Across the Border

A nation, a state, and the authority each can exercise

GHW.10.1 "Differentiate between a state (country) and a nation, specifically focusing on the concepts of territorial control and self-determination of internal and foreign affairs..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two descriptions of a state's powers, circle two details showing how Sámi identity relates to borders, and write 1 beside an internal-affairs decision and 2 beside a foreign-affairs decision. Use your marks to compare the authority of a nation and a state.

Sápmi and the States Around It

1. Imagine standing at the northern border between Norway and Finland. The line marks where one state's territorial authority ends and another's begins. Norway is a state, or country: its government makes and enforces laws within its territory and conducts foreign affairs, such as signing treaties with other countries. A nation is different. It is a group of people connected by a sense of shared identity, often through language, history, or culture. A nation does not need its own independent government or borders. One state can contain several nations, while one nation can extend across several states.

2. The Sámi are an Indigenous people whose traditional homeland, Sápmi, stretches across parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Their communities have diverse languages and traditions, so sharing an identity does not mean living in exactly the same way. In Norway, Sámi people are part of the population governed by the Norwegian state. Norway's Sámi Parliament is elected by voters registered on its electoral roll. It represents Sámi interests and has responsibilities in certain cultural and language matters, but it does not replace Norway's national government. Sápmi is not a separate sovereign state, and Sámi identity is not limited to Norway's borders.

3. Suppose a community wants more control over teaching its language in local schools. That is a question of self-determination in internal affairs: who gets a say in decisions that affect the community's life. In Norway, Sámi representatives can press for change and take part in consultations, but Norwegian law sets the framework for public schools. If Norway negotiates a treaty with Finland, its national government handles that foreign affair. Sámi organizations may cooperate across the border, yet they cannot sign a treaty as a sovereign state. The result is a continuing debate about how much authority a nation can exercise within a state.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two powers described in the passage make Norway a state rather than a nation alone?

2. How does the location of Sápmi show that a nation and a state do not always have the same borders?

3. How does Norway's Sámi Parliament give Sámi people a voice without replacing the Norwegian state?

4. Why can Sámi organizations cooperate across the border but not sign a treaty with Finland as a sovereign state?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine the Luma share a language and traditions across two neighboring states. Each state controls its own territory, laws, and treaties, while Luma communities seek a stronger voice in language education. In four sentences, explain why the Luma are a nation but not a state, what internal decision they could seek to influence, and who would control foreign affairs.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two descriptions of a state's powers, circle two details showing how Sámi identity relates to borders, and write 1 beside an internal-affairs decision and 2 beside a foreign-affairs decision. Use your marks to compare the authority of a nation and a state. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two powers described in the passage make Norway a state rather than a nation alone?	**Norway makes and enforces laws within its territory and conducts foreign affairs, including signing treaties.**
2	How does the location of Sápmi show that a nation and a state do not always have the same borders?	**Sápmi extends across parts of four states, while each state has its own territory. Sámi identity is not confined to one state's borders.**
3	How does Norway's Sámi Parliament give Sámi people a voice without replacing the Norwegian state?	**It represents Sámi interests and has responsibilities in some cultural and language matters, but it operates within Norway, whose laws set the framework for public schools.**
4	Why can Sámi organizations cooperate across the border but not sign a treaty with Finland as a sovereign state?	**Cross-border cooperation does not give the organizations sovereign authority over territory or foreign affairs. Norway's national government negotiates its treaties.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Luma are a nation because they share a language and traditions across two state borders. They are not a state because they do not control a territory or conduct foreign affairs as an independent government. Luma communities could seek a stronger role in deciding how their language is taught in local schools. The governments of the two states would still control their own laws and negotiate treaties with other states.

Accept other accurate descriptions of internal influence, such as advising officials about language education. Do not equate the Sámi Parliament's electoral roll with eligibility for every Sámi person to vote.