Cities Across Borders

Use location clues to sketch political maps and describe settlement patterns.

7.C.3.1 "Identify on a political map the major countries and population centers of each region, describing urban, rural, suburban, and metropolitan settlement patterns."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the first mention of each of the six countries and circle the first mention of each of the six population centers. Box words that tell where a country or population center belongs on a map.

Where Countries and Cities Fit

1. A political map shows country borders, but it can also help you place large population centers. In North America, Canada is north of the United States, and Mexico is south of it. These three countries share land borders in that order. Toronto lies in southern Canada, near the Great Lakes. New York City sits in the northeastern United States, near the Atlantic coast. Mexico City lies in central Mexico, far from either coast. A small sketch can show these positions even without tracing every bend in a border.

2. South America has a different arrangement. Peru lies along the Pacific coast, west of Brazil. Brazil stretches across much of eastern South America and shares a border with Argentina to its south. Lima, a major population center, sits on Peru's Pacific coast. Brasília, Brazil's capital, lies inland, away from the Atlantic coast. Buenos Aires sits in eastern Argentina beside the Río de la Plata, a wide estuary. If you sketch these countries, leave room to show Peru beside Brazil and Argentina below Brazil.

3. Country labels do not tell you how people live within each border. An urban area has closely spaced buildings and many residents. A rural area has fewer residents and more open land. Suburban neighborhoods often spread beyond a city's dense center. A metropolitan area includes that city and nearby suburbs linked by jobs and travel. New York City's metropolitan area extends beyond New York State into neighboring states. Around Brasília, suburban communities connect to the city's center, while rural land lies farther out. These patterns can cross lines drawn on a political map.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. On a sketch political map of North America, which country belongs north of the United States? Where in that country would you mark Toronto?

2. Where would you mark Mexico City on a political map? Which settlement term describes a city's densely built center?

3. On a sketch political map of South America, which country belongs west of Brazil? Where would you mark Lima?

4. Which country belongs south of Brazil on your sketch? Where within that country would you mark Buenos Aires?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Draw two simplified political maps, one of the three North American countries and one of the three South American countries in the passage. Use the location clues to label all six countries and all six population centers, then write one sentence in each panel describing a settlement pattern shown or suggested by your map.

ANSWER KEY

Cities Across Borders

GRADE 7 · 7.C.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the first mention of each of the six countries and circle the first mention of each of the six population centers. Box words that tell where a country or population center belongs on a map. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	On a sketch political map of North America, which country belongs north of the United States? Where in that country would you mark Toronto?	**Canada belongs north of the United States. Mark Toronto in southern Canada, near the Great Lakes.**
2	Where would you mark Mexico City on a political map? Which settlement term describes a city's densely built center?	**Mark Mexico City in central Mexico. Its densely built center is urban.**
3	On a sketch political map of South America, which country belongs west of Brazil? Where would you mark Lima?	**Peru belongs west of Brazil. Mark Lima on Peru's Pacific coast.**
4	Which country belongs south of Brazil on your sketch? Where within that country would you mark Buenos Aires?	**Argentina belongs south of Brazil. Mark Buenos Aires in eastern Argentina.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

North America panel: Canada above the United States, with Mexico below it; Toronto in southern Canada, New York City in the northeastern United States, and Mexico City in central Mexico. New York City's metropolitan area reaches into neighboring states. South America panel: Peru west of Brazil, with Argentina south of Brazil; Lima on Peru's Pacific coast, Brasília inland in Brazil, and Buenos Aires in eastern Argentina. Around Brasília, suburban communities are closer to the city center than rural land is.

Accept rough country outlines if the stated relative positions and all six city locations are correct. Settlement sentences should accurately use urban, rural, suburban, or metropolitan.