

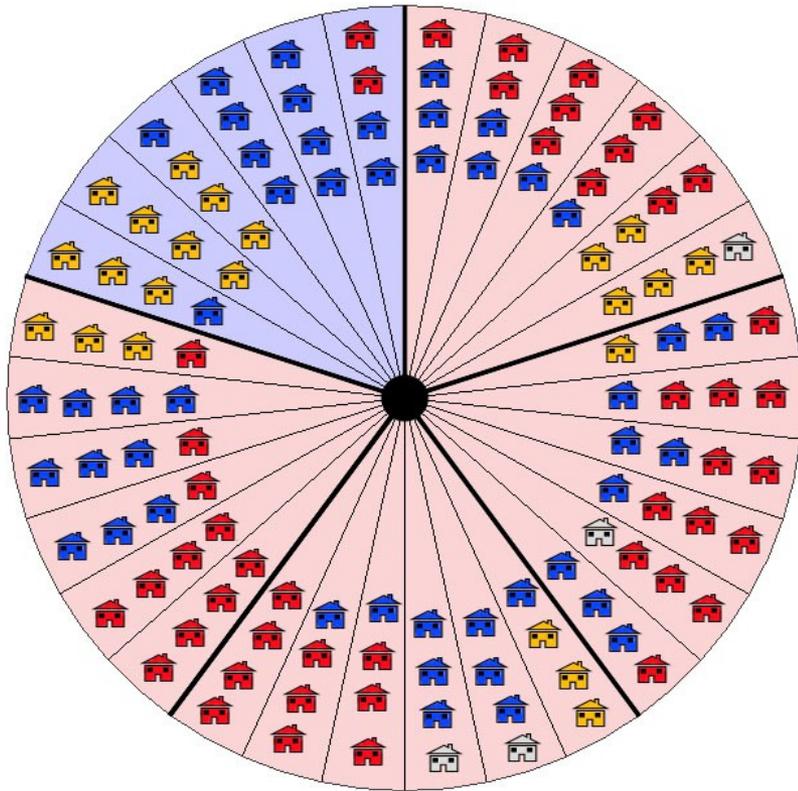
Gerrymander Wheel

How boundaries can influence an
election result

How this works

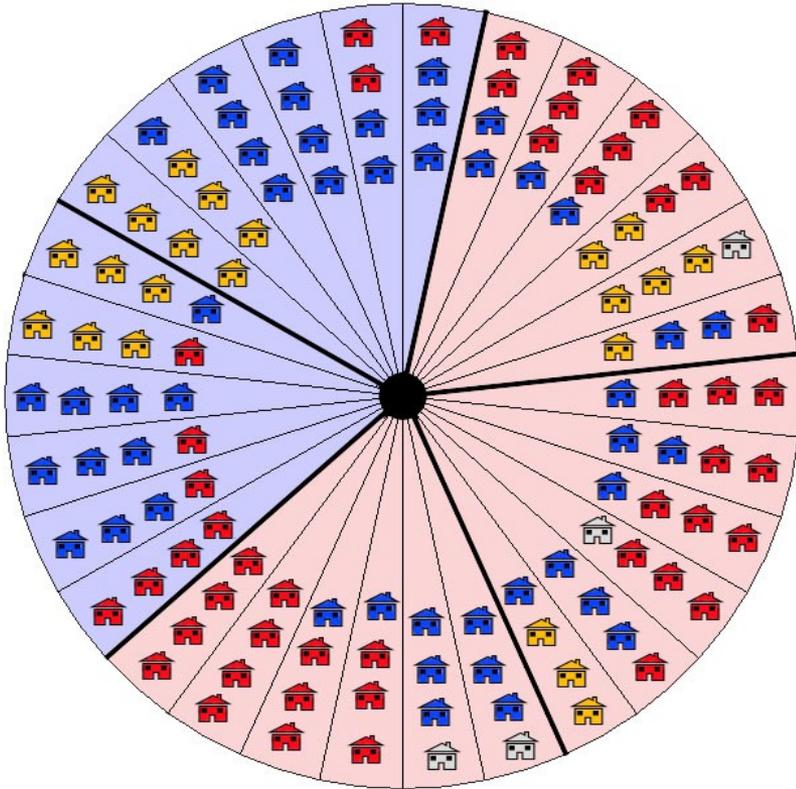
- Changes in constituency boundaries can dramatically effect the outcome of an election.
- The black lines represent the constituency boundaries.
- The coloured houses represent the voters.
- As the wheel spins, the constituency boundaries are redrawn.
- There are five constituencies shown on the wheel.
- The result of the election is shown each time.

