One Town, Two Sides

How a border shapes life in Nogales

WG.C.4.1 "Analyze the nature and meaning of territorial boundaries and their influence on identity, interaction, and exchange."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one phrase that explains what the boundary does, circle two details that show connections across it, and number two ways it changes movement or trade. Use your marks to trace how one line can connect and separate people.

Life Across the Line

1 At the U.S.-Mexico border, the name Nogales belongs to two neighboring cities: Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Sonora. The international boundary assigns each city to a different country's laws, taxes, and public officials. A fence marks much of the line through the urban area, while official ports of entry allow legal crossings. A person who can see a relative's street across the fence cannot simply walk there. Instead, that person must use a port of entry and meet the rules for crossing. The line is both a legal division and a barrier that channels movement into specific places.

2 The division does not divide every part of daily life. Families, friendships, and the Spanish language connect many people on both sides. Residents may feel tied to the larger border community while also identifying as residents of Mexico or the United States. Some cross through a port to visit relatives, shop, or attend school. Crossing rules, travel documents, and wait times can make those ordinary trips difficult, even when the destination is nearby. A student who must cross for school has a different daily experience from a classmate who lives on the same side as the school.

3 The border also shapes what can be sold and where. Trucks carrying fresh produce from Mexico enter the United States through a Nogales port of entry, where shipments can face inspections and paperwork. U.S. businesses can receive goods to sell, while growers and transport workers can reach customers across the line. Inspections help enforce national rules, but delays can increase costs for sellers of perishable food. A nearby shop whose customers cross for groceries may also lose sales when waits grow long. The same boundary creates a route for exchange and a checkpoint that can slow it, so its effects are not identical for everyone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How is the boundary in Nogales both a legal division and a physical barrier? Use one detail of each kind.

2. Why might someone identify with both a country and the larger Nogales community? Support your answer with details from the passage.

3. Compare how the boundary affects a family visit and a produce shipment. What do both crossings require, and what differs?

4. How can the same boundary help some people exchange goods while making exchange harder for others? Use two examples from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new international boundary divides a fictional town. In one paragraph of 5 to 6 sentences, describe a crossing rule you would propose and analyze how the boundary and your rule would affect local identity, visits between residents, and the exchange of goods.

ANSWER KEY

One Town, Two Sides

HIGH SCHOOL · WG.C.4.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one phrase that explains what the boundary does, circle two details that show connections across it, and number two ways it changes movement or trade. Use your marks to trace how one line can connect and separate people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is the boundary in Nogales both a legal division and a physical barrier? Use one detail of each kind.	**It places the cities under different countries' laws and officials. A fence blocks direct movement and directs people to ports of entry.**
2	Why might someone identify with both a country and the larger Nogales community? Support your answer with details from the passage.	**The person lives under one country's government but may share family ties, friendships, or Spanish with people across the border.**
3	Compare how the boundary affects a family visit and a produce shipment. What do both crossings require, and what differs?	**Both must pass through a port of entry and follow crossing rules. A visitor may need travel documents and face a wait, while a produce shipment may face inspections and paperwork that raise costs if delayed.**
4	How can the same boundary help some people exchange goods while making exchange harder for others? Use two examples from the passage.	**Ports let growers and transport workers reach U.S. customers, but inspection delays can raise sellers' costs. Long waits may also reduce sales at shops that depend on customers crossing the border.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Two neighboring countries divide the fictional town of Riverbend along its main street. Both governments agree to keep one crossing open for residents with travel documents and to inspect delivery trucks. Families on opposite sides still share a town festival, so some residents identify with Riverbend as well as their country. Yet the checkpoint makes a quick visit to a grandparent take longer. Truck inspections protect each country's food rules, but delays raise costs for a bakery that buys flour across the line. A second crossing for pedestrians during festival days could preserve more contact without removing the boundary.

Accept other passage-based examples that explain an effect of the boundary, rather than merely naming a feature. For Part 3, look for a plausible crossing rule and distinct effects on identity, visits, and goods.