



Borders, boundaries, and barriers

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for Human Geography

Audience – Human geography

Time required – 15 minutes

URL: <http://esriurl.com/humanGeoInquiry9>



AP Human Geography Course Descriptors

- A. Spatial political patterns reflect ideas of territoriality and power at a variety of scales
 - a. Evaluate the nature and function of international and internal boundaries
 - i. International boundaries establish the limits of sovereignty and can be the source of disputes

Why are boundaries important?

- Click the map URL above to launch the map.
- Zoom and pan the map to see the entire world.

? What types of boundaries are on the earth?

? Why do boundaries exist?

What are examples of the different types of boundaries on the earth?

- With the Details button underlined, click the button, Show Contents of Map (Content).
- Check the box to the left of the layer name, World Administrative Divisions.
- Zoom in to the continent of Europe.

? What types of boundaries can be seen?

- Click a few administrative units to view the data.
- Hover the mouse over the layer name, World Administrative Divisions. Click the three dots and select the option, Transparency. Set transparency to 50%.

? Where do you see geometric boundaries?

? Where do you see physical boundaries?

Are borders just boundaries?

- Disputed boundaries are often shown with dotted lines or notes on the map itself.

? On which boundaries do countries disagree?

- Filter the data in the World Administrative Divisions layer.
- Build the following query from the drop-down lists: Disputed Is 1. Ensure that Unique is chosen for the third drop-down list.
- Click Apply Filter. If results do not appear, ensure that the map is zoomed in enough that the layer name appears in dark text.

? What changed on the map?

? Where are most of the disputed boundaries of the world located?

? Why?

→ Turn off the layer, World Administrative Divisions.

What other types of boundaries and borders exist on the earth?

→ Click the button, Basemap. Select the basemap, Imagery with Labels.

→ Click the button, Bookmark. Select e Great Wall of China.

? What barrier do you see?

→ Click the Republic of Chile bookmark.

? What type of border can be found here?

→ Observe the border of Chile with Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina.

? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this border?

→ Click the North and South Korea bookmark.

? What type of boundary is between these two countries?

How can borders change?

→ Investigate the boundary of Western Sahara and Morocco.

? What would happen if Morocco controlled the area region?

? What natural, cultural, or political factors can affect boundaries?

? How have trade and globalization affected borders and boundaries of countries around the world?