

## Visual Aid 33: Examining a Political Cartoon

### South Carolina: Our History, Our Home

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# EXAMINING A POLITICAL CARTOON

## WHY?

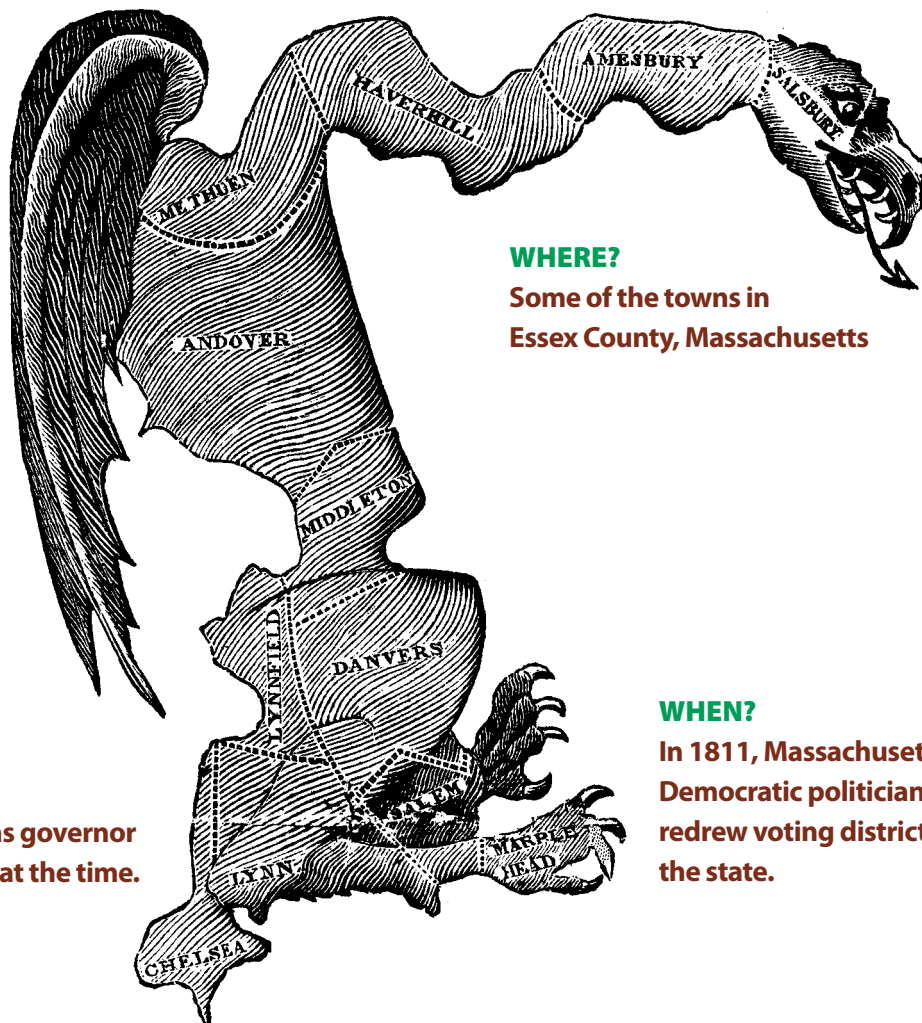
District was drawn so as to ensure the election of senators from Governor Gerry's political party.

## 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."