

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Command The Castle: 2nd Grade World Powers Quiz

Analyze how land and water give leaders special powers before moving on to advanced map-reading units.

1. Imagine two kingdoms. One is on a flat plain, and the other is high on a steep mountain. Why might the Mountain Kingdom be harder to visit?

Answer: B) Climbing steep hills takes more energy and time.

Physical geography like mountains creates natural 'walls' that make movement difficult, giving a defensive advantage to whoever lives there.

2. A country with no rivers or oceans has a harder time trading heavy goods with the rest of the world.

Answer: A) True

Water provides 'highways' for ships. Without them, a country is 'landlocked' and must rely on neighbors to move goods.

3. If a small forest is the only place to find wood for heat, two villages nearby might ___ over who owns the trees.

Answer: C) Fight

Resource scarcity (not having enough of something) often leads to conflict or geopolitical tension between groups.

4. Switzerland is surrounded by high mountains called the Alps. How did this help them stay out of big wars?

Answer: A) The mountains made it too hard for outside armies to enter.

Geography can act as a shield. Rugged terrain makes an area a 'fortress' that others find too difficult to attack.

5. A 'chokepoint' is a wide, open ocean where ships can go in any direction.

Answer: B) False

A chokepoint is a narrow path (like a bridge or canal) that is easy to block, giving the owner a lot of power.

6. Countries often make ___, which are like 'pinky promises' to help each other if a neighbor gets bossy.

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Answer: B) Alliances

Alliances are strategic partnerships formed to increase security and power through cooperation.

7. The country of Bolivia has no coast on the ocean. Why might they want to be best friends with their neighbor, Chile?

Answer: B) To ask for permission to use Chile's ports to reach the sea.

Landlocked countries must negotiate with coastal neighbors to get their products to global markets.

8. A ___ is an invisible line on a map that shows where one leader's rules stop and another's begin.

Answer: A) Border

Borders define the territory of a political entity, though they are often influenced by physical features like rivers.

9. If two countries share one big river, but the country 'upstream' builds a wall to stop the water, what happens to the country 'downstream'?

Answer: B) Their crops might dry up because they have less water.

This demonstrates how control of a natural resource (water) creates power imbalances and tension between nations.

10. Geography means only looking at rocks; it has nothing to do with how people choose their leaders.

Answer: B) False

Geopolitics shows that the physical world (rocks, water, climate) directly changes how people organize and lead societies.