

# Barriers

## Map Skills Activity

Directions: Use the Nystrom Atlas of World History to complete the following activity. The page numbers for the Atlas are given for each question. The answers may be found on the map, the text, or the graph/chart/visual located on each page.

---

- **Physical barriers** – mountains, oceans, deserts – often prevent people from moving from place to place.
- **Government actions** – embargoes, closing off of relations with other countries or governments, building barriers to keep people in and to keep people out – are barriers to preventing people from moving from place to place.

The questions below represent both of these perspectives. **Your teacher will do the first two with you:**

1. Use Atlas pages 24-25, What physical barrier protected the Indian subcontinent from invasion?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Use Atlas page 36, Which barriers do you think kept the Roman Empire from expanding into India?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Into southern Africa? \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete questions 3-10 on your own.**

3. Use Atlas pages 22-23, What artificial barrier was built in China to prevent invasion? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Use Atlas pages 20 and 21, What geographic factors helped East Asia remain isolated from Europe?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Use Atlas pages 68 and 69, What geographic barriers helped the Americas remain isolated from Europe until 1492? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Use Atlas pages 100 and 128, What best explains why the Southwestern United States has a large Hispanic population? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Use atlas pages 52, 53, and 106, What “barrier” did the Japanese use to keep out western ideas?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Similarly, what “barrier” does the leadership of Iran use to keep out westerners? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Use Atlas page 116, How did East Berlin prevent people from moving into West Berlin?

10. Use Atlas pages 100 and 130, What physical barrier best explains why the location of the British Colonies were limited to the eastern coast of North America? \_\_\_\_\_

## Physical or Human

Directions: Read the passage or analyze the visual provided. Determine whether it was a physical barrier or government action that prevented human movement

---

### 1. India



Indian woman picking herbs.

Situated so it forms its own subcontinent, India is located between the smaller nations of Bangladesh and Pakistan in South [Asia](#). It is separated from the rest of Asia in the north by the towering [Himalaya Mountains](#). Because of its size, India has a number of climates. The north, where the capital, New Delhi, is located, has a pleasant temperate climate, although in the summer temperatures can get into the 100s. In the south, where devastating flooding often occurs, the climate is characterized by tropical [monsoons](#) and hot, sticky weather in which the temperature is usually between 75°F and 90°F.

abc-clio

What prevents people from moving from place to place?	Text Support from passage and visuals.
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical barriers <input type="checkbox"/> Government actions	

## 2. Antarctica



View of the South Pole and the Antarctic Plateau. The ice here is over 9,000 feet thick

abc-clio

<b>What prevents people from moving from place to place?</b>	<b>Text Support from passage and visuals.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="253 1493 505 1528"><input type="checkbox"/> Physical barriers</li><li data-bbox="253 1556 545 1591"><input type="checkbox"/> Government actions</li></ul>	

### 3. Ireland

When the Republic of Ireland gained independence in 1922, only the territory of Northern Ireland remained part of Britain. People hoped that the problems between Ireland and Britain would end. However, new disagreements emerged. Within Northern Ireland Protestants are in the majority. Over time this majority came to control the government and the economy of Northern Ireland. Lack of political power and economic opportunity created resentment among the Northern Irish Catholics.

In the late 1960s Catholic protests began to turn violent. In the early 1970s the British government sent troops to Northern Ireland to keep the peace. The presence of British soldiers in Northern Ireland soon became permanent.

Throughout the 1970s Catholic and Protestant groups alike used violence to further their causes. Car bombings, assassinations, and attacks on British troops became routine. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) has been the most active group. Almost entirely Catholic, the IRA wanted to drive the British out of the north and unite all of Ireland. The IRA also took its war beyond Irish borders. They staged bombings in many British cities and attacked British soldiers in other parts of Europe.

Aside from military force, the British tried to resolve the conflict through political means. The Republic of Ireland gained a voice in the affairs of Northern Ireland with the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985, but over time both Protestants and Catholics opposed the pact.

In 1993 the British and Irish prime ministers both pledged to give Northern Ireland the right to decide its own fate. The IRA declared a cease-fire the following year. Peace talks followed, and in 1998 the Good Friday Peace Accords were signed. The situation was improved, but a permanent solution still has not been found.

abc-clio

What prevents people from moving from place to place?	Text Support from passage and visuals.
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical barriers <input type="checkbox"/> Government actions	

### 4. Syria

The Syrian landscape is a mix of narrow coastal plains, desert plateaus, and mountains. It is bordered by Turkey to the north, Iraq to the east, Jordan to the south, and Israel, Lebanon, and the Mediterranean Sea to the west. The northern border is quite mountainous. The western border comprises three areas: coastal, mountain, and plateau. A thin coastal strip runs along the Mediterranean Sea, from Turkey to Lebanon, and is backed by the relatively low Jabal an Nusayriyah mountains. East of these mountains lies the al-Ghab depression, a fertile region watered by the Orontes River along with 19 major springs and underground rivers. South of this region lie the Anti-Lebanon mountains, which divide Syria from Lebanon and are the site of the country's highest peak, the 9,232-foot-high Mount Hermon. To the east of the Anti-Lebanon mountains lies the Hawran Plateau. In the southwest the plateau meets the [Golan Heights](#), the disputed border with Israel. A series of plateaus and low mountain ranges make up the majority of eastern two-thirds of the country, the al-Badia, which is bisected by the Euphrates River. The Euphrates is the longest and most important river in the country, providing most of Syria with water. The south is dominated by the Homs or Syrian Desert, which is a short distance from the capital, Damascus, and extends into Jordan.

abc-clio

What prevents people from moving from place to place?	Text Support from passage and visuals.
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical barriers <input type="checkbox"/> Government actions	