

Lines of Power

Use political labels to identify divisions and boundaries in North America.

SS.7.G.1.3 "Interpret maps to identify geopolitical divisions and boundaries of places in North America."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each name of a geopolitical division, but not physical features, then underline each statement about a named boundary and write 1 beside an international boundary or 2 beside an internal boundary.

Reading Political Lines

- ① On a political map of North America, lines and labels show who governs different areas. Canada, the United States, and Mexico are countries. The line between Canada and the United States separates two countries, so it is an international boundary. The line between the United States and Mexico is also international. These political lines are different from physical features. A river or mountain range may be near a border, but a physical feature does not automatically show a political division.
- ② Other map lines divide areas within a country. In Canada, Ontario and Quebec are provinces. A line between those provinces is an internal boundary because both places are in Canada. In the United States, Colorado and Kansas are states. The line between Colorado and Kansas is an internal boundary because it separates state governments inside one country. Mexico also has states. Sonora and Chihuahua share an internal boundary, since both are states of Mexico. Provinces and states are geopolitical divisions.
- ③ To interpret a political map, first identify the labels on both sides of a line. Then decide whether those labels name separate countries or divisions within one country. Country-to-country lines are international boundaries. Province-to-province or state-to-state lines inside one country are internal boundaries. Do not use location alone to classify a line. A line near the Great Lakes, the Rocky Mountains, or the Gulf of Mexico must be checked against political labels beside it before deciding its type.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What type of boundary is the line between Canada and the United States? What does it separate?

2 Why is the line between Ontario and Quebec an internal boundary?

3 How should you classify the line between Colorado and Kansas? Use the political divisions named in the passage as evidence.

4 A line is near the Great Lakes. What should you check before deciding whether it is international or internal?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly two map-key notes. In the first sentence, classify the boundary between the United States and Mexico and explain why. In the second sentence, classify the boundary between Sonora and Chihuahua and explain why.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each name of a geopolitical division, but not physical features, then underline each statement about a named boundary and write 1 beside an international boundary or 2 beside an internal boundary. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What type of boundary is the line between Canada and the United States? What does it separate?	It is an international boundary. It separates the countries of Canada and the United States.
2	Why is the line between Ontario and Quebec an internal boundary?	Ontario and Quebec are both provinces in Canada, so the line divides areas within one country.
3	How should you classify the line between Colorado and Kansas? Use the political divisions named in the passage as evidence.	It is an internal boundary because Colorado and Kansas are states within the United States.
4	A line is near the Great Lakes. What should you check before deciding whether it is international or internal?	Check the political labels on both sides of the line. Decide whether they name separate countries or divisions within one country.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The line between the United States and Mexico is an international boundary because it separates two countries. The line between Sonora and Chihuahua is an internal boundary because both are states of Mexico.

Accept equivalent wording that correctly uses political labels to distinguish country-to-country boundaries from boundaries within one country. For Part 3, both required pairs must be correctly classified and explained in exactly two sentences.