

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Borders, Bays, and Barriers: Bold 5th Grade Geopolitics**

Students analyze how natural landscapes dictate national power by examining real-world mountain ranges, deep-water ports, and resource-rich border zones.

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**1. A country that is 'landlocked' has no direct access to the ocean. How does this geographic factor usually affect its geopolitical power?**

- A. It makes it easier to build a large navy.
- B. It forces the country to rely on neighbors for sea trade.
- C. It guarantees the country will have the most fertile farmland.
- D. It prevents the country from ever having an army.

**2. Natural barriers like the Andes Mountains can act as political borders because they are difficult for people and armies to cross.**

- A. True
- B. False

**3. If two countries share a \_\_\_\_\_, such as the Mekong River, they may argue over how much water each side is allowed to use.**

- A. Climate zone
- B. Mountain peak
- C. Natural resource
- D. Island chain

**4. Why might a country be very interested in a tiny, uninhabited island located far out in the ocean?**

- A. To move their entire population there.
- B. To claim the fishing and mineral rights in the surrounding water.
- C. Because islands are always the safest places to grow wheat.
- D. To stop the ocean levels from rising.

**5. A 'buffer state' is a small country located between two powerful, rival nations to help prevent direct conflict.**

- A. True
- B. False

**6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Erdenet mine in Mongolia makes it a site of geopolitical interest for both Russia and China.**

- A. Deep-water harbor
- B. Tropical climate
- C. Copper reserves
- D. Ancient ruins

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**7. Brazil has a very long coastline on the Atlantic Ocean. How does this physical feature help its global standing?**

- A. It prevents any other country from visiting South America.
- B. It provides many locations for ports to export goods like coffee.
- C. It means the country never has to have an army.
- D. It makes the country the coldest in the Southern Hemisphere.

**8. Geopolitics only looks at the land, and never considers how the weather or climate affects a nation's power.**

- A. True
- B. False

**9. A country with a 'Deep Water Port,' like the one in Halifax, Canada, has a geopolitical advantage because it can \_\_\_\_.**

- A. Stop all fish from migrating
- B. Build taller skyscrapers
- C. Grow rice in the middle of the ocean
- D. Accommodate the world's largest cargo ships

**10. Why might the Democratic Republic of the Congo be involved in many geopolitical discussions despite not being a global military power?**

- A. It is located exactly at the North Pole.
- B. It has 70% of the world's cobalt, used in batteries.
- C. It is the only country with no neighbors.
- D. It has no natural resources at all.