

Using Absolute and Relative Location to Identify Chokepoints

National security and international trade are still dependent on the age-old concept of freedom of the seas. An essential facet in keeping sea lanes open is unencumbered travel through key straits. The sudden closing of one of these “chokepoints” would have serious repercussions for international peace and prosperity.

Use the description on the card to find the location of the “chokepoint.”

- Why is this strait important?
- Why is the term “chokepoint” appropriate?
- Of the countries bordering the strait, which would have the most interest in keeping the passageway open?
- What alternatives are available for shipping if the strait is closed to international trade?
- Which chokepoint is the most critical to world shipping? Why?

CARD 1

1. located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean
2. bordered by Gibraltar colony to the north
3. U.S. planes forced to fly over in 1986 because France would not give permission for U.S. to use French airspace to attack Libya
4. has been blocked several times by geological activity causing the Mediterranean to dry up
5. $36^{\circ} 08' \text{ N } 5^{\circ} 22' \text{ W}$

CARD 2

1. bordered by Chile and Argentina
2. links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
3. named after the first person credited with circumnavigating the world
4. cuts through the “land of fire”
5. $52^{\circ} 30' \text{ N } 5^{\circ} 22' \text{ W}$

CARD 3

1. shortcut for oil tankers traveling to the Pacific Rim nations
2. bordered by Indonesia
3. located in the Indian Ocean
4. bordered by Malaysia
5. $4^{\circ} 15' \text{ N } 99^{\circ} 44' \text{ E}$

CARD 4

1. links the Black Sea with the Mediterranean
2. bordered by Turkey on all sides
3. bordered by Istanbul on east
4. one links the Sea of Marmara to the Aegean Sea
5. $41^{\circ} 10' \text{ N } 29^{\circ} 10' \text{ E}$
 $40^{\circ} 05' \text{ N } 25^{\circ} 50' \text{ E}$

CARD 5

1. located between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean
2. bordered by Yemen, Djibouti, and Eritrea
3. essential link between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean
4. part of its name is the Arabic word for gate
5. 13° 17' N 42° 49' E

CARD 6

1. critical to the flow of oil from the Persian/Arabian Gulf
2. connects the Persian/Arabian Gulf with the Arabian Sea
3. bordered by Iran, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates
4. closely monitored by the United States
5. 26° 30' N 52° 30' E

CARD 8

1. 103 miles long
2. has been controlled by the French, the British, the Israelis, and the Egyptians
3. links the Red Seas and the Mediterranean
4. located entirely within Egypt
5. 30° 53' N 32° 21' E