

4 States, nations and boundaries – Part 1

—Answers

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Work through these after you have tried the questions yourself.

4.1 A state is a politically organised territory with defined borders, a permanent population, a government and sovereignty; a nation is a group of people sharing a cultural identity, which may or may not have a state.

4.2 A nation with a shared identity but no sovereign state of its own—for example the Kurds, whose territory is divided among several states.

4.3 Its territory is in separate pieces, so transport, defence and administration must cross land or water controlled by others, which raises cost and weakens central control over the outlying parts.

4.4 A superimposed boundary is one drawn by an outside power across an existing cultural landscape, without regard to the groups living there. It causes conflict because it can divide one nation between two states and force rival groups into a single state.

4.5 An allocational dispute.