

## ✘ Info Sheet for Reference Maps

Use this information to help you draw boundaries on your Master Map.

### Reference map: Population Distribution

#### Use this information first

One of the main considerations for mapping electoral boundaries is population equality. The population of your imaginary country is 560,000 people. The law requires that the population of each electoral district not vary from the average by more than 10 percent.

Average population per district = Population/Number of Districts  
(560,000/8 = 70,000 people per district)

Think about how you are going to divide the population by electoral district while keeping in mind the 10 percent law. Note that you may make exceptions to this law if you can justify your decision.

### Reference map: Language Communities

This map indicates the top languages, besides the majority, in various areas of the country. It shows communities of people who share the same mother tongue, or first language.

Think about the importance of language in making decisions about creating electoral boundaries.

### Reference map: Shared History

Observe the historical electoral boundary on the base map (see island). Think about some of the reasons the boundary might have been established there.

Think about preserving the historical pattern – or consider whether it is time to change the tradition.

#### Keep in mind:

- Examine the various physical geographical factors (e.g., mountains, roads, islands, waterways, ferries) when drawing electoral boundaries.
- The interests of all the people within each electoral boundary will be represented by one member of Parliament.