The United States and Canada share the longest unfortified border in the world. While on the surface it appears that the two countries are fairly comfortable with this peaceful relationship, in the past, the border has been a source of much contention. After the dispute over one section of the border involving British Columbia was resolved one piece of the United States ended up as an enclave within Canada.

- [http://www.nps.gov/sajh/](http://www.nps.gov/sajh/)
- [http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1030.html](http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1030.html)
- [http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/old_west/16355](http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/old_west/16355)

1. Where would you find this unusual piece of real estate?

2. Can you think of any reason why the United States would fight in the “Pig War” to retain this relatively tiny chunk of territory?

3. What are the differences between “British” and “English” camps and what precipitated the name variations?

4. Do you think British and English should be used interchangeably—why or why not?
International Boundary News Database

Explore other border issues with the International Boundary News Database website https://www.dur.ac.uk/ibru/news/. If there is a boundary issue somewhere in the world, it is probably cited in the International Boundary News.

1. Choose a recent boundary dispute & summarize it in no less than 5 sentences:

ACTIVITY 2: State Organization and National Power
Micro-Minis: Skirting the Issues of Statehood

INTRODUCTION: What does it take to create a country? Is it political or military power over a geographic territory? Do you need a minimum number of people to qualify? Or do you become a state because others recognize your legal right to exist? For some smaller states, retaining their identity, or for that matter creating one, can present some problems. Many states have populations of less than 1 million residents. These are ministates and despite their small size, they manage to function as fully legitimate political entities yet wield little influence in global affairs. Then there are the microstates. Microstates may or may not have any political or geographic raison d’etre (justification for existing), but exist nonetheless. Some microstates are self-proclaimed nations created by individuals, groups, or even corporations such as the “Republic of Ceurvo Gold,” established by a tequila manufacturer. In fact, some microstates exist only in the minds of their creators or on the Internet such as the “Aeldarnian Empire.” And then there is the “Kingdom of Talossa” which was created by a high school student and territorially consisted of his bedroom. Some say the world is getting smaller. Let’s take a look and see.

Micronations
Prepare to take a magical mystery virtual field trip to an amazing variety of microstates. To begin your journey, conduct an internet search to learn, “What are Micronations?” Next list a brief history of the following Micronations.

1. Conch Republic:
2. Republic of Minerva:

3. Morac-Songhrati-Meads, Republic of:

4. Mosquito Shore and Nation:

5. Navassa Island

6. Principality of Seborga: