



What is Human Geography?

Chapter 1

Most popular Starbucks holiday beverages

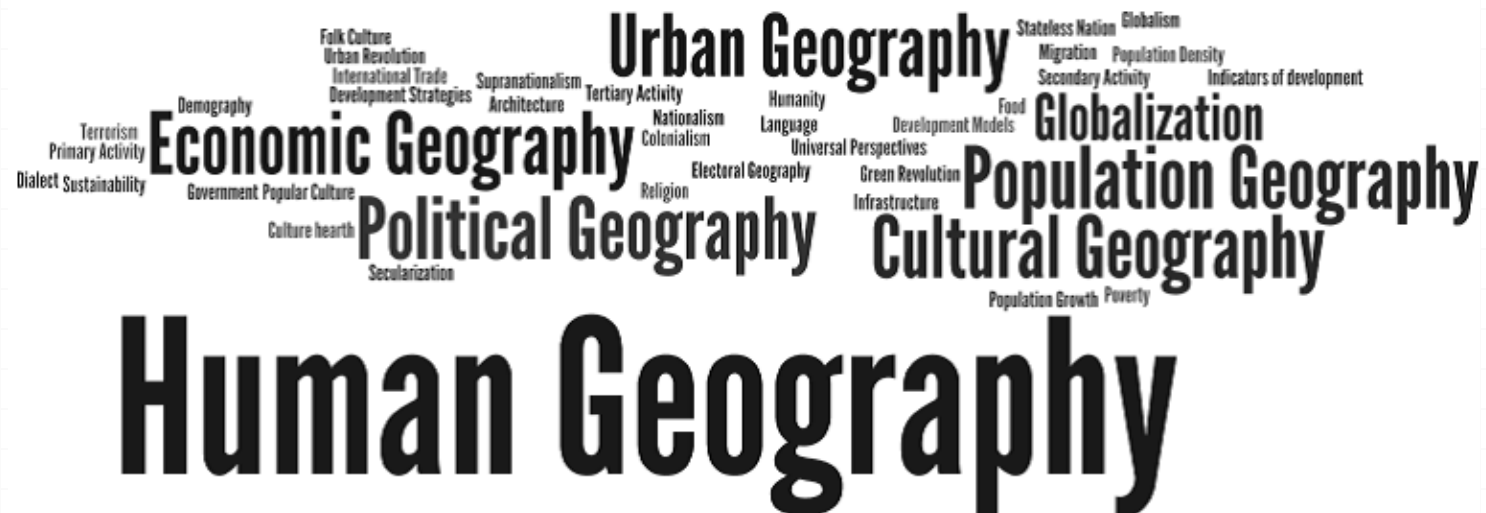


o Source: Refinery 29

What is Human Geography?

- o The field of human geography focuses on:
 - o how people make places
 - o how we organize space and society
 - o how we interact with each other
 - o and how we make sense of others and ourselves in our localities, regions, and the world.

- Human geography is a diverse field that encompasses a number of different subfields. Complex linkages between human and environmental systems characterize our world.
- Although complex, there are some key components to understanding the patterns, processes, and relationships that define the study of human geography:
 - Scale, region, and diffusion



Geo + graphia

Geography literally means in Greek to write about or describe the Earth

What does the terms 'geography' mean to you?



Unnumbered 1 p4

2 Branches of Geography

1. **Physical-** Environmental dynamics
2. **Human-** Social dynamics

SUBFIELDS

- Nature and Culture: Not that clear of concepts
 - Nature-Culture Dualism
 - Reject today- nature & culture are NOT completely separate



Cultural Ecology- Relationship between people & the natural environment.

4 different approaches

1. Environmental determinism
2. Possibilism
3. Humans as modifiers of the earth
4. Earth as a dynamic & integrated system

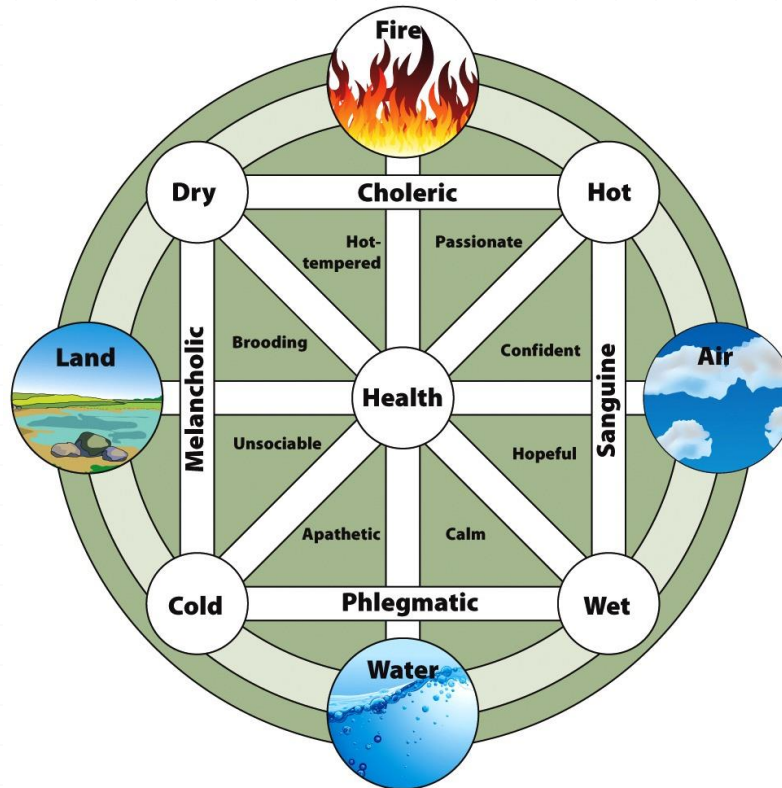


1. Environmental Determinism

Natural factors control the development of human physiological and mental qualities. Humans must adapt to natural conditions.

- Appears in Western thought
 - Popular with 19th Century Americans
 - Can be traced back to the Greeks
 - Human diversity due to climate and locational factors
- EX: Sharpest minds from temperate areas not extreme*

- **Environmental determinism:** attributed cultural difference to human traits that reflected these four elements and were strongly shaped by physical factors, including climate.

