Basics of Political Geography

Defining States, Nations, and their lands
Warm Up

• List three different ways that countries might be formed or created.
Defining a Country

• **State/Country**
  – A space with a permanent population, territorial boundaries recognized by other states, a government, and sovereignty.
  • A synonym for STATE is COUNTRY

• **Sovereignty**
  – A state has sovereignty if it has authority over its own political, social, and economic matters.
  • In other words, a country can take care of its own “stuff” without anyone else messing with their “stuff.”
States/Provinces

• States and provinces are smaller sub-divided political units
  – Still controlled by central national government, but have some powers of their own
Nations and Nation-States

• Nations are groups of people with a shared heritage, history, and cultural identity

• Nation-States are countries comprised mainly of people from one nation
  – Ex. Ethnic Japanese make up 98.5% of Japan

• A Multi-National State is a country that is made up of people from many nations
Stateless Nations

- Stateless nations are groups of people without a nation of their own
  - Often leads to them being considered “others” or being persecuted within countries they are living
Territory

- An area of land that is under the political control of a country, but the citizens of the territory are not given full rights of citizenship
  - Often lack ability to vote, or hold certain positions
Frontier

- Frontiers are areas of land that are not formally owned and no one exercises political control over it.