THE TECH

Boundaries of The United States

Show Many Strange Eccentricities

As was the case last year, many students at MIT are beginning to realize that the United States is a vast and varied country, with a plethora of strange and unique boundaries. These boundaries often create unusual circumstances for the residents of the states they define.

Irrigation Projects

Many of the boundaries are the result of irrigation projects undertaken by the federal government. For example, the boundary between Idaho and Oregon is defined by the Snake River, which was dammed to create irrigation projects.

Nuclear Power Plants

Other boundaries are defined by the presence of nuclear power plants. The boundary between Kansas and Colorado is defined by a nuclear power plant located near the town of Colorado City.

U.S. and Canada

The boundary between the United States and Canada is one of the most well-known. It is defined by the St. Lawrence River, which separates the two countries.

The boundaries of the United States are a fascinating topic, and there are many more examples of strange and unique boundaries that can be explored.

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Lack of Geographical Data

By Treaty Making Results in Corrections

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, signed in 1848, resulted in the United States gaining control over a large portion of the Mexican territory. However, the treaty was signed without any geographical data, and as a result, many boundaries were incorrectly defined.

In 1875, the United States began a process of establishing a system of boundary surveys. This process continued until the 1930s, when the Boundary Survey was completed.

The Boundary Survey

The Boundary Survey was a government-funded project that was responsible for establishing accurate boundaries between the United States and its neighbors. The survey was conducted by teams of trained surveyors who used the latest technology of the time, such as theodolites and prismatic compasses.

The survey was not without its challenges. In some cases, the surveyors had to navigate treacherous terrain, such as mountainous areas or swamps.

The survey was completed in 1930, and it resulted in the establishment of many accurate boundaries, including the one between the United States and Canada.

In conclusion, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Boundary Survey played a significant role in establishing the modern boundary system of the United States. These efforts continue today, as new technologies and methods are being developed to further improve the accuracy of boundary surveys.