Borders and Power

How demands for self-government reshape political territory

WG.C.4.3 "Examine changes and challenges to political/territorial arrangements, by describing the forces that shape the world's contemporary political map, including the rise or devolution of nation-states."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two forces that shape political control, circle one challenge that remains after a change, and number the two different outcomes 1 and 2.

Two Paths to Self-Government

1 In 2011, South Sudan became independent from Sudan after decades of war and a peace agreement that allowed a referendum. Most voters in the south chose separation. Leaders sought control over their own government, while many people felt that the government in Khartoum had excluded them. A new international border appeared, and South Sudan joined the United Nations. Yet independence did not settle every issue: the two countries still disputed parts of their border.

2 Oil shows why drawing a border does not end a territorial struggle. Much of the oil produced before separation lay in what became South Sudan, but pipelines to ports on the Red Sea ran through Sudan. The countries had to negotiate fees for moving oil across the border. The status of Abyei, a border area claimed by both sides, also remained unresolved. Resources and disputed territory shaped relations between the two new neighbors.

3 A different kind of change occurred in Scotland, which remains part of the United Kingdom. The Scottish Parliament gained power over some domestic matters through devolution, a transfer of authority from the central government. In 2014, Scottish voters rejected independence in a referendum, so no new international border formed. These cases show that demands for self-government can produce either a new state or greater power within an existing state, while leaving political disagreements unsettled.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What forces helped lead to South Sudan becoming a separate state?

2. How did the location of oil and pipelines create a challenge after South Sudan became independent?

3. How did Scotland gain more self-government without changing an international border?

4. How did the referendum outcomes lead to different political maps in South Sudan and Scotland?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine that Luma, a coastal region in the fictional country of Terin, has a distinct language and a major port. In four sentences, propose independence or devolution for Luma, explain how both its language and port could shape that outcome, and identify one challenge over territorial control.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two forces that shape political control, circle one challenge that remains after a change, and number the two different outcomes 1 and 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What forces helped lead to South Sudan becoming a separate state?	**Decades of war, a desire for self-government, and a sense of exclusion by Sudan's government helped lead to separation.**
2	How did the location of oil and pipelines create a challenge after South Sudan became independent?	**Much of the oil was in South Sudan, but pipelines ran through Sudan, so the countries had to negotiate transit fees.**
3	How did Scotland gain more self-government without changing an international border?	**Devolution gave the Scottish Parliament power over some domestic matters while Scotland remained in the United Kingdom.**
4	How did the referendum outcomes lead to different political maps in South Sudan and Scotland?	**South Sudan voted for separation and gained an international border. Scotland rejected independence and remained within the United Kingdom.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I propose devolution so Luma can govern some local matters while remaining part of Terin. Its distinct language could strengthen demands for local control of schools. The port could make both Luma and Terin want a say in economic decisions. They might disagree over which government controls the port.

Accept either proposed outcome if the response connects both stated forces to that outcome and names a plausible challenge over control of territory or the port.