**Geography: Changing Political Borders of Europe**

The history of Europe has been a history of turmoil and change. This pattern stretches far back into the past, as territory changed hands numerous times due to war and migration. Creating a definitive map showing national borders is a challenging job that never completely ends.

A *cartographer* is responsible for correctly drawing a map’s borders and features, a difficult task considering that some borders change frequently and there is no way of knowing how the lines will ultimately end up. This cartoon emphasizes the difficulty that a European cartographer has drawing and redrawing the continent’s borders.

1. Read the cartoon and explain why the cartographer is frustrated.
2. Use “The Complete School Atlas" to compare the changes in political borders between the map of Europe after the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 (p 84) and the map of Europe in 1763.
   1. Which countries got bigger?
   2. Smaller?
   3. Which disappeared completely?
   4. What new countries appeared?
3. Compare the map of Europe after the Congress of Vienna in 1815 (p 87) to the map of Europe after World War I (p 94).
   1. Which countries got bigger?
   2. Smaller?
   3. Which disappeared completely?
   4. What new countries appeared?
4. Compare the map of Europe after World War II (p 97) to a current map of Europe (use World Geography, p 270).
   1. Which countries got bigger?
   2. Smaller?
   3. Which disappeared completely?
   4. What new countries appeared?
5. Make an *inference* (logical conclusion based on the information given) about why the borders of Europe have changed so much over the past century. Explain your reasoning.