



Why do countries have borders and do we need them?

TAKE IT FURTHER:

THINK

What curiosity questions can you ask?

e.g. What are borders created for? Why do we need them? What is a physical border and what is a political border? What are some of the perks of borders? What are some of the problems? Who does it benefit to have borders around countries? Why might people resort to crossing borders 'illegally' to move away from their homelands?

FEEL

How might different people feel about this?

e.g. How might it feel to be trapped in a country which is unsafe or unstable with no means of leaving? How might it feel to live in a country with open borders, such as across Europe with Schengen countries? How might it feel to be born into a powerful or powerless passport?

CONNECT

What links can you start to make?

e.g. Is your destiny determined by the place in which you are born? What is the link between your passport and your privilege? How might open borders help reduce global poverty?

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RESOURCES:




THINGS TO READ

[7 reasons for open borders](#)

(Article and opinion piece | *New Internationalist*)

[Borders around the world](#)

(Encyclopaedia entry | *National Geographic*)



THINGS TO WATCH

[What would happen if countries had open borders?](#)

(2 minute video | *Fusion*)

[Open borders – perks and pitfalls](#)

(4 minute video | *The Economist*)



THINGS TO LISTEN TO

[When did countries become countries?](#)

(Podcast series | *BBC Radio 4*)

[Is migration a basic human right?](#)

(60 minute | *Freakonomics*)



THINGS TO DO

[Borders and Boundaries activity](#)

(School mapping activity | *Teaching Tolerance*)

[Political Borders](#)

(Activity and resources | *National Geographic*)



THINGS TO INSPIRE

[Explore our Journeys topic](#)

(A discussion based curriculum | ThoughtBox Education)

[Meet our Refugees changemakers](#)

([Saif Ali](#) | [Etienne Salborn](#))

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Activity ideas:

1. *“Walls protect. Walls divide.”*
Which statement do you think is more true? Discuss your thoughts and your reasons why.
2. Click on the link and take a look at a selection of photographs of borders around the world. For each image, think about (and discuss) how it makes you feel and what it makes you think about: [International borders](#)
3. Do any borders exist in your school? For example, are there areas where particular groups hang out and where others are not made to feel welcome? How does (or might) this create different atmospheres around a school? Why do you think this might happen?
4. Draw a simple plan of your local neighbourhood and draw all of the borders in your area – think about geographical borders (e.g. rivers, mountains), social borders (e.g. wealthy or poor neighbourhoods), political borders and any other borders that may exist. For each border, write down: who made it, why it was made, who it benefits and what the perks and problems are with this border. Think about how restrictive (or not) your area is to people moving around and why this might be.

USE THE **THINKER'S GUIDE TO HELP YOU*

What other activities could you do?

