

Name: _____ Date: _____

Will Mountains Move the Map? Gritty 5th Grade Geopolitics Quiz

Design strategic solutions for landlocked nations and analyze how the rugged Andes and Great Rift Valley impact modern global diplomacy.

1. The nation of Bolivia in South America is 'landlocked.' Based on geopolitics, what is the most likely strategy Bolivia must use to participate in global sea trade?

- A. Building a massive underground tunnel to the Atlantic Ocean
- B. Forming strong diplomatic alliances with neighbors like Peru or Chile to use their ports
- C. Ignoring sea trade entirely and only using airplanes for heavy cargo
- D. Moving the entire population closer to the Amazon River

2. True or False: A country with a 'buffer state' geography is often safer because it sits between two larger, potentially stuck-in-conflict powers.

- A. True
- B. False

3. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is rich in Cobalt, a mineral used for electric car batteries. This geographic 'luck' is an example of _____ influence on global politics.

- A. Resource
- B. Climate
- C. Linguistic
- D. Cultural

4. Imagine a new island rises in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. Why would multiple countries likely argue over who owns it?

- A. Because they want to build the world's largest playground
- B. Because they want to name it after their own presidents
- C. Because it could expand their 'exclusive economic zone' for fishing and underwater minerals
- D. Because islands are the only places where satellites can land

5. The 'Great Rift Valley' in Africa creates deep lakes and steep cliffs. For a 5th-grade geographer, this physical feature is a _____ to easy transportation between East and West Africa.

- A. Bridge
- B. Gateway
- C. Barrier
- D. Highway

6. True or False: If a river like the Mekong flows through six different countries, the country at the very beginning (upstream) has no geopolitical power over the water.

- A. True

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B. False

7. The Bosphorus Strait in Turkey is a very narrow waterway connecting the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. In geopolitics, this is known as a:

- A. Dead End
- B. Chokepoint
- C. Water Park
- D. Puddlegate

8. The Andes Mountains run through seven South American countries. This feature often forces these nations to develop _____ specialized in high-altitude movement rather than flatland tanks.

- A. Navies
- B. Architects
- C. Militaries
- D. Farmers

9. True or False: A 'forward capital' is a city moved to a specific location to show a country's intention to develop or protect a certain geographic area.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Why might a country like Australia be considered geographically 'secure' compared to a country in Central Europe?

- A. It is an island continent with no immediate land borders with rivals
- B. It is exactly the same size as the United States
- C. It has no natural resources for others to want
- D. It is located in the Southern Hemisphere where there is no politics