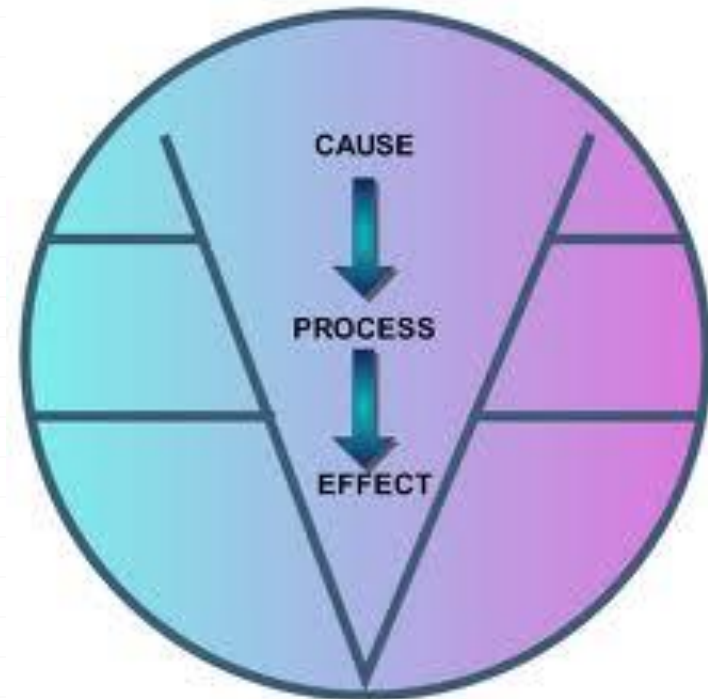


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Figure 1.2

Environmental Determinism

➤ Criticisms

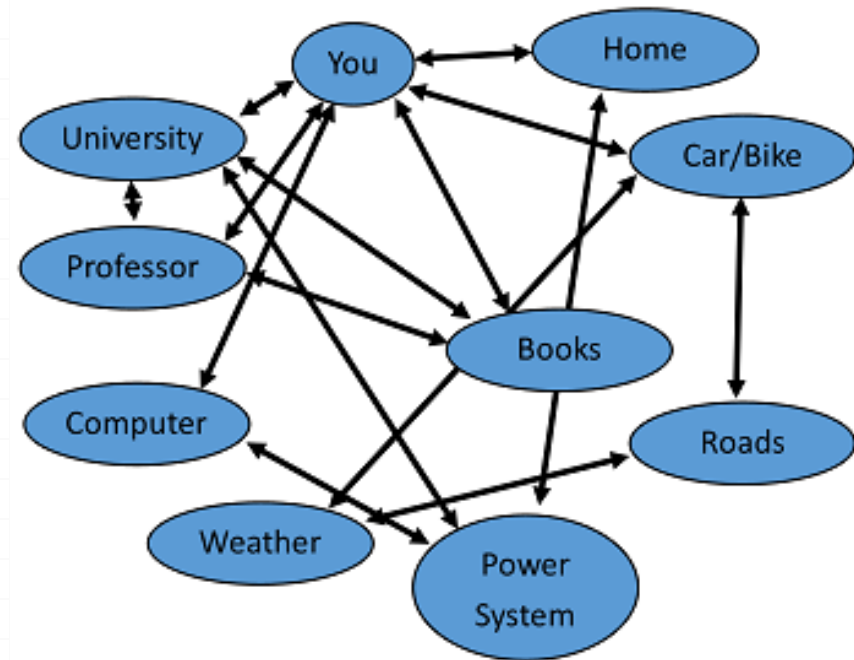
- 1) Oversimplified cause & effect relationships
- 2) Similar natural setting does not produce like behaviors always
- 3) Contributes ethnocentric interpretations to sociocultural differences



Nature and Culture

- **Actor-network theory:**

A body of thought that emphasizes that humans and nonhumans are linked together in a dynamic set of relations that, in turn, influence human behavior. Radical reinterpretation of environmental determinism



- How does actor-network theory conceptualize the relationship between people and the environment?

2. Possibilism

People use their creativity to decide how to respond to the conditions or constraints of a particular natural environment.

- Environment can limit opportunities/choices
- Environmental influence
- Not the strongest influence on society though

Technology can expand choices



3. Humans as Modifiers of Earth

Carl Sauer (1889-1975)

- 1920's- Rejected environmental determinism & emphasized human agency.
- Overtime human activities transform landscape.
- These turn into cultural landscapes.

Williams Hall (right) was constructed in 1900 and served as the library and as classrooms. Named the "*castle of the prairies*" due to its unique architecture



Humans: Modifiers of the Earth

- Humans can be modifiers
- Nature is a social construction

Shape environment through practices and ideas about what nature is or should be.

- 18th century: Wilderness = wasteland
- 19th century: Wilderness = beauty



4. Earth as a Dynamic, Integrated System

People are intricately connected to the natural world

➤ 2 Key Principals

- Earth is a system of diverse components that interact
- Earth is changing b/c of natural & human induced events



Location

Location

- Absolute- XY coordinates
or position.

Stillwater: 36.1156° N, 97.0581° W

- Relative- site or situation
West of Tulsa, North of OKC



Place

Place: Locality distinguished by specific physical or social characteristics.

- “feel of an area”
- Tourism
- Home
- “Sense of Place”



Place



Place

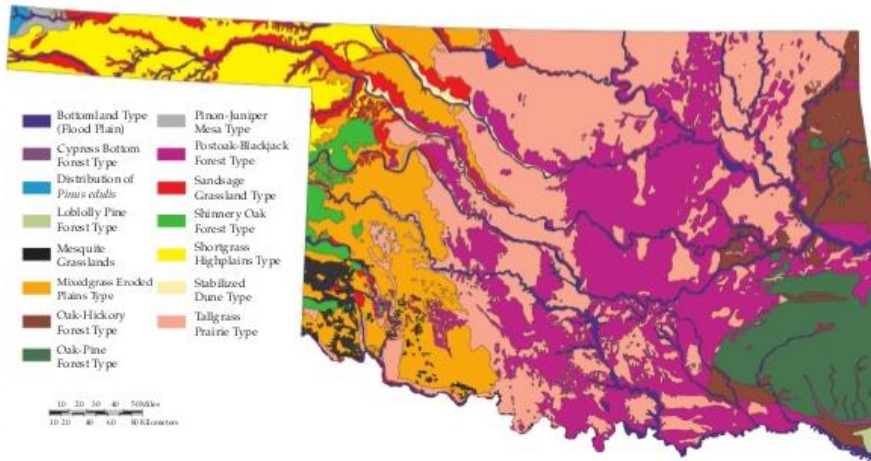


Place



Place

- Site: Physical characteristics of a place. E.g. Vegetation & water resources
- Situation: Geographic context of a place, such as political, economic, and social characteristics



OKLAHOMA NATIVE VEGETATION TYPES
Natural Resource Ecology and Management
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Oklahoma State University

Mary Fallin vs Joe Dorman

Sense of Place

- Involves the human experience in a landscape, the local knowledge and folklore.
- It also grows from identifying oneself in relation to a particular piece of land on the surface of planet Earth.





Sonic
(Stillwater)
1960
2017



Space

- Absolute: Bounded
- Relative: Defined by human interactions
 - Trade
 - Social Networking sites: *connect people globally*
- Relational: Product of spatial and social processes



Cultural Landscapes & Regions

o Cultural groups share traits

➤ EX: Dietary customs, Religion, Language &/or Art

Study by looking at.....

