

## **Straight Lines on Maps: Land Borders**

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The purpose of this article is to examine straight-line borders on maps that appear on postage stamps. Some of these straight-line borders are long, such as between the United States and Canada, while others are very short, like between Bolivia and Peru.

Borders between countries and other political entities are defined in two ways:

- Natural features such as rivers or the crest of mountain ranges.
- Created by governments for various reasons such as including natural resources within a country or excluding certain areas from a country.

Many borders, especially those that follow natural features, are curved and irregular. However, there are many borders that are straight lines. Often, straight-line borders are created by governments or other political entities at offices far from the field.

Straight-line borders on map stamps from many countries and from all continents are discussed and illustrated.