

Stylized Redistricting Game, Part 1

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We will work with a stylized polity map, shown on page 2. In this polity there are $8 \times 8 = 64$ basic areal units, called blocks or cells. Assume that each block is equal in population to the others. The blocks are marked D or R, for whether there are Democratic party or Republican party majorities in them. As you can verify, there are 34 Democratic party majority blocks and 30 Republican party majority blocks.

You are to come up with a legally valid redistricting plan, consisting of 8 districts of 8 contiguous blocks each. Point contiguity is permitted. Further, if you have been assigned a polity controlled by the Democratic party, your plan should maximize the benefits (number of likely seats) for the Democratic party. Conversely, if you have been assigned a polity controlled by the Republican party, your plan should maximize the benefits (number of likely seats) for the Republican party.

You should draw your 8 districts clearly on the polity map on page 2 and hand in this exercise booklet with the requested information below supplied. Page 4 contains a copy of the polity map on page 2. You can use it for practice, before finalizing the districts you draw on the polity map on page 2. Feel free to remove it from the booklet and not hand it in.

* * *

To which type of polity has your team been assigned? (Circle your answer.)

Controlled by the Democratic party.

Controlled by the Republican party.

* * *

Print your team member names here:

* * *

What is the composition of your plan?

- Number of Democratic majority districts: _____
- Number of Republican majority districts: _____
- Number of party balanced districts: _____

D	D	D	R	R	R	R	R
D	R	D	R	R	D	R	R
D	R	D	R	R	D	R	R
D	R	R	<i>D</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>D</i>	R	R
D	D	D	R	<i>D</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>D</i>
D	D	D	R	D	D	D	D
R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D
D	D	D	R	R	R	D	D

Note: We can refer to the blocks with a 2-D coordinate scheme. Let the lower left-hand corner block be (8,1), the upper right-hand corner block be (1,8), the upper left-hand block be (1,1), the lower right-hand block be (8,8), and the other blocks identified similarly.

D	D	D	R	R	R	R	R
D	R	D	R	R	D	R	R
D	R	D	R	R	D	R	R
D	R	R	R	<i>D</i>	<i>D</i>	R	R
D	D	D	R	<i>D</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>D</i>
D	D	D	R	D	D	D	D
R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D
D	D	D	R	R	R	D	D