Position One – Labour Dominate



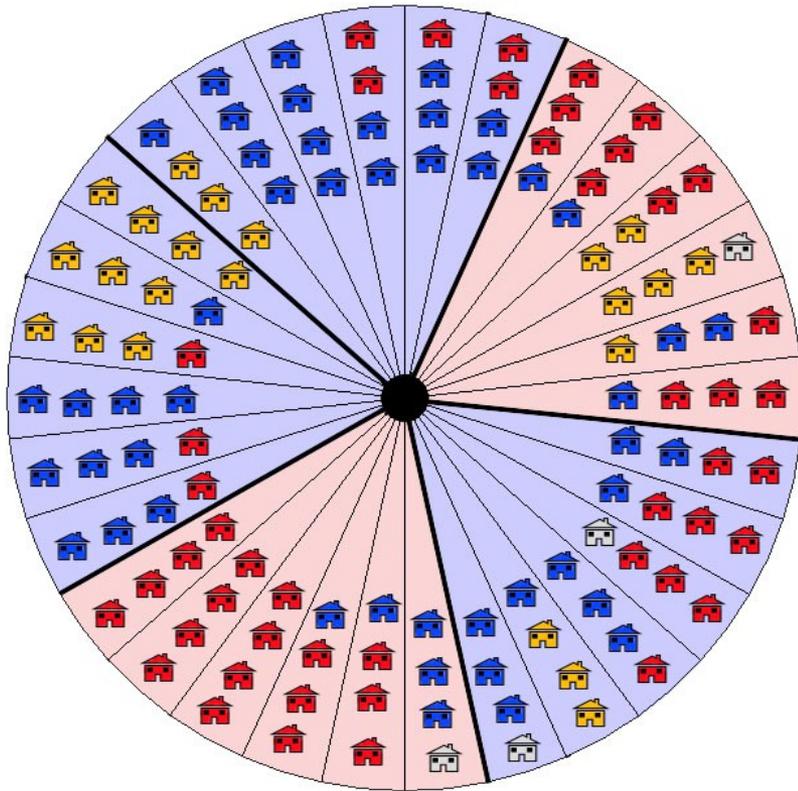
Party	Seats
Labour	4
Conservative	1
Liberal Democrat	0
Other	0

Position Two – Conservative fight back



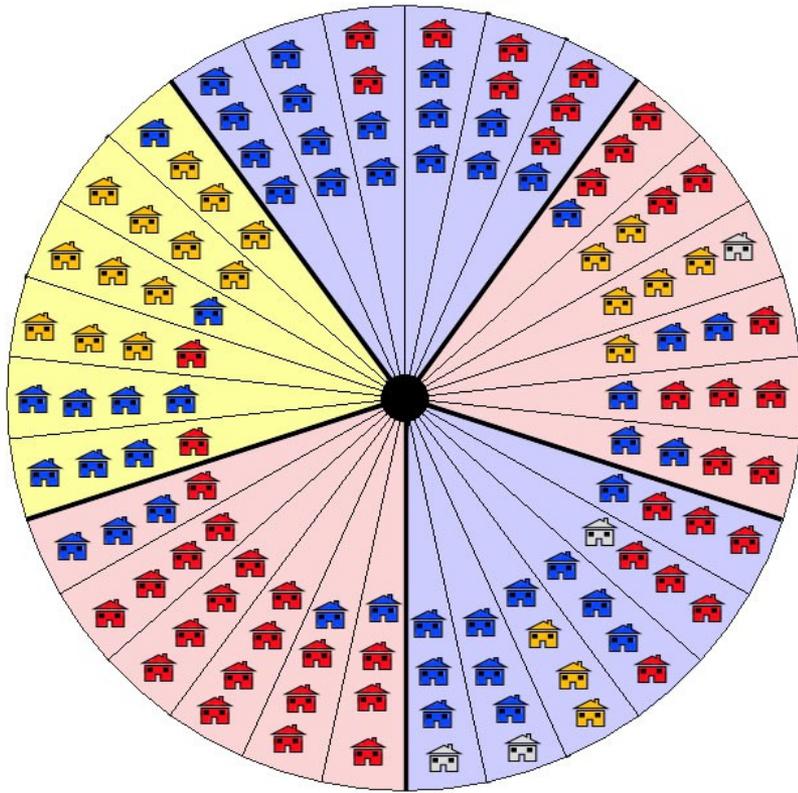
Party	Seats
Labour	3
Conservative	2
Liberal Democrat	0
Other	0

