



STUDENT SUMMARY SHEET

UNIT 4: Political Entities



Political Classification	Definition	Application to the United States
State	A state is a <u>politically</u> defined unit, commonly known as a country. A state is a specific territory with defined boundaries, a permanent population, recognition by other states, and sovereignty (final say in governing within its boundaries).	The term state applies to the United States because it is a country, a political unit. It meets the requirements to be a state- defined boundaries, permanent population, recognition by other states, and sovereignty. On the other hand the subunits within the United States (e.g. Kentucky) are not states in the political geography sense because they lack complete sovereignty.
Nation	A nation is a <u>culturally</u> defined unit. A nation is a group of people tied to a specific territory that share common cultural characteristics and identify with each other.	The term nation doesn't apply to the United States as a whole. Instead, there are many nations within the United States.
Nation-state	A nation-state is when the boundaries of the nation and state match. It indicates that there is only one dominant cultural group in a country with few people in that group being located beyond the boundaries of that country.	The term nation-state does not apply to the United States since it is a multinational state. There is not a singular cultural group with a common cultural identity. As a state that combines many different indigenous groups with immigrants from a large variety of places together it shows how a state can still be viable.
Stateless Nation	A stateless nation is a cultural group that does not have dominance in any state therefore they do not have a state that is theirs to control. Typically stateless nations are looking for greater autonomy through devolution and/or secession.	The United States is not a stateless nation, but it contains stateless nations. For example the different Native American/American Indian groups are stateless nations.
Multinational State	A multinational state is a country that consists of multiple distinct cultural groups. Most countries are multinational states.	The United States is a multinational state. There are many different cultural groups within the United States.
Multistate Nation	A multistate nation is a cultural group that is split across multiple countries.	Since the United States doesn't have a clear national identity it also means it would not be a multi state nation.
Autonomous or Semiautonomous Region	An autonomous or semiautonomous region has some decision-making power, but is not an independent, sovereign state. Typically regions have achieved such autonomy as a result of devolutionary processes	Puerto Rico, while a dependent area, also has some degree of autonomy. In addition, the reservations have limited tribal sovereignty with laws on tribal lands sometimes varying from the rest of the area.

