



This Land is Your Land

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for Government

Target audience – Government learners

Time required – 15 minutes

Activity Examine the lands that have special designations, or that the U.S. government has set aside for its citizens.

Social Studies Standards **C3:D2.Civ.1.9-12.** Distinguish the powers and responsibilities of local, state, tribal, national, and international civic and political institutions.
C3:D2.Civ.3.9-12. Analyze the effect of constitutions, laws, treaties, and international agreements on the maintenance of national and international order.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to explain how some of the special land designations around the country are connected to the separation of power between state, federal, and tribal governments.

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/govGeoInquiry5>

? Ask

How is land preserved for the public?

- Click the link above to launch the map.
- With the Details button underlined, click the button, Show Contents Of Map.
- Check the box to the left of layer, State and National Parks and Forests.
- ? Which levels of government are involved in administering the parks shown? *[State and federal levels]*
- ? Which states appear to have the most extensive state parks systems in terms of size, or number of parks? *[Iowa, California, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin]*

! Acquire

Where are different parks located?

- In the search box in the upper-right of the map, type: 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, D.C.
- ? Which park is located at that address? *[The President's Park (White House)]*
- Refer to the Tool Tip (*View a Table*) on the next page to find the largest national park.
- ? Which national park did you identify? Where is it located? How large is it? *[Wrangell-St. Elias NP and NPRE in Southeast Alaska – 13,002 square miles]*

🔍 Explore

Which lands are owned by either federal or state governments?

- Turn off all layers.
- Turn on the layer, Native American Reservations.
- ? What is sovereignty? *[The authority for self-government]*
- ? Who holds sovereignty within the Native American reservations? *[Tribal governments]*
- ? Where are Native American reservations mostly distributed? *[They are mostly located west of the Mississippi.]*
- ? What is the largest reservation by area? *[The Navajo Nation reservation]*
- ? Why do tribal governments work with the federal government and not just state governments? *[Some are located in multiple states; native sovereignty]*

more ►

Analyze

What other areas are under the jurisdiction of the federal government?

- Click Bookmarks and choose US States And Territories.
- Turn on the layer, US Territories.
- ? What is a territory? [*An area under a country's jurisdiction without the full rights of a state.*]
- Use the Measure tool to determine the distance from each territory to the contiguous U.S. (See the measure tool tip below for more information.)
- ? Which territory is closest? Farthest? [*Puerto Rico ≈ 960 miles; Guam ≈ 5,500 miles*]
- ? What problems may arise in administering territories? [*Answers will vary.*]

Act

How is land used in your state?

- Turn on all layers.
- In the search box, type the name of your state.
- ? Are there any Native American reservations in your state? Where are they distributed? [*Answers will vary.*]
- ? How extensive are the national and state park systems? [*Answers will vary.*]
- ? Why is coordination between state and national governments important in administering lands? [*Some federal lands are located in states; special relationship between tribal governments and federal government.*]

USE THE MEASURE TOOL

- Click Measure, select the Distance button, and from the drop-down list, choose a unit of measurement.
- On the map, click once to start the measurement, click again to change direction, and double-click to stop measuring.
- Hint: Position the area of interest on the map so that it is not obscured by the Measure window.

VIEW A TABLE

- Tables are only available for certain map layers.
- In the Contents pane, hover over a layer and click the Show Table button that appears under the layer name.
- Click the field name and choose Sort Ascending or Sort Descending.
- Click a record to select it.
- Click the Options button (horizontal bars in upper right of table) and select, Center on Selection.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at <http://www.esri.com/schools>.

THEN TRY THIS...

- To learn more about the changes of Native American lands, explore the *Native American Lands 1819–2015* U.S. History GeoInquiry.
- Try to categorize or explain the location of different parks or reservations based on the presence of different geographic features (rivers, mountains, lakes, and so on).

TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these high school texts.

- *American Government and Politics Today* by Ford, Bardes, Schmidt, and Shelley — Chapter 3