- **Reading the cultural landscape**

Peoples' architecture, settlement patterns, land use = visible expressions of culture

- **Regional analysis**

Study the distinctiveness of a region

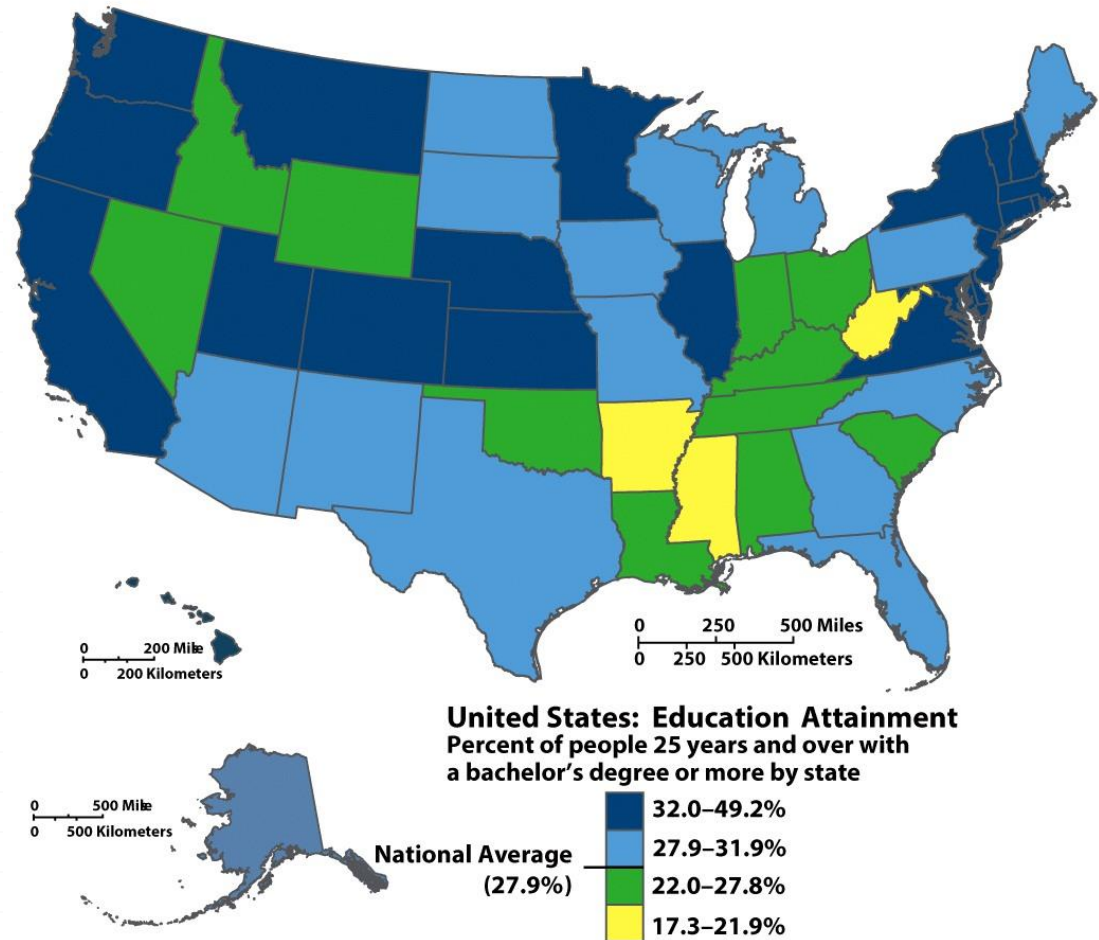
- How a place have changed over time???

- How the NW of the US differs from the Deep South???

Types of Regions

1) Formal Regions:

Has unifying physical &/or cultural traits



Data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005–2009.

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Figure 1.5a part 1

Types of Regions

2) Functional Regions:

Unified by specific economic, political, or social activity, has at least one node



Figure 1.5b

The image here is of the University of Texas campus, the tower is a part of the main building, an administrative node.

Types of Regions

3) Perceptual Regions:

Derived from people's sense of identity & attachment to different areas.

history, politics, tourism,
and aspects of physical
geography can shape
perceptual regions



Figure 1.5c

Courtesy Alyson Greiner

Culture Reconceptualized

- o **Culture:** A social creation consisting of shared beliefs and practices that are dynamic rather than fixed, and a complex system that is shaped by people and, in turn, influences them.
- o What are some examples of culture from your hometown, or state?

Important Terms

Spatial Variation

Changes in the distribution of phenomena from one place or another.

- *Geologic differences*
- *Population differences*
- *Weather differences*
- *Habitat differences*

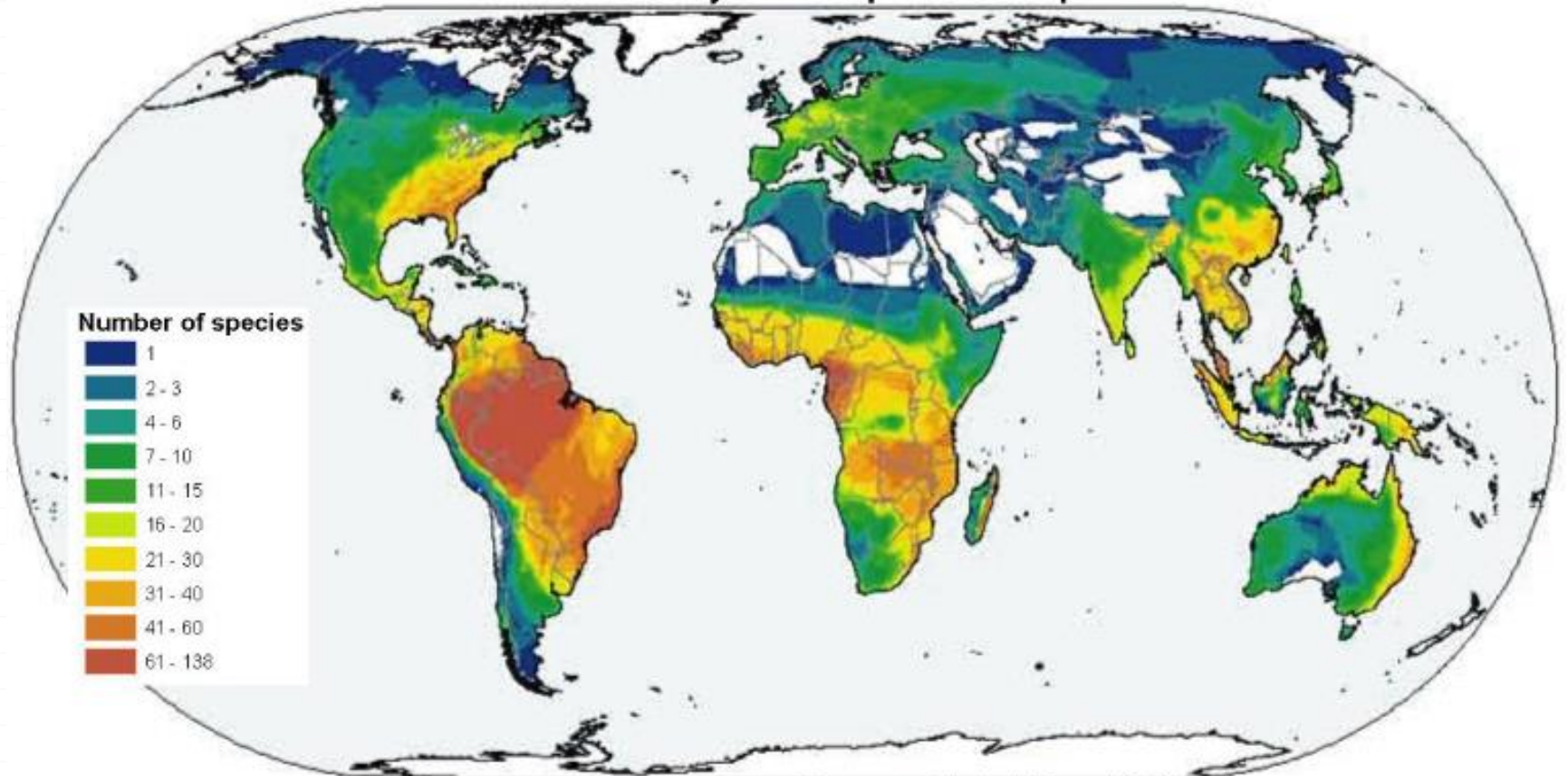
Spatial Distribution

Arrangement of phenomena on/near the earth's surface.

