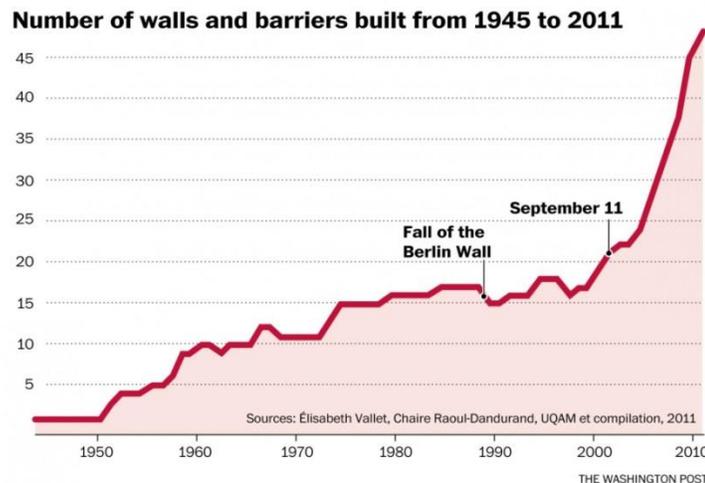


## POLITICAL UNIT—Boundaries and Borders—Walls, Fences and Barriers

1. Introduce the concepts of boundaries and borders around political states or regions.
2. Discuss the history of walls that were built to separate groups of people.

Historically walls were built for protection such as **Hadrian's Wall** which was built to protect the Roman province of Britain from the people who lived in what is now Scotland and the **Great Wall of China** which was built to keep the “polar bears” [nomadic tribes] from the north out. At the end of World War II there were only a few that were still in use as barriers. Then the walls/fences/physical barriers began to be built including the **Berlin Wall**. But, it wasn't until after September 11, 2001 that they number began to increase dramatically. What we are seeing now are walls being built not to keep people in, as was the purpose of the Berlin Wall, but to keep people out. And more and more of them are being built around the world.



### 3. Discussion points and activities:

- a. **Interpret** the graph “Number of walls and barriers built from 1945-2011” and **explain** why there was a dramatic increase following 9-11.
  - b. **What impact** do barriers between states (countries) have on political, economic, and cultural cooperation?
  - c. **What** are the economic, social, political, etc. **impacts** of large numbers of refugees migrating to a county and are physical barriers a solution?
  - d. **Where** are the walls being built? **Why**?
4. Have the students research the physical barriers that have been built or are proposed. Small groups could produce a poster for different regions. They would need to include a regional map showing the lines, and information about each barrier. [See below: **a start** to this activity.]
  5. Or, as you discuss different barriers such as those proposed by the European Union countries to keep out refugees from Northern Africa and SW Asia, discuss where they [your students] would build. Why there? [Good time to discuss the absence of border barriers and the threat to national security.] Why did China (P.R. of C.) maintain the barriers between Hong Kong and Macau with China? Why did China build a barrier between them and North Korea? Etc.
  6. Have the students map as many borders where barriers have been built as possible on blank regional maps as you discuss them. Ask the question “why were they built?”.

