 (a)

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**3.3** Neighbours disagree over how a shared border crossing should be managed and policed.

(a) Name this dispute type.

[1]

(a)

- operational dispute

## Exercise 3.3 (b)

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**3.3** Neighbours disagree over how a shared border crossing should be managed and policed.

(b) Explain how it differs from an allocational dispute.

[1]

## Exercise 3.3 (b)

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**3.3** Neighbours disagree over how a shared border crossing should be managed and policed.

(b) Explain how it differs from an allocational dispute. [1]

(b)

- operational is about running/managing the border; allocational is about resources