- *How much _____ is where????*

Spatial variation & distribution

Global Diversity of Amphibian Species



Source: Global Amphibian Assessment

Spatial variation & distribution

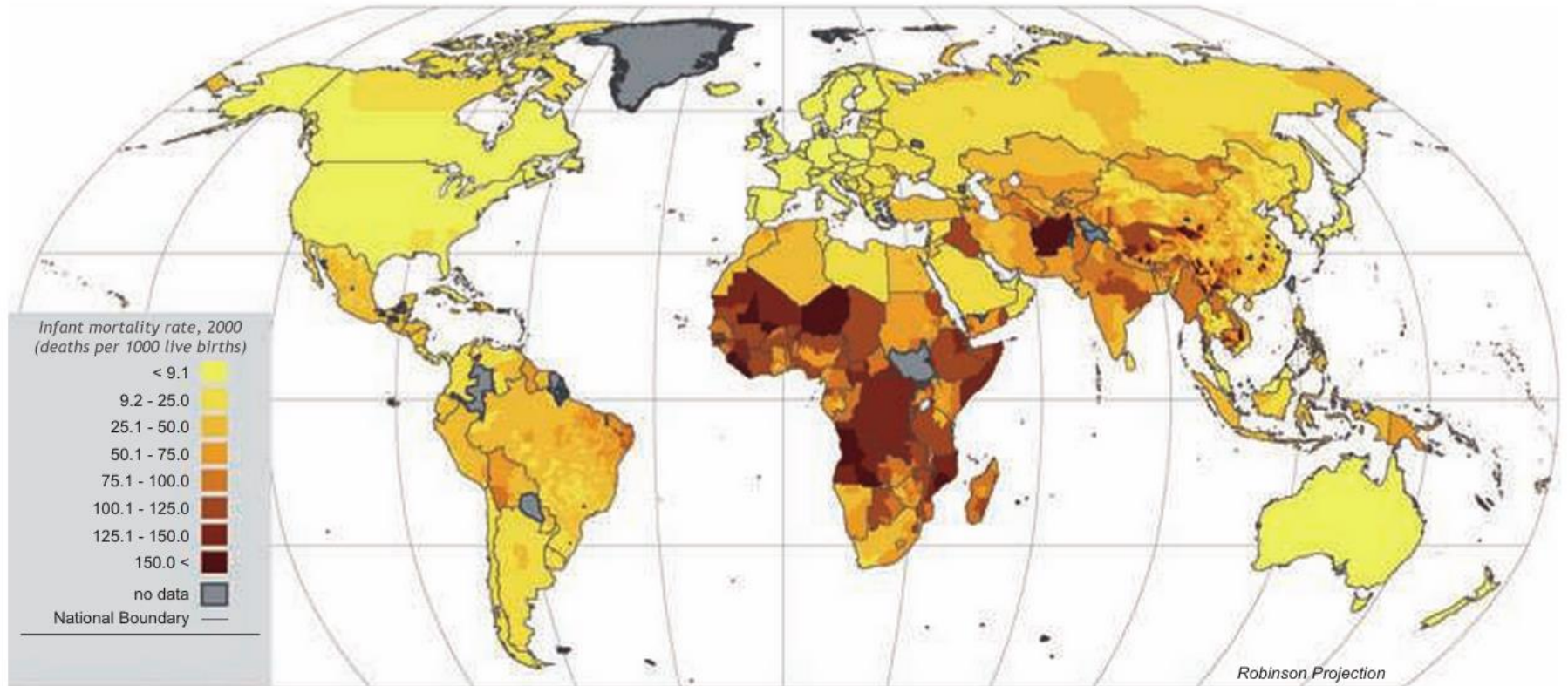


Figure 2. Subnational IMR map. This figure is available in colour online at www.wiley.interscience.com/journal/psp.

Important Terms Continued

o Spatial Association

Degree to which 2/more phenomena share similar distributions

o Spatial Diffusion

Movement of phenomena over space or time.

- Epidemics
- Technology
- Religion
- Language

How does fashion, news, gossip, a flu virus, or the latest high-tech gadget spread through a population and from one place to another? These questions get to the core of spatial diffusion.

SPATIAL ASSOCIATION

Diabetes & Obesity

Age-adjusted Percentage of U.S. Adults Who Were Obese or Who Had Diagnosed Diabetes

Obesity (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²)

1994



2000



2007



Diabetes

1994



2000



2007



CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation. National Diabetes Surveillance System available at <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/statistics>



4 Types of Diffusion

1. Relocation

Ex: Migration

2. Contagious

Spreads like disease

3. Hierarchical

top → bottom

IKEA

Apple

Wal-Mart (reverse hierarchical)

