


# CHAPTER 1-THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY

Geography is the scientific study of the location of people and activities, and reasons for their distribution.



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- Human Geography deals with asking where and why human activities are located where they are.

# Divisions of Geography

*Geography is a bridge between the natural and social sciences.  
Geography is a holistic or synthesizing science, combining  
elements of many disciplines.*

## ● Physical Geography

- Rocks and Minerals
- Landforms
- Soils
- Animals
- Plants
- Water
- Atmosphere
- Rivers and Other Water Bodies
- Environment
- Climate and Weather

## Human Geography

- Population
- Settlements
- Economic Activities
- Transportation
- Recreational Activities
- Religion
- Political Systems
- Social Traditions
- Human Migration
- Agricultural Systems

# The Five Themes of Geography

<b>Place</b>	<i>Human features</i> <i>Physical features</i>
<b>Region</b>	<i>Region united by similar physical conditions</i> <i>United by common cultural traits</i>
<b>Interaction</b>	<i>People adapt to the environment</i> <i>People change the environment</i>
<b>Location</b>	<i>Absolute location (latitude and longitude)</i> <i>Relative location (in relation to another place)</i>
<b>Movement</b>	<i>Travel from place to place</i> <i>Exchange of goods and ideas</i>


- Human Geographers examine five main geographical aspects. These are:
  1. space
  2. place
  3. region
  4. scale
  5. connections

# Thinking about Space

In thinking about space geographers observe regularities across the earth's surface.

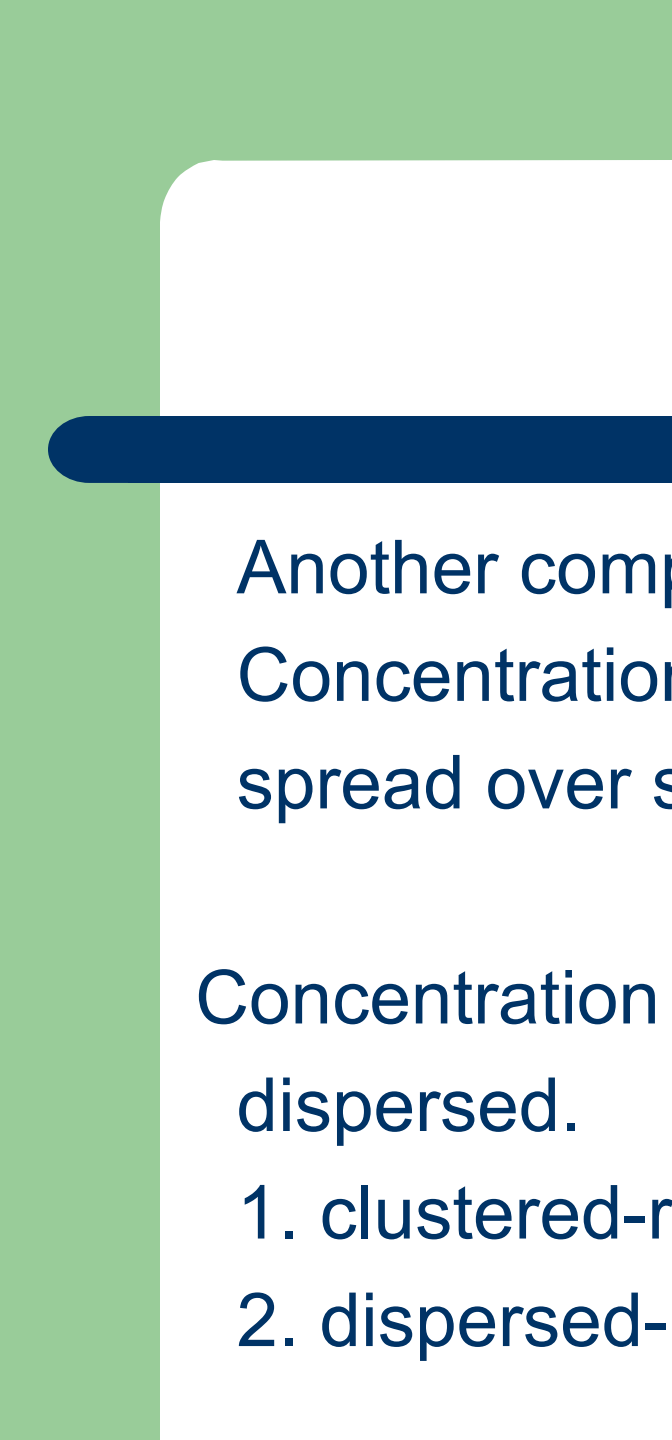
Space deals with three main components:

1. Density
2. Concentration
3. and Pattern



Density is the frequency with which something occurs. There are three types of density.

