

Why Lines Moved

Trace the push-pull factors behind changes to U.S. boundaries.

SS.5.G.2.1 "Describe the push-pull factors (e.g., economy, natural hazards, tourism, climate, physical features) that influenced boundary changes within the United States."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every phrase that shows a push or pull factor. Write E for economy, F for physical feature, C for climate, S for safety, or G for government beside each underlined phrase.

Forces That Changed Borders

- ① In 1819, the United States and Spain signed the Adams-Onís Treaty. The treaty moved the U.S. boundary south and gave Florida to the United States. U.S. leaders wanted safer control of the region after raids crossed the border. They also wanted to protect trade on rivers leading to the Gulf of Mexico. Spain was having trouble governing Florida, so it agreed to the change.
- ② The Gadsden Purchase treaty was signed in 1853. The purchase was completed in 1854, changing the southern U.S. boundary. The United States bought a strip of land from Mexico, now southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. Leaders wanted a flatter route for a railroad that could link the South to California. The physical features of the land made building tracks easier there than across higher mountains. A railroad also promised trade and jobs.
- ③ In 1846, the Oregon Treaty set the boundary between the United States and British territory at the 49th parallel, except on Vancouver Island. U.S. settlers had been pulled west by fertile soil, mild valleys, and fur-trading opportunities. Britain also valued the region's fur trade. Instead of fighting, the two governments agreed to divide the land. Economic opportunities and physical features helped make the Oregon Country important to both sides.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two reasons did U.S. leaders have for wanting Florida?

2 How did physical features influence the Gadsden Purchase?

3 Name two factors that pulled U.S. settlers toward the Oregon Country.

4 Compare the economic reasons connected to Florida and Oregon. What kind of trade mattered in each place?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine two neighboring states are considering a small boundary change. Write exactly three sentences explaining one factor that pushes people away from one area and one factor that pulls them to the other area. In the third sentence, state how these factors could lead leaders to propose a new boundary.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every phrase that shows a push or pull factor. Write E for economy, F for physical feature, C for climate, S for safety, or G for government beside each underlined phrase. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two reasons did U.S. leaders have for wanting Florida?	They wanted safer control after border raids and wanted to protect trade on rivers leading to the Gulf of Mexico.
2	How did physical features influence the Gadsden Purchase?	Leaders wanted flatter land for a railroad route because tracks would be easier to build there than across higher mountains.
3	Name two factors that pulled U.S. settlers toward the Oregon Country.	Accept any two: fertile soil, mild valleys, and fur-trading opportunities.
4	Compare the economic reasons connected to Florida and Oregon. What kind of trade mattered in each place?	Florida mattered for trade on rivers leading to the Gulf of Mexico. Oregon mattered for the fur trade.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Frequent floods push families away from the low river plain in State A. New farm jobs pull them toward State B. Leaders might propose moving the boundary so the growing town and its nearby services are governed by one state.

Accept accurately stated push or pull factors from the passage, including safety, government problems, economic opportunity, climate, and physical features. For the open response, accept any plausible boundary proposal that clearly explains one push factor and one pull factor.