

Draw the Lines

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: Who is Listening?

I HAVE: One Hour

LESSON TITLE: Let's Talk About It

TYPE OF ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Vocabulary

MATERIALS:

- Smartboard or projector for video
- Glossary or resource for definitions

STEP-BY-STEP:

Journal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BNJiUu-1E8>

- When did Elbridge Gerry draw his district? (1812)
- What did one newspaper cartoonist think the district looked like? (salamander)
- Based on the video what do you think the following terms mean: GRIDLOCK and DISENFRANCHISEMENT (answers will vary)

Assign students the following vocabulary words before discussing the process of gerrymandering. You may want to direct them to a textbook glossary or assign a vocab quiz:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Incumbent | 12. Census |
| 2. Congressional District | 13. Bias |
| 3. Legislative District | 14. Constitutionality |
| 4. Partisan | 15. Statute |
| 5. Electoral | 16. Voting Rights Act |
| 6. Apportionment | 17. Fourteenth Amendment |
| 7. At-large Elections | 18. Federalism |
| 8. Single Member District Elections | 19. State Supreme Court |
| 9. Voting Bloc | 20. State Legislature |
| 10. Contiguous | |
| 11. Redistricting | |

After reviewing the vocabulary words above watch--

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pocFJnyR3Q4> and answer as a class:

- o Who draws them in most states? (legislatures)
- o What do reformers want to change? (districts drawn free of political interests)
- o Why are some people concerned about changing the process? (less accountable)
- o Who are minority voters in Pennsylvania? What groups of people? (African American, Hispanic)

KEEP IN MIND:

- Point out that Elbridge Gerry pronounced his name with a hard G, but we use a soft G to say the word Gerrymander. You may want to watch this video about the pronunciation of the word gerrymander: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rp0Qz19nIG4>
- Depending on what course and level you are teaching, you may want to spend more time explaining certain vocab words (especially federalism)

IT WENT WELL! EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

The Crash Course Government and Politics series can help build on many of the concepts in the vocab words.

Try the *What Do You See* lesson in *Where Am I?*

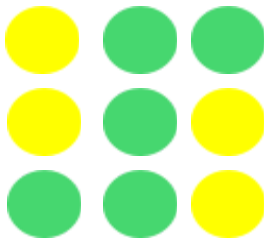


Draw the Lines

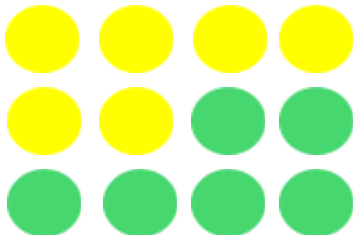
Gerrymandering 101

You are a political consultant for the Yellow Party, which controls the state's redistricting process. You want to ensure Yellow maintains control, by "packing" and "cracking" the Green Party. **Draw the precincts (dots) into groups to create districts.**

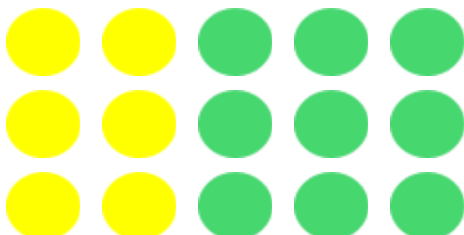
1) Create **three districts**, but ensure that the Yellow Party wins two of three (groups of three dots). (Note that Green has more voters, 5-4.)



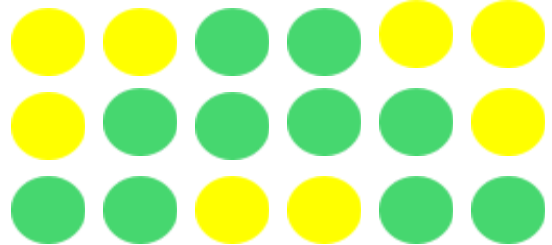
2) The state grows to **four districts** (six voters per party). Draw a map where the Yellow Party wins three districts and keeps a majority (groups of three).



3) Green Party voters move in and the Yellow Party has fewer voters again (9-6). However, the state loses a district because other states grow even faster. Make sure the Yellow Party keeps its advantage with the state's **three districts** (groups of five).

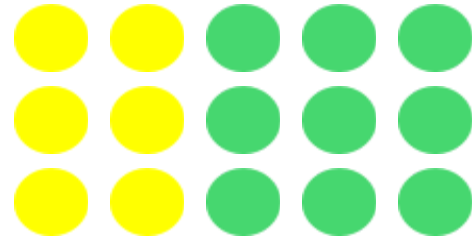


4) The Yellow Party remains in the minority (10-8), and now their voters don't live next to each other. The state still has **three districts**. Make sure Yellow Party keeps its majority (groups of six).



BONUS: Draw boundaries that yield the following results. This state has **five districts** (groups of three).

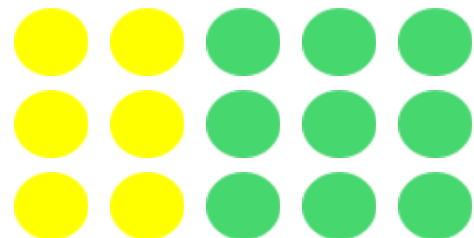
The **Green Party** receives the most advantageous map possible.



How many districts will go yellow? _____

How many districts will go green? _____

BONUS: The **Yellow Party** receives the most advantageous map possible.



How many districts will go yellow? _____

How many districts will go green? _____