

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

NOTES 4.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF A STATE

Objective: SWBAT identify the eight characteristics all States possess by evaluating two cases and creating your own State.

Do Now: Yesterday we defined a state. What is a state? What do you think are things all states have? For example, Mexico and the United States are both states. What do they have in common?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

8 Ways to Judge A State!

There are 197 states in the world today. So, how do you know a state if you see one?

You can tell a STATE by these 8 characteristics:

GET – PE – SSS

G:

E:

T:

P:

E:

S:

S:

S:

Cornell Notes on the Characteristics of States

Directions: On the last page we were introduced to the 8 characteristics all states must have to be officially recognized as states. Take notes on what each characteristic means below.

G	
E	
T	
P	
E	
S	
S	
S	

SOVEREIGNTY

--

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

--

Guided Practice 4.2

You're the Judge! Is it a State?

As you know, there are 8 criteria used to determine whether a place is an independent country (also known as a State with a capital "s"). **A country only has to fail on one of the eight criteria to not meet the definition of independent country status.** Let's examine these eight criteria in regard to Taiwan, an island (approximately the size of the U.S. states of Maryland and Delaware combined) located across the Taiwan Strait from mainland China.



Introduction: In 1949, there was a civil war in China. The 2 million losers of the war fled mainland China to the island of Taiwan. The people of Taiwan started their own government on Taiwan and ruled themselves. Taiwan insisted that it was its own independent State (country) while mainland China argued that Taiwan was still part of China.

Directions: We will read eight paragraphs to determine if Taiwan meets the eight criteria for State recognition. Circle **YES** if Taiwan meets each criterion for being a state or **NO** if Taiwan does not meet the criterion. Explain in one sentence why you circled "YES" or "NO".

- Taiwan is made up of several Islands off the coast of mainland China. Maps produced all around the world agree on the location and boundaries of Taiwan. It has 13,000 square miles of land.
Does Taiwan have space or territory that has internationally recognized boundaries? YES / NO
- Taiwan is home to almost 23 million people, making it the 48th largest "county" in the world, with a population slightly smaller than North Korea but larger than Romania.
Does Taiwan have people who live there on an ongoing basis? YES / NO
- Taiwan is an economic powerhouse - it's one of the four economic tigers of Southeast Asia. Its GDP per capita is among the top 30 of the world. Taiwan has its own currency, the new Taiwan dollar.
Does Taiwan an organized economy where it regulates trade and issues money? YES / NO
- Education is compulsory and Taiwan has more than 150 institutions of higher learning. Taiwan is home to the Palace Museum, which houses over 650,000 pieces of Chinese bronze, jade, calligraphy, painting, and porcelain.
Does Taiwan have the power of create and run social institution such as schools? YES / NO

- Taiwan has an extensive internal and external transportation network that consists of roads, highways, pipelines, railroads, airports, and sea ports. Taiwan can ship goods, there's no question about that!

Does Taiwan have a transportation system for moving goods and people? YES / NO

- Taiwan has multiple branches of military - Army, Navy (including Marine Corps), Air Force, Coast Guard Administration, Armed Forces Reserve Command, Combined Service Forces Command, and Armed Forces Police Command. There are almost 400,000 active duty members of the military and the country spends about 15-16% of its budget on defense. Taiwan's main threat is from mainland China, which has approved an anti-secession law that allows a military attack on Taiwan to prevent the island from seeking independence. Additionally, the United States sells Taiwan military equipment and may defend Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act.

Does Taiwan have a government that provides public services and police power? YES / NO

- While Taiwan has maintained its own control over the island from Taipei since 1949, China still claims to have control over Taiwan.

Does Taiwan have sovereignty? Does Taiwan rule itself free from interference from other countries?

YES / NO

- Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations. Plus, only 25 countries (as of early 2007) recognize Taiwan as an independent country and they recognize it as the "only" China. Due to this political pressure from China, Taiwan does not maintain an embassy in the United States and the United States (among most other countries) has not recognized Taiwan since January 1, 1979.

