

Gerrymandering

## Warm-up:

*Imagine that you have to split a state into districts to have the same number of voters in each district: How would you do it?*

Find a partner to discuss the topic with and we will return for a think pair share.

# Lesson Agenda:

Warm-Up (5 minutes)

Mini-Lesson (15 minutes)

Practice (25 minutes)

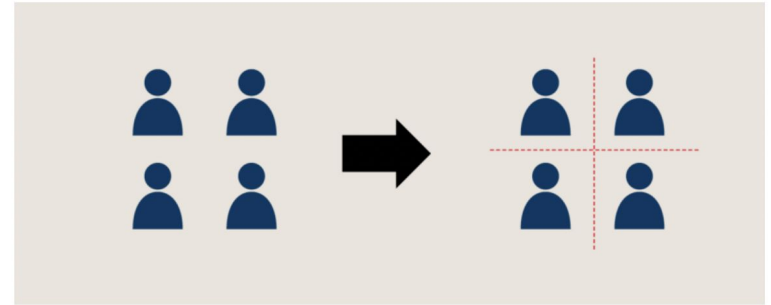
Exit ticket (5 minutes)

# Gerrymandering Background Information

Gerrymandering "is when politicians redraw voting districts to benefit their political party". Every 10 years, there is a requirement for states to redraw their legislative and congressional district lines following the census. Since communities' change, there is a requirement to redistrict maps to ensure that districts are equally populated, comply with laws such as the Voting Rights Act, and are representative of state's population.

# Gerrymandering techniques

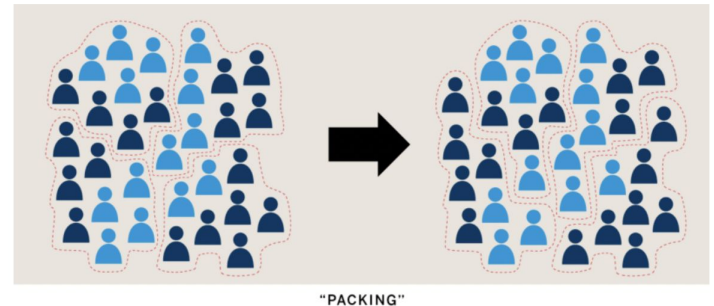
Cracking involves drawing districts in such a way as to divide a concentration of specific types of voters across several districts such that they are a minority in each one, with practically no hope of achieving representation in any of the districts. This practice also helps make districts less competitive.



"CRACKING"

# Packing

Packing refers to the practice of drawing particular districts in such a way as to ensure that another party's candidate wins that seat by a tremendous margin. Although the opposing party is all but guaranteed the seat, packing makes surrounding districts less competitive, and thus tips the balance of power in the legislative body overall toward the ruling party.



# Ethical Issues with Gerrymandering

- *In your opinion, are there any ethical issues with gerrymandering? Explain why?*
- *How do you think districts should be drawn?*
- *Should a party be favored when creating districts?*



## Gerrymandering website

<http://polytrope.com/district/>

Visit this website for an example of what gerrymandering is.

## [Python code](#)

Using the python code, run it and try to make gerrymandering a possibility for this state.



## Exit Ticket:

- What are your thoughts about gerrymandering?
- How difficult was generating gerrymandering in your two activities?
- Which gerrymandering technique did you use in your activity?