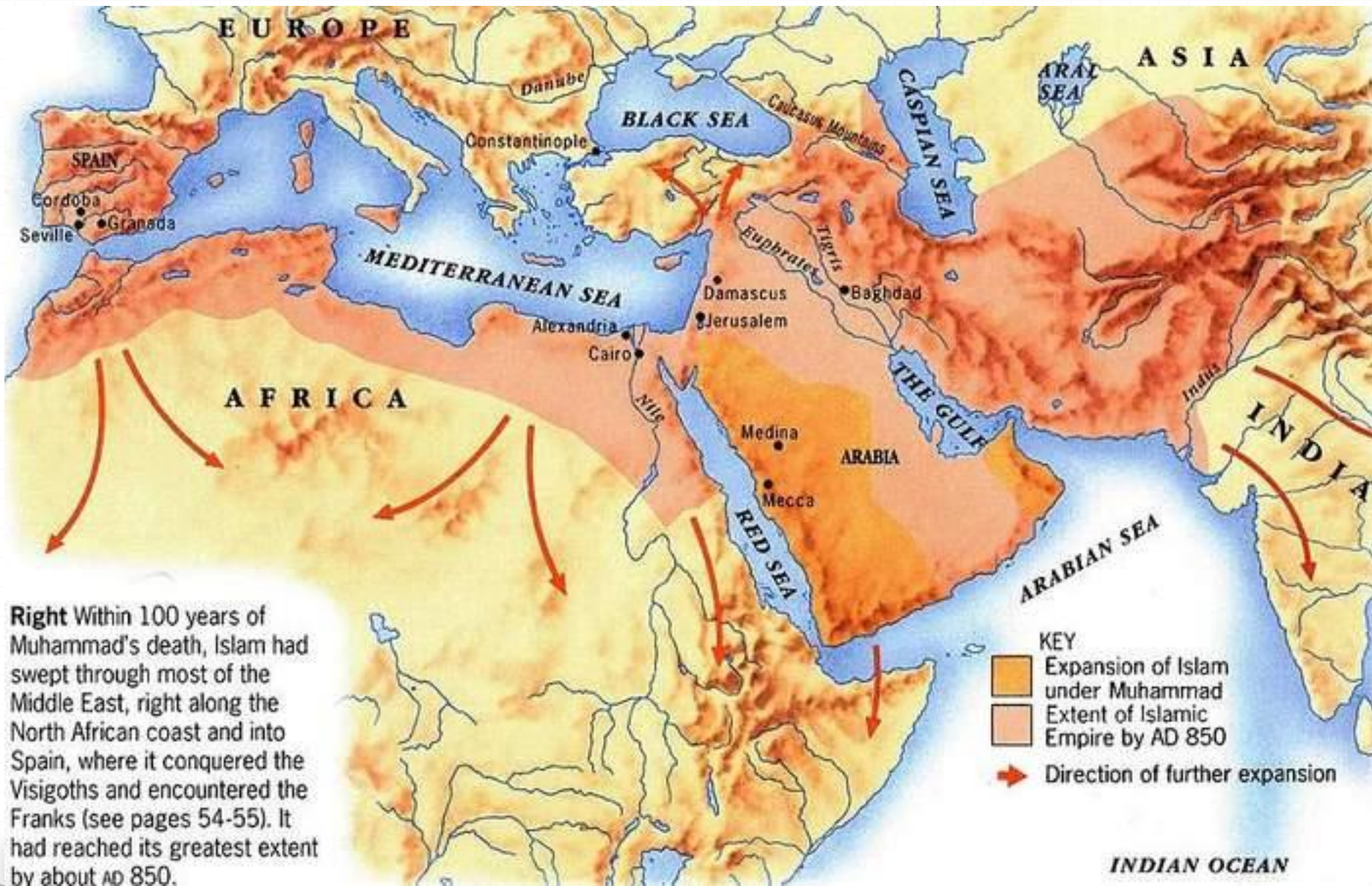
4. Stimulus

Innovation prompts new ideas

❖ *Spatial diffusion can be a mixture of all 4 types...
Pandemics/epidemics*

Islam

➤ Expansion then later relocation diffusion



Right Within 100 years of Muhammad's death, Islam had swept through most of the Middle East, right along the North African coast and into Spain, where it conquered the Visigoths and encountered the Franks (see pages 54-55). It had reached its greatest extent by about AD 850.

MUSLIM WORLD C.2000

Africa/Asia/Europe/Middle East

1. CROATIA
2. BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
3. ALBANIA
4. YUGOSLAVIA
5. MACEDONIA
6. BULGARIA
7. CYPRUS
8. LEBANON
9. ISRAEL
10. SYRIA
11. JORDAN
12. GEORGIA
13. AZERBAIJAN
14. TURKMENISTAN
15. UZBEKISTAN
16. KYRGYZSTAN
17. TAJIKISTAN
18. AFGHANISTAN
19. PAKISTAN
20. SAUDI ARABIA
21. QATAR
22. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
23. TUNISIA
24. MOROCCO
25. WESTERN SAHARA
26. GAMBIA
27. GUINEA-BISSAU
28. SIERRA LEONE
29. LIBERIA
30. COTE D'IVOIRE
31. BURKINA FASO
32. GHANA
33. TOGO
34. BENIN
35. CAMEROON
36. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

AUSTRIA
FRANCE

TURKEY

KAZAKHSTAN

MONGOLIA

LIBYA

EGYPT

IRAQ

IRAN

KUWAIT

SAUDI ARABIA

OMAN

INDIA

NEPAL

BANGLADESH

YEMEN

ERITREA

DJIBOUTI

ETHIOPIA

SOMALIA

UGANDA

RWANDA

BURUNDI

TANZANIA

MALAWI

MOZAMBIQUE

KENYA

INDONESIA

PHILIPPINES

BRUNEI

MALAYSIA

Mecca

Arabian Sea

Atlantic Ocean

Indian Ocean

Pacific Ocean

Muslims as Percentage of National Population

- 86% and greater
- 66% - 85%
- 36% - 65%
- 16% - 35%
- 5% - 15%

Epidemic Transmission Model



Diseases do not need passports!

Spatial Interaction

o Globalization has moved geography to the Center Stage!

Interconnectedness of people around the world

- Increases spatial interaction
- Flow of people, goods, information

o 3 factors influencing spatial interaction

- **Complementary**- 1 place supplies demand for another
- **Transferability**- How easy/cheap goods can be transferred
- **Intervening opportunity**- different location that can provide a desired good cheaper...economically efficient

Accessibility: Time/travel cost

EX: Always shop at Wal-Mart... go to Albertsons b/c of coupons

Shop somewhere different b/c its on the way

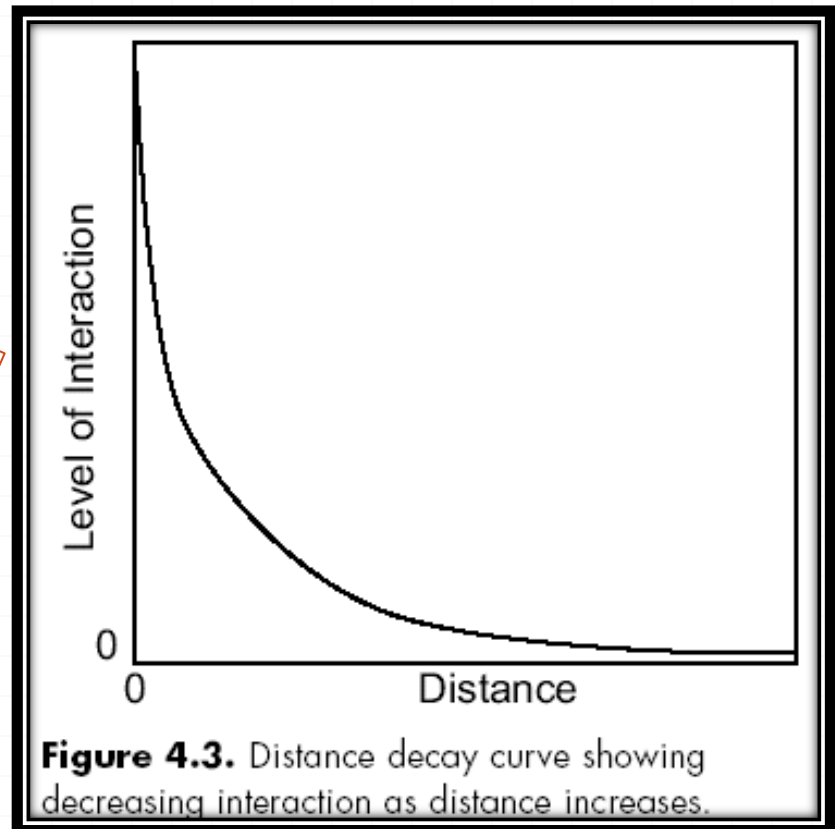
Distance

o Distance/Connectedness-Can be measured differently

o 1 hour travel time....

