

# Unit I Terms

## 1.1 Terms

# Space

- Def: area
- Sig: space, or spatial analysis, is at the heart of geography (like time is to historians)

# Projection

- Def: The system used to transfer locations from earth's surface to a flat map.
- Sig: It will always cause distortion (direction, area, distance, shape and/or proximity)

# Distortion

- Def: problems created when “flattening” the earth (distance, direction, area, shape & proximity)
- Ex: The mercator projection heavily distorts area at the higher latitudes.

# Scale

- Def: the size of something
  - In cartography it's the ratio of the size of the map to what it represents.
  - The scale of inquiry refers to the extent of an area being analyzed or discussed (local, global, etc.).
- Sig: Scales are often interrelated (local affects global and vice versa) and vary (The US is wealthy but regions within the US are not)

# GIS

- Def: a computer system which could collect, store, retrieve and depict spatial data from the real world.
- Ex: Google maps use various data to help us locate, navigate and determine commute times to various locations.

# Remote Sensing

- Def: The scanning of the earth's surface by satellite or a high-flying airplane to obtain information about it.
- Ex: it's used to see urban sprawl, shrinking ice caps and deforestation.

# Data

- Def: facts or information used usually to calculate, analyze, or plan something
- Exs:
  - Geospatial (geographic or spatial info)
  - Qualitative (non-measurable info)
  - Quantitative (measurable/numbered info)

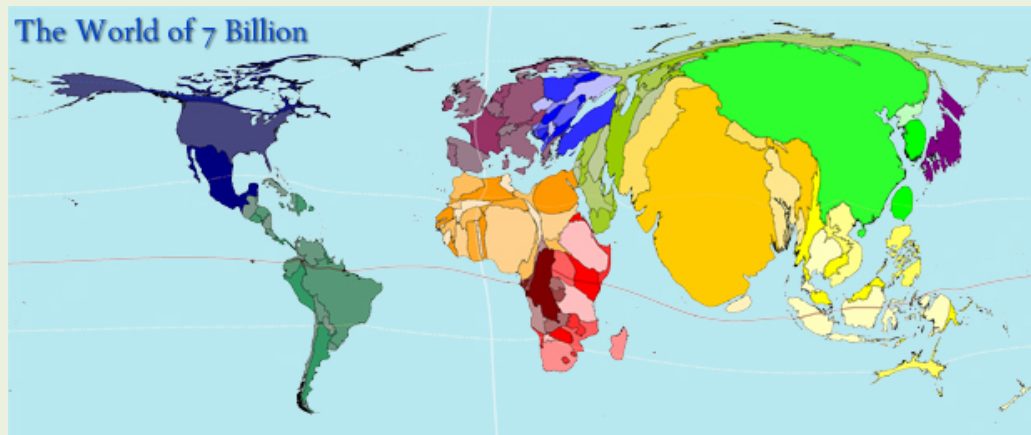


# GPS

- GPS is an example of a “satellite navigation system” which helps us determine absolute location of something.
- Ex: GPS can help us locate or track tagged animals or packages.

# Cartogram map

- Def: a map where area is transformed based on a statistical factor (not its true land area)
- Ex: A cartogram of the US would increase the size of cities and shrink the size of rural areas based on population (the statistical factor).



A cartogram based on population (not area)

# Dot Map

- Def: a thematic map in which a dot represents some frequency of the mapped variable
- Ex: Dots represented cholera deaths were placed on a map to show they clustered around specific infected water wells

# Choropleth map

- Def: A thematic map where parts of the map are shaded differently based on a variable.
- Ex: The US red blue map shades states based on whether they voted Republican or Democrat in a particular election.

# Isoline map

- Def: a thematic map with lines that connect points of equal value.
- Ex: a topographic map uses lines to reflect changing elevation.

# Proportional (graduated) symbol map

- Def: a thematic map in which the size of a symbol varies in proportion to the frequency of intensity of the mapped variable.
- Ex: A map of the US could use varying size circles to represent the different size cities.

## Section II

- Def:
- Ex:



- Def:
- Ex:

- Def:
- Ex:

- Def:
- Ex:

# Absolute Location

- Def: An exact position of an object or place in relation to a conventional grid system.
- Ex: GPS, Addresses, Township & Range

# Site

- Def: The physical character of a place.
- Sig: a place's natural harbor or fertile lands could spur settlement and economic development

# Relative Location (situation)

- The advantages and disadvantages of a place due to its position in relation to that of other places (the successful Cheetos store is located next to Hami)
- Sig: it helps us understand interconnectivity of places

# Toponym

- Def: The name of a place.
- Sig: It can tell us about the original settlers or the development at the time of the naming.

