

4 States, nations and boundaries – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary 词汇

Write each word three times. 把每个单词抄写三遍。

English	中文	Write it 3 times (English)		
state	国家	_____	_____	_____
nation	民族	_____	_____	_____
nation-state	民族国家	_____	_____	_____
multinational state	多民族国家	_____	_____	_____
stateless nation	无国之民族	_____	_____	_____
Sovereignty	主权	_____	_____	_____
Self-determination	民族自决	_____	_____	_____
Compact	紧凑型	_____	_____	_____
Elongated	狭长型	_____	_____	_____
Fragmented	破碎型	_____	_____	_____
Perforated	穿孔型	_____	_____	_____
Prorupted	突出型	_____	_____	_____
landlocked	内陆	_____	_____	_____
antecedent boundary	先成边界	_____	_____	_____
subsequent boundary	后成边界	_____	_____	_____

English	中文	Write it 3 times (English)		
superimposed boundary	强加边界	_____	_____	_____
relict boundary	遗迹边界	_____	_____	_____
geometric	几何边界	_____	_____	_____
physical	自然边界	_____	_____	_____
Definitional	定义争端	_____	_____	_____
Locational	位置争端	_____	_____	_____
Operational	运作争端	_____	_____	_____
Allocational	资源争端	_____	_____	_____

Recall

You know that the world is divided into countries, that borders exist, and that some borders are disputed.

This sheet gives you the precise vocabulary — because in this unit “state”, “nation” and “country” mean different things.

New ideas

■ 1 State, nation, nation-state

A **state** 国家 is a politically organised territory with a permanent population, defined borders, a government, and sovereignty — recognition by other states.

A **nation** 民族 is a group of people with a shared cultural identity, who see themselves as belonging together. It is about people, not territory.

A **nation-state** 民族国家 is a state whose borders closely match a single nation. Iceland and Japan are near examples; most states are not.

A **multinational state** 多民族国家 contains several nations (Russia, Canada). A **stateless nation** 无国之民族 is a nation with no state of its own — the Kurds are the standard example.

■ 2 Sovereignty and its limits

Sovereignty 主权 is a state's right to govern its territory without outside interference. It is qualified in practice by membership of supranational organisations, by treaties, and by economic dependence.

Self-determination 民族自决 is the principle that a nation has the right to govern itself. It is the argument behind both decolonisation and modern separatist movements, and it collides directly with the sovereignty of existing states — which is why these disputes are hard.

■ 3 Shapes of states

The shape of a state has real consequences for governing it. **Compact** 紧凑型 (roughly circular, easiest to govern). **Elongated** 狭长型 (long and thin — transport and communication are costly). **Fragmented** 破碎型 (in separate pieces, sometimes across water). **Perforated** 穿孔型 (completely surrounds another state). **Prorupted** 突出型 (a compact core with a corridor extending out, often to reach a resource or the sea).

A **landlocked** 内陆 state has no coastline and so depends on neighbours for sea trade. An **enclave** is a territory entirely inside another state; an **exclave** is part of a state separated from its main body.

■ 4 Kinds of boundary

By origin: an **antecedent boundary** 先成边界 was drawn before the area was heavily settled; a **subsequent boundary** 后成边界 was drawn as the cultural landscape developed; a **superimposed boundary** 强加边界 was forced on an existing cultural landscape by an outside power — the colonial borders of Africa; a **relict boundary** 遗迹边界 no longer functions but is still visible.

By type: **geometric** 几何边界 (a straight line, often a parallel or meridian) or **physical** 自然边界 (a river, a mountain crest).

■ 5 Boundary disputes

Definitional 定义争端: the two sides read the treaty text differently. **Locational** 位置争端: they agree the wording and disagree where it falls on the ground. **Operational** 运作争端: they disagree about how the border should be managed — migration, smuggling. **Allocational** 资源争端: they disagree about a resource that crosses it — oil, water, fish.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

4.1 Distinguish between a state and a nation. [2]

4.2 Define a stateless nation and give one example. [2]

4.3 Explain one governing difficulty caused by a fragmented state shape. [2]

4.4 Explain what a superimposed boundary is and why such boundaries often cause conflict. [3]

4.5 Name the type of boundary dispute that concerns a resource crossing the border. [1]
