



One Border Challenge

Grade Level: Grades 4–7

Objective: To learn about the countries of the world in terms of their shared borders with other countries while becoming familiar with the ABC Maps Online database.

Duration: 30 minutes – 1 hour

Materials: Border Challenge instructions; individual access to ABC Maps Online for all participating students; writing materials and paper; optional individual access to ABC World Culture

Instructions: Use ABC Maps Online to review the countries of the world, listing those that share just one border with another country. Compare your findings with others, and then write a paragraph considering the advantages and disadvantages of a single international border.

Assignment 1: Study the maps:

- Using the world and regional maps in ABC Maps Online for reference, search for as many countries as possible that border one—and only one—other country.
- Make a list of the countries you found with just one international border.
- Compare your list with others in the class to see who came up with the greatest number of one-border countries.
- If possible, take some time as a group to discuss these one-border countries. What do people know these countries?

Assignment 2: Reflect and write:

- Take some time to think about the advantages and disadvantages of having just one international border. Organize your thoughts, and then write a paragraph explaining your position.

Extra Credit: Use the ABC World Culture database to learn more about three of the one-border countries you found. Read the modules that interest you and come up with a list of 5 interesting facts for each country to share with the class.