Spatial Divisions
Essential Understandings

Spatial divisions are regions of the earth’s surface over which groups of people establish social, economic, and political control.
Essential Understandings

Spatial divisions may generate conflict.

Cooperation may eliminate the need for the division and control of the earth’s surface.
Essential Questions

What are some examples of spatial divisions at the international level?

How do spatial divisions generate conflict?

How do spatial divisions cooperate to solve problems and settle disputes?
Essential Knowledge

Examples of Spatial Divisions

- Countries
- Alliances: economic and political
Examples of Alliances (NATO)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Purpose: NATO is an alliance of 26 countries from North America and Europe that has pledged to safeguard the Freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy. They also seek to promote stability in the North Atlantic area. The headquarters of NATO is in Brussels, Belgium.

Website: http://www.nato.int/
Examples of Alliances (NATO)

Members: 26 countries around the North Atlantic region to include the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, U.K., Greece, and Turkey. All of the countries are in Europe or in North America.
Examples of Alliances (NATO)
Examples of Alliances (NATO)

LOGO: A white and blue compass on a white or blue background. Lines extend from the points of the compass.
The European Union

Purpose: An economic and political union of 27 democratic European countries. The aim of the EU is peace, prosperity, and freedom for its members. The EU has made it easier to travel between member countries without a passport. It introduced the euro to facilitate trade, and it introduced a European arrest warrant.

Website: http://europa.eu/
Examples of Alliances (EU)

Members: Most of the countries in Europe except Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland. Turkey has applied for membership.
Examples of Alliances (EU)

LOGO: Twelve gold stars on a blue background. The number of stars has nothing to do with the number of member states. Twelve symbolically represents perfection in some cultures.
Examples of Alliances (EU)

Countries in gold do not use the Euro.
Examples of Alliances (OPEC)
Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

Purpose: The purpose of OPEC is to set the price and production of oil for member countries. Not all countries in the world that have oil are part of OPEC. OPEC was established in 1960, by the five founding members; Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela. The headquarters of OPEC is in Vienna.

Website: http://www.opec.org/home/
Examples of Alliances (OPEC)

Members: 14 members located on three different continents. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Qatar, Indonesia, Libya, United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Nigeria, Ecuador, Angola, and Gabon.
Examples of Alliances (OPEC)
Examples of Alliances (OPEC)

LOGO:
Examples of Alliances (NAFTA)

North American Free Trade Agreement

Purpose: NAFTA is a trade agreement that was signed by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The United States passed the legislation through congress in 1993, under the Clinton government, however, it was introduced during the presidency of George H. W. Bush. NAFTA eliminated most tariffs between the three members creating a free trade zone.
Examples of Alliances (CN)

Commonwealth of Nations

Purpose: The Commonwealth of Nations is a legacy of Britain’s past imperialism. The 53 countries in the Commonwealth were all part of the British Empire and they share many similarities such as language, legal systems, and political systems. The Commonwealth stresses the need for democracy, peace, and equal rights for all.
Examples of Alliances (CN)

Members: The list of member countries is too long to list but a few members are; India, U.K., South Africa, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, Kenya, Canada, Nigeria, and Belize.
Examples of Alliances (CN)

LOGO: Spears that make up the letter C, which stands for Commonwealth, radiate from a symbol of the world. The spears do not represent the number of countries in the Commonwealth but symbolize the many facets of Commonwealth cooperation.
Examples of Alliances (UN)

United Nations

Purpose: The United Nations is an international organization whose aims are to facilitate cooperation in international law, international security, economic development, social progress, and human rights. The UN was founded in 1945.
Examples of Alliances (UN)

Members: The list of United Nations members is too long. Basically, almost every nation in the world is a member. The last country to join was Montenegro in 2006. The United Nations does have a security council with five permanent members; The United States, the U.K., Russia, China, and France. The headquarters of the United Nations is in New York City.
Examples of Alliances (UN)

LOGO: A map of the world representing an azimuthal equidistant projection centered on the North Pole surrounded by olive branches, which symbolize peace.
Examples of Alliances (RC/RC)

Red Cross/Red Crescent

Purpose: Most countries have a red cross or red crescent and these are organized into an international organization known as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. These organizations protect human life and health, and prevent and alleviate human suffering.
Examples of Alliances (RC/RC)
Examples of Alliances (OAS)

Organization of American States

Purpose: The OAS brings together nations of the Western Hemisphere to strengthen cooperation on democratic values, defend common interests and debate the major issues facing the region. The OAS has four official languages: English, Portuguese, French, and Spanish. Some key issues are: combating corruption, protecting the rights of indigenous people, fighting drugs, and promoting trade.
Examples of Alliances (OAS)

Members: All of the countries of North and South America are members. However, Cuba has been suspended since 1962, and does not actively Participate.
Examples of Alliances (OAS)
Examples of Alliances (OAS)
Examples of Alliances

League of Arab States

Purpose: A regional organization of Arab States in Southwest Asia formed in 1945. The league is involved in political, economic, and social programs that promote the interest of member states.
Examples of Alliances

Members: The league consists of 22 countries. Some of the members are Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen.
Examples of Alliances
Examples of Alliances
Examples of Alliances (AU)

Members: All of the countries in Africa.
Examples of Alliances (AU)
Reasons For Spatial Divisions

- Differences in culture, language, and religion
- Retention of historical boundaries
- Imperial conquest and control
- Economic similarities and differences