- Foot?
- Bike?
- Car?
- Plane?
- Train?
- Boat?

Technology
reduces
the friction
of
distance!!!



o Distance Decay-Tapering off of a pattern/process over distance/time.

Tobler's First Law of Geography

“Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things.”

- Like places may be more accessible

Globalization does change accessibility though!

*OKC culture
is more like
Dallas than
Miami*

Geography's Relevance

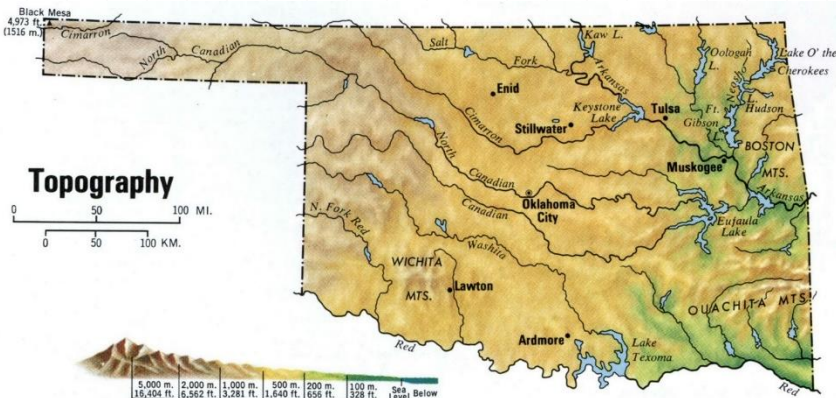
- Understanding and analyzing geographic patterns can provide insight

Tools include:

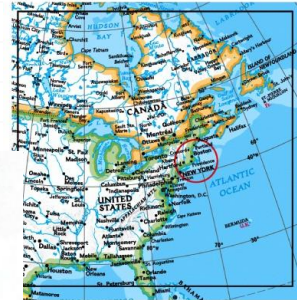
- Maps
 - Geographic scale must be considered
 - Can Skew findings*
- Observational or Methodological
 - smallest scale to global
 - The larger the scale the less detailed*
- GIS (Geographic Information Systems)
 - Improves map functions*
 - Vector & Raster data*
- GPS (Global Positioning Systems)
- Remote Sensing
- Aerial Photographs

What a Geographer Sees: Cartographic Scale

1. Map (cartographic): Expresses ratio & distances.
Large vs. Small scale

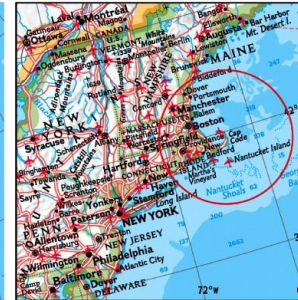


Small scale ← → Large scale



Map 1, 2, and 3 from College Atlas

1. Small-scale map: Eastern North America, with Cape Cod circled. This is a small-scale map, such as this one, showing larger areas, such as continents, but in less detail.



2. Large-scale map: Northeastern U.S. and neighboring Canada, with Cape Cod circled. This map is three times larger scale than map 1, showing greater detail but a much smaller area.



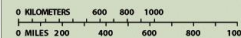
3. Even larger-scale map: Eastern Massachusetts, with Cape Cod circled. This map is about twenty-one times larger scale than map 1, showing much greater detail but a much smaller area.

Verbal scale: 1 inch represents 36,000,000 inches or about 568 miles on the ground

Ratio scale: 1:36,000,000

Fractional scale: 1/36,000,000

Graphic scale:

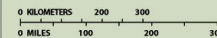


Verbal scale: 1 inch represents 12,000,000 inches or about 189 miles on the ground

Ratio scale: 1:12,000,000

Fractional scale: 1/12,000,000

Graphic scale:

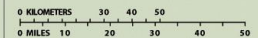


Verbal scale: 1 inch represents 1,750,000 inches or about 28 miles on the ground

Ratio scale: 1:1,750,000

Fractional scale: 1/1,750,000

Graphic scale:



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Unnumbered 1 p21

- Map scales can be expressed verbally, as ratio or fraction, or graphically.

Geographic Scale

2. Observational (methodological)

- Ranges from small (the body) to large (the global level)
- This is the opposite of how map scale is used