Position Three – Tory Majority



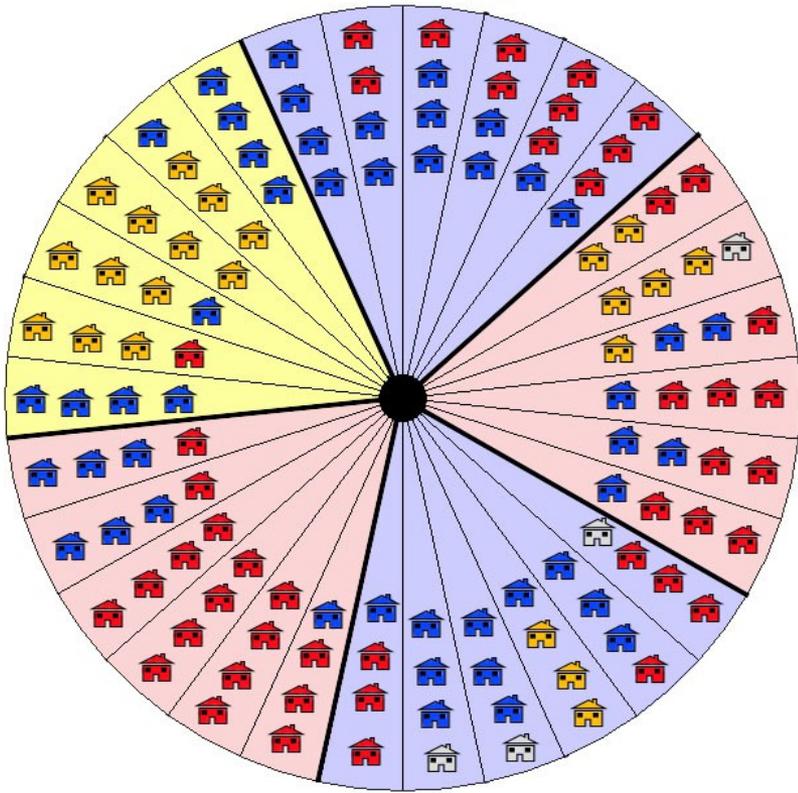
Party	Seats
Labour	2
Conservative	3
Liberal Democrat	0
Other	0

Position Four – Lib Dems take a seat



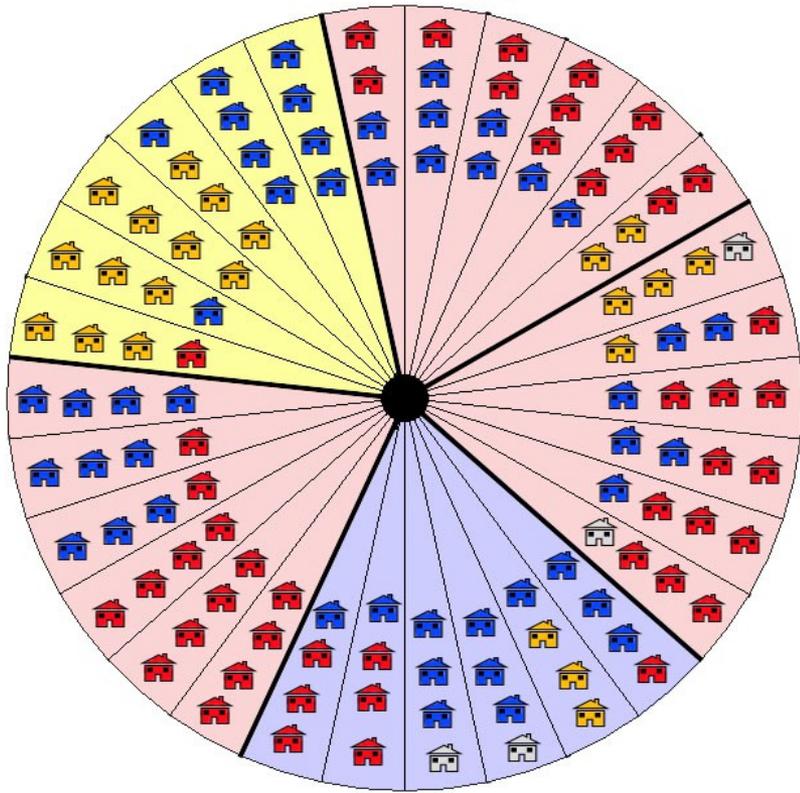
Party	Seats
Labour	2
Conservative	2
Liberal Democrat	1
Other	0

Position Five – no change



Party	Seats
Labour	2
Conservative	2
Liberal Democrat	1
Other	0

Position Six – Labour back in control



Party	Seats
Labour	3
Conservative	1
Liberal Democrat	1
Other	0

What just happened?

Although the voters don't move or change their minds about the party that they are going to vote for, the winners change as the constituency boundaries change.

Simply by redrawing the boundaries we can go from Labour having won 4 seats and the Conservatives 1, to the Conservatives coming out as winners by 3 seats to Labour's 2.

Why does this happen?

Boundaries between constituencies can often just manage to give a party a slim majority where a different arrangement would not.

People who vote for a party which narrowly loses will find that their vote is wasted.

This doesn't just happen as a result of deliberate tampering, but also occur when the boundaries are drawn up impartially.

What is the solution?

The solution is to switch to a voting system with fewer wasted votes based on multi-member constituencies like the Single Transferable Vote (STV)