

4 States, nations and boundaries – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary 词汇

Write each word three times. 把每个单词抄写三遍。

English	中文	Write it 3 times (English)		
state	国家	_____	_____	_____
nation	民族	_____	_____	_____
nation-state	民族国家	_____	_____	_____
multinational state	多民族国家	_____	_____	_____
stateless nation	无国之民族	_____	_____	_____
Sovereignty	主权	_____	_____	_____
Self-determination	民族自决	_____	_____	_____
Compact	紧凑型	_____	_____	_____
Elongated	狭长型	_____	_____	_____
Fragmented	破碎型	_____	_____	_____
Perforated	穿孔型	_____	_____	_____
Prorupted	突出型	_____	_____	_____
landlocked	内陆	_____	_____	_____
antecedent boundary	先成边界	_____	_____	_____
subsequent boundary	后成边界	_____	_____	_____

English	中文	Write it 3 times (English)		
superimposed boundary	强加边界			
relict boundary	遗迹边界			
geometric	几何边界			
physical	自然边界			
Definitional	定义争端			
Locational	位置争端			
Operational	运作争端			
Allocational	资源争端			

Recall

You know that the world is divided into countries, that borders exist, and that some borders are disputed.

This sheet gives you the precise vocabulary — because in this unit “state”, “nation” and “country” mean different things.

New ideas

■ 1 State, nation, nation-state

A **state** 国家 is a politically organised territory with a permanent population, defined borders, a government, and sovereignty — recognition by other states.

A **nation** 民族 is a group of people with a shared cultural identity, who see themselves as belonging together. It is about people, not territory.

A **nation-state** 民族国家 is a state whose borders closely match a single nation. Iceland and Japan are near examples; most states are not.

A **multinational state** 多民族国家 contains several nations (Russia, Canada). A **stateless nation** 无国之民族 is a nation with no state of its own — the Kurds are the standard example.

■ 2 Sovereignty and its limits

Sovereignty 主权 is a state's right to govern its territory without outside interference. It is qualified in practice by membership of supranational organisations, by treaties, and by economic dependence.

Self-determination 民族自决 is the principle that a nation has the right to govern itself. It is the argument behind both decolonisation and modern separatist movements, and it collides directly with the sovereignty of existing states — which is why these disputes are hard.

■ 3 Shapes of states

The shape of a state has real consequences for governing it. **Compact** 紧凑型 (roughly circular, easiest to govern). **Elongated** 狭长型 (long and thin — transport and communication are costly). **Fragmented** 破碎型 (in separate pieces, sometimes across water). **Perforated** 穿孔型 (completely surrounds another state). **Prorupted** 突出型 (a compact core with a corridor extending out, often to reach a resource or the sea).

A **landlocked** 内陆 state has no coastline and so depends on neighbours for sea trade. An **enclave** is a territory entirely inside another state; an **exclave** is part of a state separated from its main body.

■ 4 Kinds of boundary

By origin: an **antecedent boundary** 先成边界 was drawn before the area was heavily settled; a **subsequent boundary** 后成边界 was drawn as the cultural landscape developed; a **superimposed boundary** 强加边界 was forced on an existing cultural landscape by an outside power — the colonial borders of Africa; a **relict boundary** 遗迹边界 no longer functions but is still visible.

By type: **geometric** 几何边界 (a straight line, often a parallel or meridian) or **physical** 自然边界 (a river, a mountain crest).

■ 5 Boundary disputes

Definitional 定义争端: the two sides read the treaty text differently. **Locational** 位置争端: they agree the wording and disagree where it falls on the ground. **Operational** 运作争端: they disagree about how the border should be managed — migration, smuggling. **Allocational** 资源争端: they disagree about a resource that crosses it — oil, water, fish.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

4.1 Distinguish between a state and a nation. [2]

4.2 Define a stateless nation and give one example. [2]

4.3 Explain one governing difficulty caused by a fragmented state shape. [2]

4.4 Explain what a superimposed boundary is and why such boundaries often cause conflict. [3]

4.5 Name the type of boundary dispute that concerns a resource crossing the border. [1]