However, many countries have set up unofficial organizations to carry out commercial and other relations with Taiwan. Taiwan is represented in 122 countries unofficially. In addition, Taiwan issues globally recognized passports that allow its citizens to travel internationally. Taiwan also is a member of the International Olympic Committee and this sends its own team to the Olympic Games. Recently, Taiwan has lobbied strongly for admission into international organizations such as the United Nations, which mainland China opposes.

Does Taiwan have external recognition? Has Taiwan been "voted into the club" by other countries?

YES / NO

**FINAL VOTE: Does Taiwan meet the criteria of a State?
YES or NO?**

Activity 2: You're the Solo Judge!

Directions: Read the article on Scotland to determine if it meets the eight criteria to be officially recognized as a state. While you are reading, annotate the text by writing the letter of "GET-PE-SSS" when you identify a State criterion. Then on the back of this page you will circle "YES" or "NO" and explain if Scotland meets each of the eight criteria for State recognition.



Scotland is the territory towards the north of the United Kingdom (UK)

Scotland does have internationally recognized boundaries. Scotland is 78,133 square kilometers in area. According to the 2001 census, Scotland's population is 5,062,011.

Scotland certainly has economic activity and an organized economy; Scotland even has its own GDP (over 62 billion pounds as of 1998). However, Scotland does not regulate foreign or domestic trade, the Scottish Parliament is not authorized to do so. Under the terms of the Scotland Act 1998, the Scottish Parliament is able to pass laws on a range of issues known as "[devolved issues](#)." The United Kingdom Parliament is able to act on "reserved issues." Reserved issues include a variety of economic issues: fiscal, economic and monetary system; energy; common markets; and trade and industry.

The Bank of Scotland does issue money but it prints the British pound on behalf of the central government. The Scottish Parliament is able to control education, training, and social work (but not social security). However, this power was granted to Scotland by the UK Parliament.

Scotland itself has a transportation system but the system is not fully under Scottish control. The Scottish Parliament controls some aspects of transportation, including the Scottish road network, bus policy and ports and harbors while the UK Parliament controls railways, transport safety and regulation. Again, Scotland's power was granted by the UK Parliament.

The Scottish Parliament has the ability to control law and home affairs (including most aspects of criminal and civil law, the prosecution system and the courts) as well as the police and fire services. The UK Parliament controls defense and national security across the United Kingdom. Again, Scotland's power was granted to Scotland by the UK Parliament. The United Kingdom Parliament definitely has power over Scotland's territory. Scotland does not have external recognition nor does Scotland have its own embassies in other independent countries.

Is Scotland an independent State?

G: Does Scotland have a government that provides public services and police power? **YES OR NO**

E: Does Scotland have external recognition? Has Scotland has been "voted into the club" by other countries? **YES OR NO**

T: Does Scotland have a transportation system for moving goods and people? **YES OR NO**

P: Does Scotland have people who live there on an ongoing basis? **YES OR NO**

E: Does Scotland have an organized economy? A country regulates foreign and domestic trade and issues money? **YES OR NO**

S: Does Scotland have space or territory that has internationally recognized boundaries? **YES OR NO**

S: Does Scotland have social structures, such as education? **YES OR NO**

S: Does Scotland have sovereignty? Does Scotland rule itself? **YES OR NO**

Final Vote: Is Scotland a state?

YES or NO

Name: _____

Block: _____

Date: _____

Characteristics of a State

Directions: You plan to design your own state. Using your notes on the eight characteristics of States, explain what your state would look like. Remember you must be able to explain each of the eight State characteristics.

Example:

My state, Terryland, is a microstate, measuring only 5 square miles. Terryland is located off the coast of the Bahamas and is an island. The Atlantic Ocean borders my country on all sides.

G: Does your state have a government that provides public services and police power?

E: Does your state have external recognition? Has Scotland has been "voted into the club" by other countries?

T: Does your state have a transportation system for moving goods and people?

P: Does your state have people who live there on an ongoing basis?

E: Does your state have an organized economy? A country regulates foreign and domestic trade and issues money?

S: Does your state have space or territory that has internationally recognized boundaries?

S: Does your state have social structures, such as education?

S: Does your state have sovereignty?

Homework: On the back of this page create a colorful advertisement for your State. You want people to migrate to your state, so brag about how your state meets the eight characteristics. Make sure your advertisement has text, visuals, and color.