# Cultural Landscape

- Def: The fashioning of natural landscape by a cultural group.
- Sig: The cultural landscape can tell us about a society's culture, economic development, etc.



# Latitude & Longitude

- Def: latitudes circle the map east-west (e.g. equator). Longitudes stretch from pole to (Prime Meridian).
- EX: latitude affects climates while longitude affects time zone. Both help navigate.

# Landscape Analysis

Def: Using techniques like field observations & photographic interpretations to help understand people, places & regions; helps see interconnections between and among places and regions (and humans & environment)

Sig: precipitation maps help predict future famine

# Environmental Determinism

- Def: The idea that the physical environment is the principle cause of human activity.
- Sig: Many argue it doesn't factor in how culture promotes or prohibits human activity too.

# Possibilism

- Def: The idea that the physical environment sets limits but people have the ability to adjust the environment and make choices.
- Sig: It argues that culture plays a major roll in human activity.

# Carl Sauer

- Def: US geographer who promoted the importance of culture and the cultural landscape.
- Sig: He focused attention away from the physical environment.

# Carl Ritter

- Def: German Geographer associated with environmental determinism
- Sig: Argued that culture was a product of environment

# Regionalization

- Def: The process where locations become similar or connected in some way (and different from other regions).
- Sig: This may lead to an improved economy through specialization and connectivity (e.g. steel belt) or the breakup of a country (the confederacy).

# Formal Region

- Def: A region where everyone shares in one or more distinctive characteristics.
- Ex: The wheat belt or California



# Functional Region

- Def: An area organized around a node or focal point.
- Ex: Newspaper delivery area or a grocery store customer zone

# Perceptual Region

- Def: An area that people believe exists as part of their cultural identity.
- Ex: the South or the hood

# Time Zones

- Def: An area where the time is the same. It usually is 15 degrees.
- Ex: The contiguous US includes the Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific time zones.

## Section III

# Concentration

- It refers to whether a feature is spread out evenly over space or clustered together
  - Clustered/agglomerated = objects are close
  - Dispersed/scattered = objects are far apart

# Pattern

- Geometric arrangement of a feature in space
- Ex: geometric pattern (square, rectangle, circular) or irregular/no pattern

# Density

- The total number of objects in an area
- Ex: 1,000 people per square mile

# Globalization

- Actions or processes that involve the entire world and result in making something worldwide in scope.
- Sig: We're becoming more and more alike as politics, economics and culture globalizes (with a backlash).



# Hearth

- A place from which an innovation originates
- Ex: rice agriculture's hearth is thought to be in Southeast Asia

# Relocation Diffusion

- The spread of an idea through the physical movement of people (not expansion)
- Ex: the Spanish brought Catholicism with them to the New World

# Expansion Diffusion

- the spread of a feature from one place to another in a snowballing process
- Sig: the total number of knowers or users increase

# Hierarchical Diffusion

- The spread of a feature from a person/place of authority to another place (expansion)
- Ex: Fashion trends jump from Milan to Paris to NY

# Contagious Diffusion

- A rapid widespread diffusion of a feature throughout the population (expansion)
- Ex: the common flu

# Stimulus Diffusion

- The spread of an underlying idea while the specific trait is rejected (expansion)
- Siberians domesticated the reindeer after exposure to the domestication of cattle

# Distance decay

- The decline of an activity or function with increasing distance from its origin
- Ex: LA Times readership decreased as you move farther from LA

# Spatial Thinking

- Def: applying spatial concepts to understand phenomena across an area.
- Ex: diffusion, regionalization, interaction, isolation, etc.



# Time-Space Compression

- The idea that places move closer together in travel or communication time or costs (due to improved technology & globalization)
- Ex: Overland travel b/t Boston and NY was reduced from 3.5 days to 5 hours (1800-2000s)

# Friction of Distance

- The idea that distance reduces interaction due to increasing costs (\$ and time)
- We visit nearby friends more often than distant friends

# Relative Distance

- measuring the distance in terms of ease of interaction as opposed to two places' absolute distance from each other
- Ex: it's a \$30 cab drive away during rush hour

# Distribution

- The arrangement of a feature in space.
- Ex: Students (the feature) may all be squeezed into the gym or spread out evenly throughout the campus