

## Think Critically

**7. Summarize** Briefly summarize the citizenship of people living in Puerto Rico and those living on the Northern Mariana Islands.

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## Show Your Skill

**8. Compare and Contrast** How are states and territories alike and different?

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## Take the Challenge

**9.** Choose one United States territory. Learn five fascinating facts about it to share with the class.

## Where in the World?

### U.S. Territories and Commonwealths



The United States also holds several territories. A **territory** is not a state. A territory is subject to the U.S. government, but has looser ties to the nation than the states have. Many U.S. territories were acquired as a result of wars. These include the U.S. Virgin Islands in the Caribbean, Guam, American Samoa, Wake Island, and the Midway Islands in the Pacific.

At one time the United States also had **protectorates**. These were small countries that the United States protected from rival nations. Cuba, Haiti, and Panama in the Caribbean were once protectorates. So were Hawaii and the Philippines in the Pacific.

Two U.S. territories are called commonwealths. They are Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands. A **commonwealth** is a territory that has its own constitution and a government that gets its powers from the U.S. Congress. American laws apply in a commonwealth. The people living in a commonwealth are U.S. citizens. They do not pay federal income tax. However, they also cannot vote in national elections. Each commonwealth has one delegate in the U.S. Congress, but this delegate cannot vote.

The United States also operates hundreds of military bases around the world. People living on these bases follow American laws rather than those of the country in which they are located.



**NGSSS Check** List some examples of types of borders between states and nations. **SS.7.G.1.3**

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