**BARRIERS IN THE WORLD:**

**ACTIVE, INACTIVE (HISTORICAL), BETWEEN COUNTRIES, WITHIN COUNTRIES AND PROPOSED FOR THE FUTURE**

Name	Country Who Built the Barrier	Built	Length (km)	Type and Notes
1 United States and Mexico 	United States	Began in 2006 Under construction	3,201 1989 miles	Anti-illegal immigration and drug smuggling Steel, concrete, wire mesh Divides 3 Native American Nations and 23 tribes
2 United States and Cuba Cactus Curtain 	Guantanamo Bay- Cuba and US added to it.	1951	27 km 17 miles	Territorial and Anti-illegal Immigration Separates the US naval base from Cuban-controlled territory. Cubans planted a barrier of <i>Gouardia</i> cactus along the fence surrounding the base to stop Cubans from escaping Cuba to take refuge in the United States. US and Cuba placed some 55,000 land mines across the "no man's land" around the perimeter of the naval base. In 1996, US ordered the demining of the American field and replaced them with motion and sound sensors to detect intruders on the base. The Cuban mines are still there
3 Belize and Guatemala	Belize	Proposed	N/A	Disputed Territory and Anti-illegal immigration
4 Costa Rica and Nicaragua	Costa Rica	Proposed	N/A	Anti-illegal immigration
5 Mexico and Guatemala	Mexico	Proposed 2015		Anti-illegal immigration
6 Panama Canal Fence 	United States	1904–1960's No longer active	45 miles	A chain link fence on top of a retaining wall acted as a barrier dividing the Canal Zone from the rest of the Republic of Panama. [US did not consider it a barrier just to keep the people from falling into the canal. The Panamanians considered it a barrier.]

Name	Country Who Built the Barrier	Built	Length (km)	Type and Notes
7 Brazil and Argentina	Brazil	Proposed 2013		Immigration and Trafficking a non-physical "virtual" wall, monitored by drones and satellites
8 Brazil and Bolivia	Brazil	2007		Immigration and Trafficking a non-physical "virtual" wall, monitored by drones and satellites
9 Brazil and Colombia	Brazil	Proposed 2013		Immigration and Trafficking a non-physical "virtual" wall, monitored by drones and satellites
10 Brazil and French Guiana	Brazil	Proposed 2013		Immigration and Trafficking a non-physical "virtual" wall, monitored by drones and satellites
11 Brazil and Guyana	Brazil	Proposed 2013		Immigration and Trafficking a non-physical "virtual" wall, monitored by drones and satellites
12 Brazil and Paraguay	Brazil	2007		Immigration and Trafficking a non-physical "virtual" wall, monitored by drones and satellites
13 Brazil and Peru	Brazil	Proposed 2013		Immigration and Trafficking a non-physical "virtual" wall, monitored by drones and satellites
14 Brazil and Suriname	Brazil	Proposed 2013		Immigration and Trafficking a non-physical "virtual" wall, monitored by drones and satellites
15 Brazil and Uruguay	Brazil	Proposed 2013		Immigration and Trafficking a non-physical "virtual" wall, monitored by drones and satellites
16 Brazil and Venezuela	Brazil	Proposed 2013		Immigration and Trafficking a non-physical "virtual" wall, monitored by drones and satellites
17 Brazil–Sao Paulo The Rich-Poor Divide 	Brazil	1978	40 miles	Concrete walls with 960 guards-gated communities protection from inner-city crime. Has low taxes—has grown and many others have been built. Comprised of 16 gated compounds, or condominiums, with more on its periphery, plus a surrounding commercial and industrial district. 60,000-odd residents are separated from Sao Paulo's social problems 960 guards.
18 Argentina–Zanja de Alsina	Argentina	1870's	3 meter wide	were a system of trenches and wooden watchtowers built to defend the territories of the federal government against indigenous people. Trench reinforced with 80 small strongholds and garrisons

# UNITED STATES AND MEXICO



**FACTS:**

**Built by the United States**  
**Construction was begun in 2006**  
**The initial barriers are primarily between El Paso and San Diego [and through some cities along the border such as Brownsville]**

**As of now there is approximately 1,030 km (640 miles) of fences and walls built of steel, concrete and wire mesh. Total distance will be 3,201 km (1989 miles) when completed.**  
**The border is monitored by interspersed a "virtual fence" of sensors and cameras.**

**Stated Purpose:**

- **Anti-illegal immigration**
- **Stop drug smuggling**

**Concerns:**

- **High cost of construction**
- **Ineffective deterrent**
- **Jeopardizes health and safety**
- **Destroys fragile ecosystem**
- **Divides 3 Native American Nations and 23 tribes**

A complete list of barriers can be found on my website on the APHG Professional Development Information page [or as complete as I can make it at this time.].