

Visual Aid 34: Examining a Political Cartoon

The United States and Louisiana

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EXAMINING A POLITICAL CARTOON

WHY?

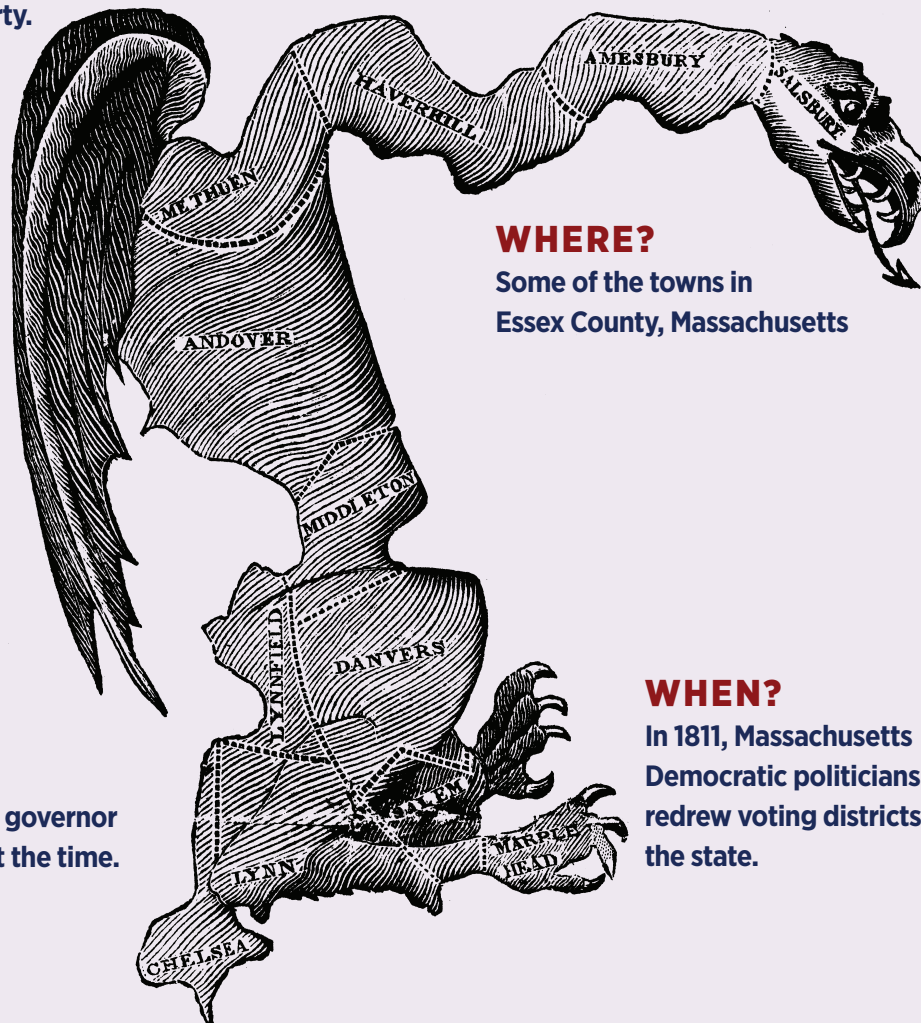
District was drawn so as to ensure the election of senators from Governor Gerry's political party.

WHAT?

New political district was said to look like a "squatting salamander." Cartoonist added a head, wings, and claws to make that image more apparent.

WHO?

Elbridge Gerry was governor of Massachusetts at the time.



WHERE?

Some of the towns in Essex County, Massachusetts

WHEN?

In 1811, Massachusetts Democratic politicians redrew voting districts in the state.

In 1812, this political cartoon appeared in the *Boston Weekly Messenger* depicting the odd shape of a voting district created by Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry to gain political advantage for his party. The cartoonist called it a "Gerry-mander."