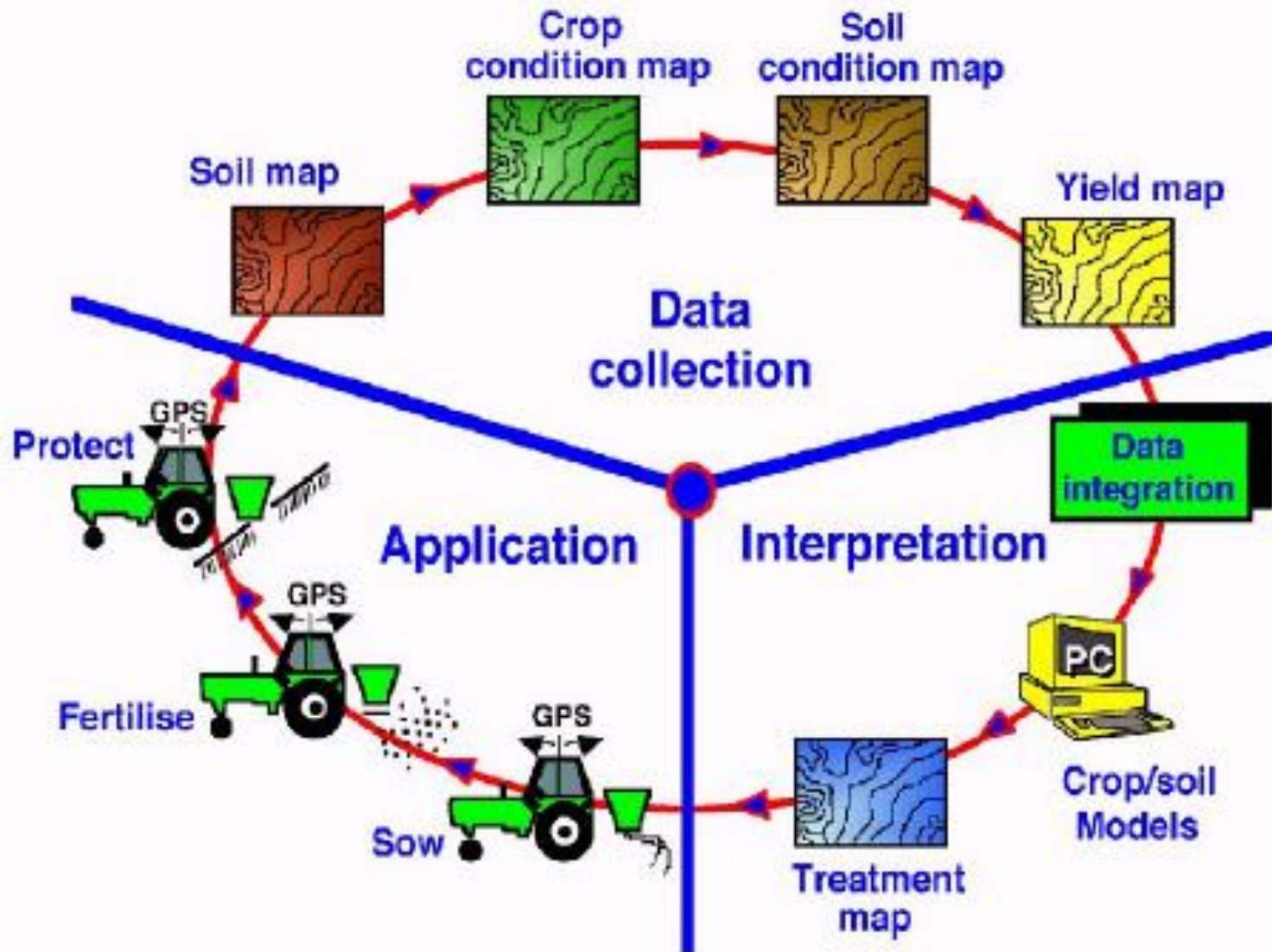
Geographical Tools

Remote Sensing

Banda Aceh, Indonesia
Satellite images before and
after tsunami
Damage analysis project
Dr. Rajneet John



Global Positioning System

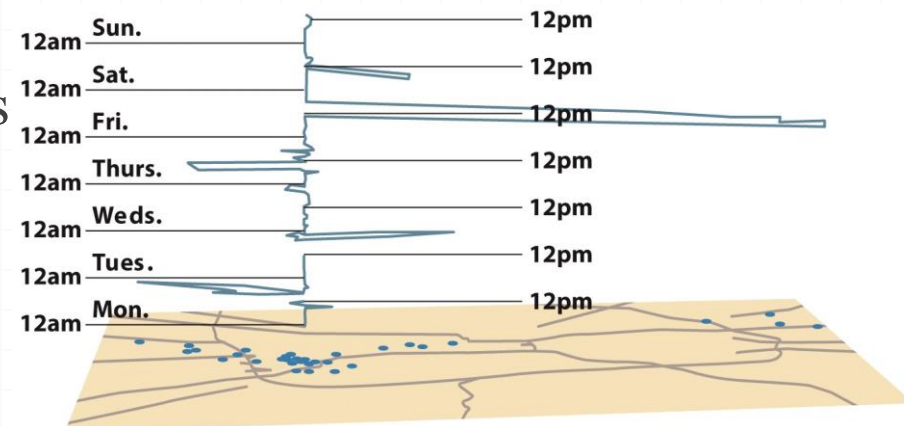


Global Positioning System

- o This diagram shows the time–space paths of a female teenager in one week in Marion County, Indiana. The dots represent waypoints (intermediate destinations) collected via a GPS-enabled cell phone as the young woman traveled from home and back. The squiggly lines to the left or right of the vertical axis represent the distances traveled away from home at different times. Cell phones equipped with GPS receivers make it possible to use location-based services to find friends in your area.

o Ethical concerns

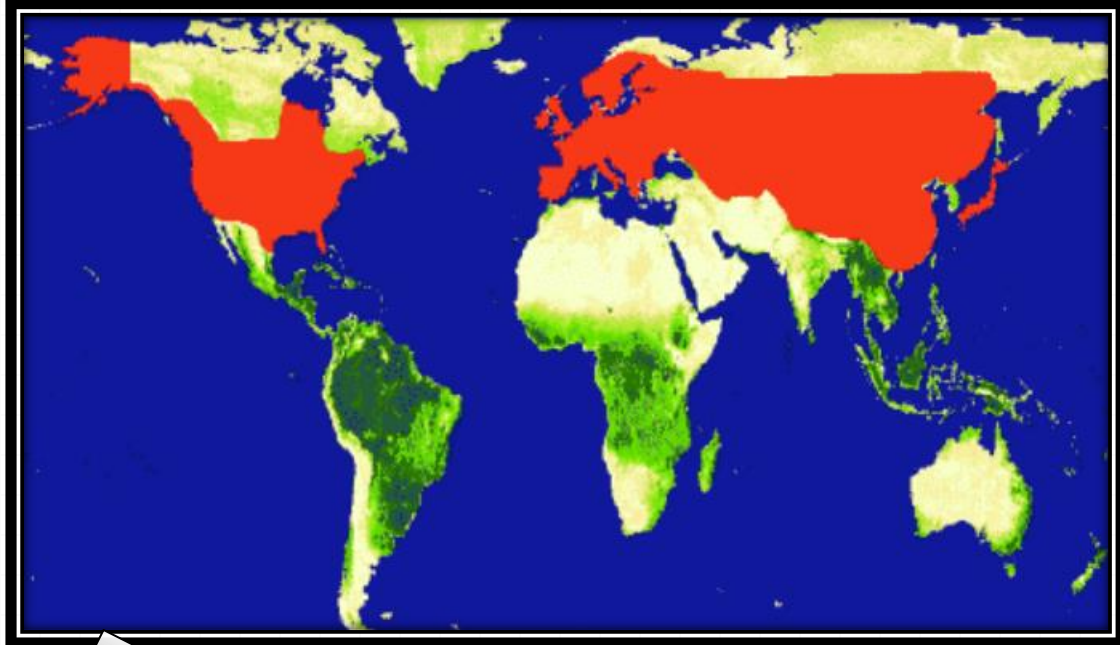
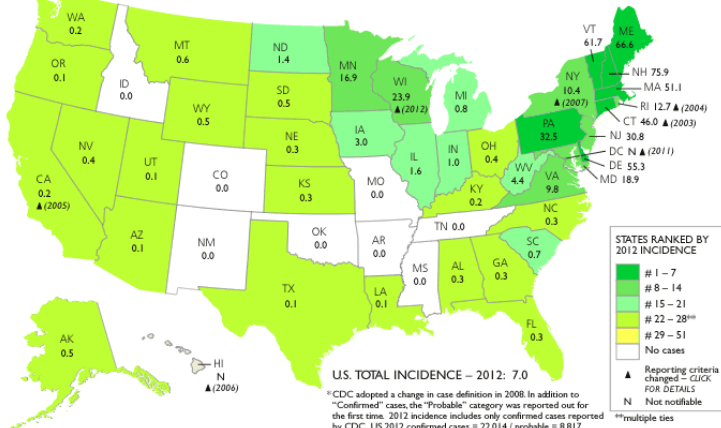
- o What is the distinction between service and surveillance? In what ways might GPS compromise personal privacy?



