

SUGGESTED SKILL



Source Analysis

4.A

Identify the different types of information presented in visual sources.



AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- Classroom Resources > [Scale](#)

TOPIC 4.1

Introduction to Political Geography

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

PSO-4

The political organization of space results from historical and current processes, events, and ideas.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

PSO-4.A

For world political maps:

- Define the different types of political entities.
- Identify a contemporary example of political entities.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

PSO-4.A.1

Independent states are the primary building blocks of the world political map.

PSO-4.A.2

Types of political entities include nations, nation-states, stateless nations, multinational states, multistate nations, and autonomous and semiautonomous regions, such as American Indian reservations.

TOPIC 4.2

Political Processes

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

PSO-4

The political organization of space results from historical and current processes, events, and ideas.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

PSO-4.B

Explain the processes that have shaped contemporary political geography.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

PSO-4.B.1

The concepts of sovereignty, nation-states, and self-determination shape the contemporary world.

PSO-4.B.2

Colonialism, imperialism, independence movements, and devolution along national lines have influenced contemporary political boundaries.

SUGGESTED SKILL **Data Analysis****3.E**

Explain what maps or data imply or illustrate about geographic principles, processes, and outcomes.

**AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

- Classroom Resources > [Maps and Spatial Thinking Skills in the AP Human Geography Classroom](#)

SUGGESTED SKILL



Scale Analysis

5.B

Explain spatial relationships across various geographic scales using geographic concepts, processes, models, or theories.



AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- Classroom Resources > [Scale](#)

TOPIC 4.3

Political Power and Territoriality

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

PSO-4

The political organization of space results from historical and current processes, events, and ideas.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

PSO-4.C

Describe the concepts of political power and territoriality as used by geographers.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

PSO-4.C.1


Political power is expressed geographically as control over people, land, and resources, as illustrated by neocolonialism, shatterbelts, and choke points.

PSO-4.C.2

Territoriality is the connection of people, their culture, and their economic systems to the land.

TOPIC 4.4

Defining Political Boundaries

SUGGESTED SKILL *Concepts and Processes***1.D**

Describe a relevant geographic concept, process, model, or theory in a specified context.

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING**IMP-4**

Political boundaries and divisions of governance, between states and within them, reflect balances of power that have been negotiated or imposed.


LEARNING OBJECTIVE**IMP-4.A**

Define types of political boundaries used by geographers.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE**IMP-4.A.1**

Types of political boundaries include relic, superimposed, subsequent, antecedent, geometric, and consequent boundaries.

SUGGESTED SKILL

 Scale Analysis

5.D

Explain the degree to which a geographic concept, process, model, or theory effectively explains geographic effects across various geographic scales.



AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- Classroom Resources > [Scale](#)

TOPIC 4.5

The Function of Political Boundaries

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

IMP-4

Political boundaries and divisions of governance, between states and within them, reflect balances of power that have been negotiated or imposed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

IMP-4.B

Explain the nature and function of international and internal boundaries.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

IMP-4.B.1

Boundaries are defined, delimited, demarcated, and administered to establish limits of sovereignty, but they are often contested.

IMP-4.B.2

Political boundaries often coincide with cultural, national, or economic divisions. However, some boundaries are created by demilitarized zones or policy, such as the Berlin Conference.

IMP-4.B.3

Land and maritime boundaries and international agreements can influence national or regional identity and encourage or discourage international or internal interactions and disputes over resources.

IMP-4.B.4

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea defines the rights and responsibilities of nations in the use of international waters, established territorial seas, and exclusive economic zones.

TOPIC 4.6

Internal Boundaries

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

IMP-4

Political boundaries and divisions of governance, between states and within them, reflect balances of power that have been negotiated or imposed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

IMP-4.B

Explain the nature and function of international and internal boundaries.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

IMP-4.B.5

Voting districts, redistricting, and gerrymandering affect election results at various scales.

SUGGESTED SKILL *Scale Analysis***5.A**

Identify the scales of analysis presented by maps, quantitative and geospatial data, images, and landscapes.

**AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

- Classroom Resources > [Scale](#)
- Classroom Resources > [Maps and Spatial Thinking Skills in the AP Human Geography Classroom](#)

SUGGESTED SKILLS

*Spatial Relationships*

2.A

Describe spatial patterns, networks, and relationships.



AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- Classroom Resources > [Scale](#)

TOPIC 4.7

Forms of Governance

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

IMP-4

Political boundaries and divisions of governance, between states and within them, reflect balances of power that have been negotiated or imposed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

IMP-4.C

Define federal and unitary states.

IMP-4.D

Explain how federal and unitary states affect spatial organization.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

IMP-4.C.1

Forms of governance include unitary states and federal states.

IMP-4.D.1

Unitary states tend to have a more top-down, centralized form of governance, while federal states have more locally based, dispersed power centers.

TOPIC 4.8

Defining Devolutionary Factors

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

SPS-4

Political, economic, cultural, or technological changes can challenge state sovereignty.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

SPS-4.A

Define factors that lead to the devolution of states.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

SPS-4.A.1

Factors that can lead to the devolution of states include the division of groups by physical geography, ethnic separatism, ethnic cleansing, terrorism, economic and social problems, and irredentism.

SUGGESTED SKILL *Data Analysis***3.E**

Explain what maps or data imply or illustrate about geographic principles, processes, and outcomes.

**AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

- Classroom Resources > [Maps and Spatial Thinking Skills in the AP Human Geography Classroom](#)

SUGGESTED SKILL



Scale Analysis

5.C

Compare geographic characteristics and processes at various scales.

TOPIC 4.9

Challenges to Sovereignty

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

SPS-4

Political, economic, cultural, or technological changes can challenge state sovereignty.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

SPS-4.B

Explain how political, economic, cultural, and technological changes challenge state sovereignty.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

SPS-4.B.1

Devolution occurs when states fragment into autonomous regions; subnational political-territorial units, such as those within Spain, Belgium, Canada, and Nigeria; or when states disintegrate, as happened in Eritrea, South Sudan, East Timor, and states that were part of the former Soviet Union.

SPS-4.B.2

Advances in communication technology have facilitated devolution, supranationalism, and democratization.

SPS-4.B.3

Global efforts to address transnational and environmental challenges and to create economies of scale, trade agreements, and military alliances help to further supranationalism.

SPS-4.B.4

Supranational organizations—including the United Nations (UN), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), European Union (EU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Arctic Council, and African Union—can challenge state sovereignty by limiting the economic or political actions of member states.

TOPIC 4.10

Consequences of Centrifugal and Centripetal Forces

SUGGESTED SKILL

 Scale Analysis

5.C

Compare geographic characteristics and processes at various scales.

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

SPS-4

Political, economic, cultural, or technological changes can challenge state sovereignty.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

SPS-4.C

Explain how the concepts of centrifugal and centripetal forces apply at the state scale.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

SPS-4.C.1

Centrifugal forces may lead to failed states, uneven development, stateless nations, and ethnic nationalist movements.

SPS-4.C.2

Centripetal forces can lead to ethnonationalism, more equitable infrastructure development, and increased cultural cohesion.

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