

Unit 4: Political Geography (How is Space Organized?)

Directions: Work by yourself, with a partner or in a group of three to complete the information on this sheet. Starred (*) questions are not in your book.

A: States

1. Using the map on pages 224 and 225, how does the map represent the term "state"?
2. How do states receive recognition?
3. About how many states exist in our world?
4. Is this world map considered "natural"? Why or why not?
5. *Would you consider the city-states of ancient Mesopotamia states? Why or why not?

B: Territoriality

1. What is the definition of territoriality?
2. How do Robert Sack and Robert Ardrey disagree over this concept?
3. * A commonwealth is a territory with a mutual agreement with another state for the benefit of both parties. What are two such territories the United States has this relationship with?

C: Sovereignty

1. What is sovereignty?
2. How are sovereignty and territoriality tied closely together?
3. *How do Native American Indian reservations in the United States exemplify sovereignty?

D: Nations

1. The terms state and country are used interchangeably. How does nation differ from these terms?
2. Why is Belgium said to have two nations?
3. *There are three nations within Iraq. What are they?
4. *Are nations always loyal to their states? (Hint: Think about al-Queda.)

E: Nation-States

1. What is a definition for nation-state?
2. Why are there very few nation-states?
3. What is a state called that has more than one nation within its borders? How do states try to achieve stability with different nations within their boundaries?
4. *Japan and Denmark are good examples of nation-states, although they are not perfect. Why do you think they can be considered nation-states?

F: Multistate Nation

1. What is a multistate nation?
2. How is the territory of Transylvania an example of this?

G: Stateless Nations

1. What is a stateless nation?
2. Why are the Palestinians considered a stateless nation?
3. *What problems may exist for stateless nations?

H: Modern State Idea

1. What is the Peace of Westphalia?
2. How did these treaties contribute to the modern idea of state?
3. How did the modern idea of state diffuse?

I: The World Economy

1. Define the terms core, semi-periphery and periphery in the context of the world economy.
2. Describe how the map on page 233 demonstrates the three-tier structure of the world economy.

J: Capitalist Economy

1. What is capitalism?
2. Why would the profit motive of capitalism encourage a North Carolina based company to seek cheap labor in Mexico?
3. How does capitalism promote commodification?