Wiehe et al., 2008
Figure 1.16b

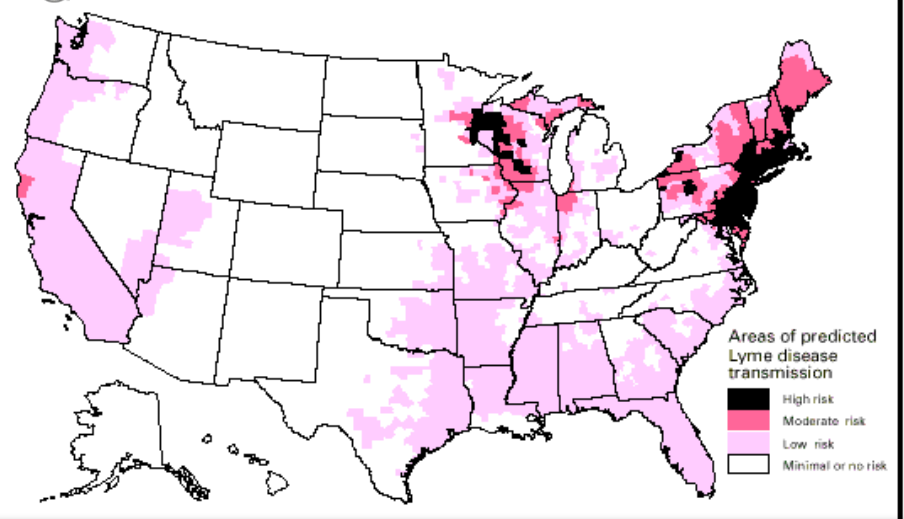
Units

LYME DISEASE INCIDENCE REPORTED BY CDC – 2012*
(cases per 100,000 population)



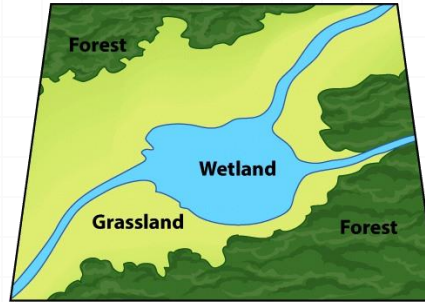
GIS

Lyme Disease in New York State 2004 - 2006



Geographic Information Systems

- Georeferenced data: direct and indirect
- Spatial information vs. attribute information
- Criticisms



Vector data uses latitude and longitude coordinates to represent geographic features as points, lines, or other complex shapes.



Raster data uses equally-sized cells to represent features. Here, each pixel contains a value that identifies the land cover: 1–forest, 2–grassland, and 3–wetland.

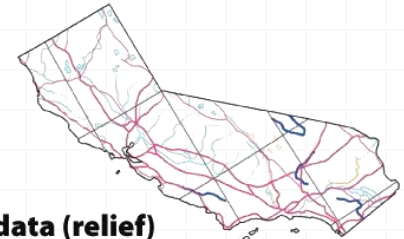
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Figure 1.17b

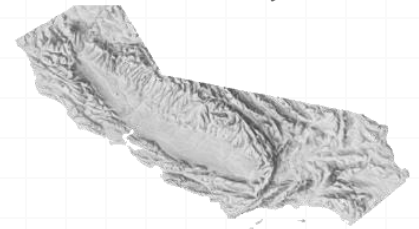
Vector data (point)



Vector data (line)



Raster data (relief)



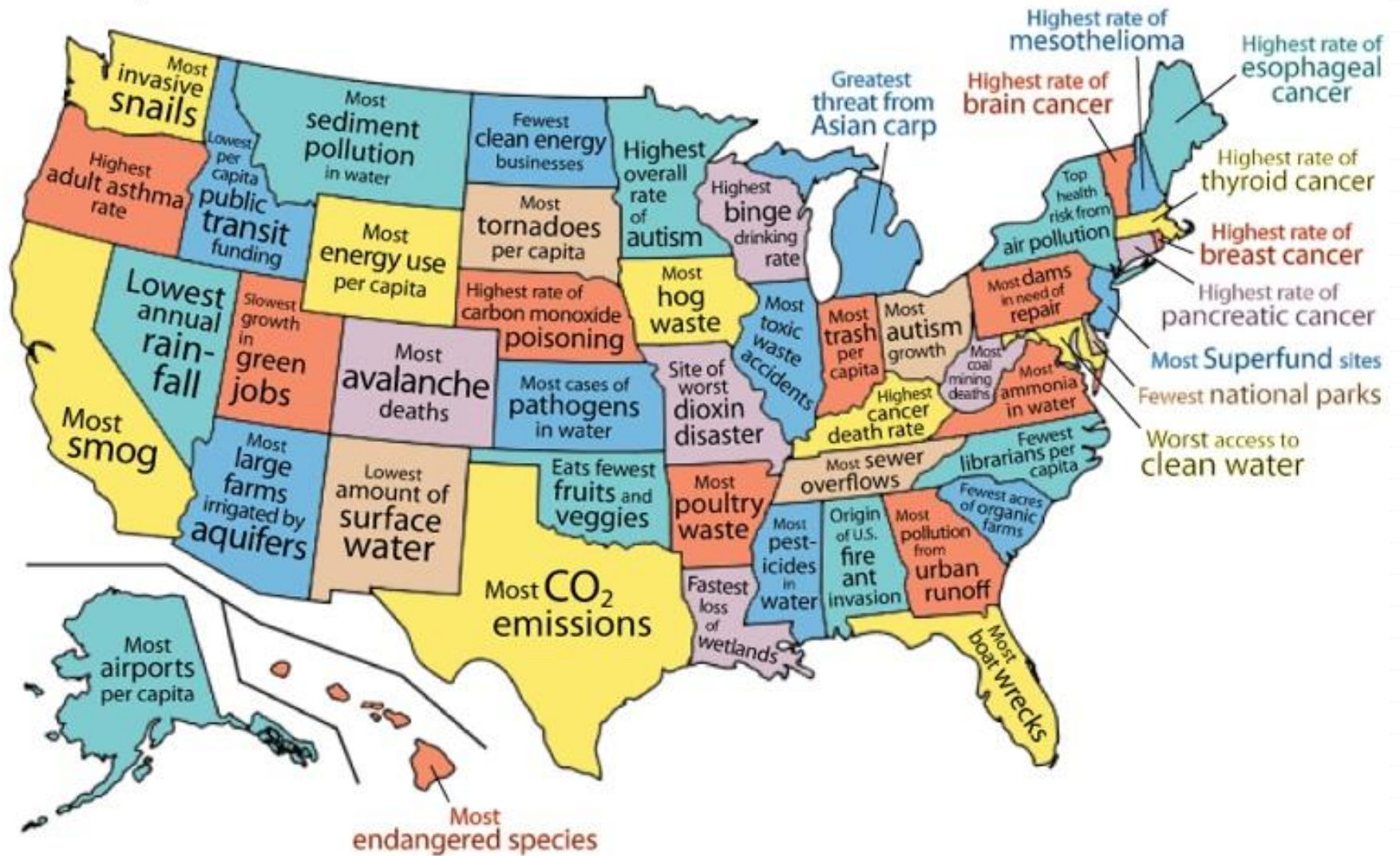
Vector and raster data combined (political)



Figure 1.18

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How does your state not excel?



Next Week

- Chapter 2 Globalization and Cultural Geography