

Volume 39, Number 2, November 2025

## Activity

# Quiz: Contested places

**This short quiz could be used as a brief introductory activity to begin discussion about contested places i.e. places where sovereignty is contested by two or more states. It partners the 'Boundary-making in the South China Sea' and 'Superpowers and the shifting world order' articles in GEOGRAPHY REVIEW Vol. 39, No. 2. The correct answers are given below, along with some additional information.**

- 1 The correct answer is C, the South China Sea.
- 2 The correct answer is B, Spain and Morocco. The two small Spanish enclaves have been Spanish since 1580 (Ceuta) and 1497 (Melilla) respectively. Morocco argue they are part of each its territory. Recently they have become locations for migrants trying to gain access to the EU.
- 3 The correct answer is D, India and China. Arunachal Pradesh is a significant source of tension between India and China along with disputed Aksai Chin further west. The 1962 Sino-Indian war was fought in both regions and border skirmishes have occurred periodically, most recently in 2022.
- 4 The correct answer is B, the International Court of Justice. This court passes judgements that should, if all parties agree to resolve disputes. For instance, the ICJ redrew part of the disputed Niger-Burkina Faso border in a 2013 judgement that was implemented by both countries in 2015.
- 5 The correct answer is A, the Pacific Ocean. Tiny Wake Island is strategically important to the USA and it operates an air base on the island. It was historically uninhabited. The USA took possession in 1899 but the Marshall Islands (once a US colony) now claim it as their territory.
- 6 The correct answer is C, the Middle East. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was created after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. The UN operate as observers and mediators between conflicting parties. At various times these have included Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. <https://untso.unmissions.org/>
- 7 The correct answer is D, Argentina. The UK claims sovereignty over the Falkland Island, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. The UK has occupied the Falklands since 1833. Argentina claims the territory as its own and in 1982 the dispute became an armed conflict that took the lives of 650 Argentinians and 255 British servicemen. The Argentinian forces were defeated.
- 8 The correct answer is B, Arctic Ocean Sovereignty. The Lomonosov Ridge is important in terms of deciding who has territorial rights to parts of the Arctic Ocean, if either Russia, Canada or Denmark could prove it is an extension of their continental shelf areas. Proof would allow a country to extend its Exclusive Economic Zone. [https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention\\_agreements/texts/unclos/part5.htm](https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/part5.htm)
- 9 The correct answers is D, six. Most territorial disputes involve 2 or perhaps 3 countries. China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei all claim the Spratly Islands making a resolution of the conflict very challenging.

10 The correct answer is B, seven. Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and the UK all claim Antarctic Territory. However these, and other potential claims, were set-aside when the Antarctic Treaty came into force in 1961. Since then the parties to the Treaty have managed Antarctica to minimise conflict and environmental damage.