

Name _____

Boundaries "R" Us (Are U.S.)

1. Boundaries

What is a boundary?

What are the boundaries to your school?

What are the boundaries to your home?

2. Kinds of Boundaries

Rivers and mountains are called _____ features. They may form boundaries for states.

Boundaries drawn by humans on maps are called _____ features. These lines may form boundaries for states as well.

3. Map Work

Using the map provided:

Color **BLUE** the borders of the states that are made by rivers.

Color **RED** the borders of the states that are made by mountain chains.

Color **YELLOW** the borders of the states that are made by humans drawing straight lines.

After the boundaries have been colored, answer these questions.

How many states have only 1 color? _____

How many states have 2 colors? _____

How many states have 3 colors? _____

4. Spatial Thinking

What pattern do you notice?

How many states have capitals near the middle of the state?

Why would a state pick a city that was near the middle of its boundaries to be its capital?

Boundaries “R” Us (Are U.S.) Answer Key

1. Boundaries

What is a boundary? **Something that limits**
In geography, it is the line that denotes ownership of territory.

What are the boundaries to your school? **Answers will vary.**

What are the boundaries to your home? **Answers will vary.**

2. Kinds of Boundaries

Rivers and mountains are called _____ **physical or natural** _____ features. They may form boundaries for states.

Boundaries drawn by humans on maps are called _____ **human or cultural** _____ features. These lines may form boundaries for states as well.

3. Map Work

Using the map provided:

Color **BLUE** the borders of the states that are made by rivers.

Color **RED** the borders of the states that are made by mountain chains.

Color **YELLOW** the borders of the states that are made by humans drawing straight lines.

After the boundaries have been colored: This is not a precise number but should be close.

How many states have only 1 color? _____ **10** _____

How many states have 2 colors? _____ **38** _____

How many states have 3 colors? _____ **2** _____

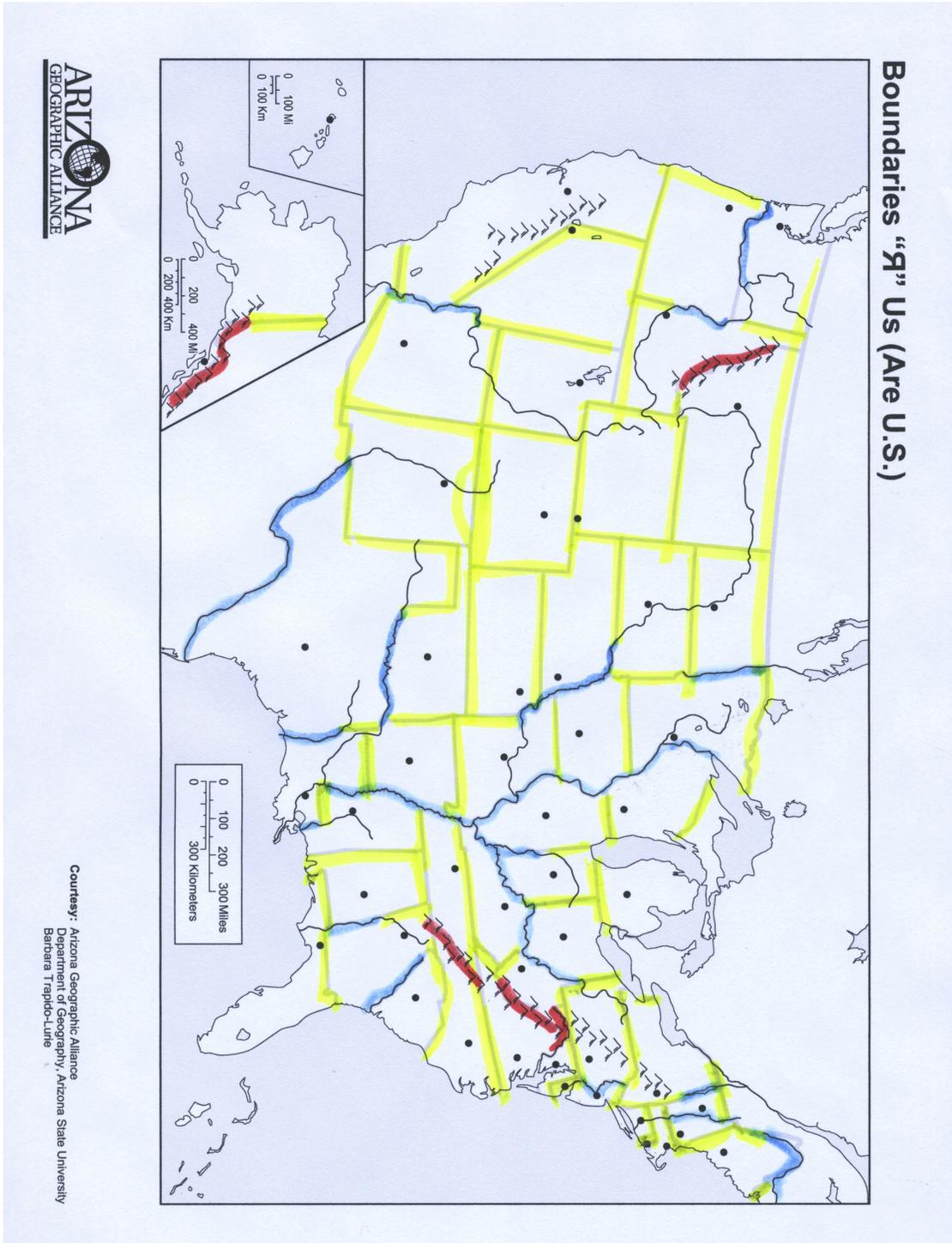
4. Spatial Thinking

What pattern do you notice? **Most states have part of their boundary lines that are either rivers or mountains. Very few states have only human-made boundary lines.**

How many states have capitals near the middle of the state? **about 20 states**

Why would a state pick a city that was near the middle of its boundaries to be its capital? **equal distance to rest of the cities in the state, can be the hub for transportation and manufacturing, makes it easy for governmental officials to gather and conduct work, in times of war—could be a way to protect the capital,**

Boundaries Colored



Writing Prompt

You are a television reporter on a nightly news program. The director of the nightly news program wants to celebrate state history and geography. She is planning a series of one-minute “Did You Know” segments on your state.

In one of these segments, you have one minute to explain why your capital city was selected as the location of the state capital. Be sure to include the human and physical features of this city.

Before you can speak on television, you need a written speech. Use the rest of this paper to write out your one-minute TV segment. Pay attention to the Scoring Guide so you include everything in your written speech.

Scoring Guide

Introduction (6 pts)

- 1) Introduce yourself as a reporter for the station.
- 2) State the name of the capital and the state on which you are reporting.
- 3) Explain that this segment is on state history and geography.

Why is the capital city located here? (10 pts)

- 1) Name at least 1 physical feature.
- 2) Name at least 1 human feature.

Conclusion (4 points)

- 1) End your segment with a conclusion.