**Name:**

**U.S. Mexico Border Stations Activity**

**Warm Up**

Both of the following statements are true.

***Walls protect******Walls divide***

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**Strongly Agree**                                                   **Agree with both**                                                      **Strongly Agree**

Which statement do you think is true? Mark the spot on the line where your opinion falls. Explain why.

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**Station Directions**

Each station has one main resource, or set of resources, that you will use to complete the questions in this packet. There are 5 total stations which you will visit over the next few class periods.

**Station 1: The Current U.S.-Mexico Border**

Scroll through the New York Times interactive map to learn about what security measures are already in place at the border.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/02/05/us/border-wall.html>

1. Describe the current United States-Mexico border as if you were telling a friend who had no idea what the border was like.

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1. Describe the current United States approach to controlling who and what passes across the border with Mexico.

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1. Do you think the current approach to United States border security is effective?  What ideas do you have to make it more effective?

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1. Do you think all, some or no national borders around the world should have walls or fences separating countries?  Why?

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**Station 2: Life Along the Border**

According to this 2014 data from the Mexican government, the total population that lives in cities and counties along both sides of the United-States Mexico border is 14 million people and an estimated one million people legally cross the border every day.

What is life like along the border? Watch this video about two towns separated by the United States-Mexico border, Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora.

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/us/100000005222699/border-fence-blurred-through-art.html>

Then answer these questions:

1. How has life in these two towns changed since a border fence was erected in the past decade?

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1. How do these towns collaborate and maintain ties even though a border fence separates them?

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1. The binational event in the film features jaguars. What do jaguars symbolize in relation to the border?

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**Station 3: A Wall as Public Policy**

Look at **Graph A** (“Illegal Border Crossings”) and **Graph B** (“People Apprehended or Turned Away at the Border”). Both graphs represent roughly the same time period.

What do you notice going on? What story might these two graphs tell?

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Next, look at **Graph C** (“Immigrant Population”) and **Graph D** (“Violent Crime Rate”). Both graphs cover the same time period, 1980-2016.

What do you notice about these two graphs? What story might they tell?

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Finally, read the introduction of the article, “Here’s the Reality About Illegal Immigrants in the United States” and answer the following questions:

1. How many undocumented immigrants are living in the United States?

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1. How does the way immigrant advocates see this group of people differ from the way the White House views the same group?

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**Station 4: The Psychology of Walls**

Costica Bradatan, a professor at Texas Tech University, wrote about the power of walls in 2011. His idea is that walls aren’t just tangible objects we can touch. They also have real psychological power.

After reading the article excerpt, answer the following questions.

1. Costica Bradatan asserts that a good deal of the power of walls and fences come from their psychological power. What does that mean? To what extent do you agree?

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1. He argues that walls are not built for security, but instead for a sense of security. What does this mean?

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1. Do you think walls have a different psychological effect from fences?  Or are they really just the same thing with a different name?

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**Station 5: Walls of History**

When we began this station activity, we talked about walls “protecting” and “dividing.” Look at each photograph and read each accompanying caption. After you have looked at all of them, answer the following questions.

1. Choose any 2 historical walls, one that you believe was constructed for “protection” and one that was constructed for “division.”  You can name the wall in a few words, like “sand wall Morocco-Mauritania.”  Explain your reasoning for why you identified the walls as either “protection” or “division.”

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1. Which photograph interests you the most and why?

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