1. Arithmetic-total number of objects (people) in an area.
2. Physiologic- number of people per unit area of agriculturally productive land.
3. Agricultural-the ratio of the number of farmers to the total amount of land suitable for agriculture.

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Another component of space is concentration.  
Concentration is the extent of a features  
spread over space.

Concentration can be either clustered or  
dispersed.

1. clustered-relatively close
2. dispersed-relatively far apart



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Space also deals with pattern.

Pattern- says that some features are organized in a geometric pattern, while others are distributed irregularly.

# Thinking about Place

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In thinking about place geographers identify areas of the world formed by distinctive combinations of features.



The first aspect of place is location-where something is. Location has two components:

1. Absolute location-measured by latitude and longitude. Precise location.
2. Relative location-location of a place relative to other places ( situation ).

- ⑩ Toponyms- place names. Ex. Miami
- ⑩ site-physical character of a place
- ⑩ situation- location of a place relative to other places
- ⑩ mathematical location-described precisely by meridians and parallels( latitude and longitude)

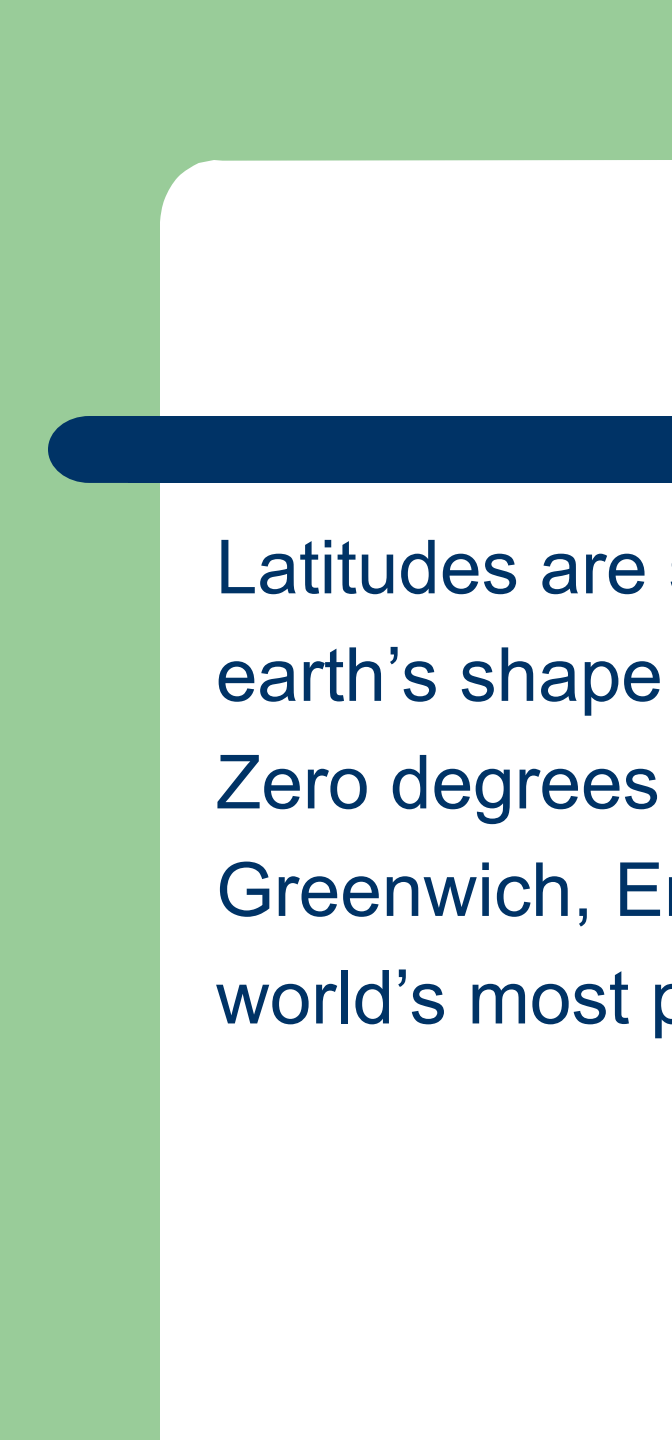
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Telling time from longitude- traveling 15 degrees east is the equivalent of traveling one hour forward on the clock, and 15 degrees west is one hour backward

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Time zones- the earth is divided into 24 standard time zones

The International Date Line-follows 180 degrees longitude. Traveling east you move back 24 hours. Traveling west, you turn the clock ahead 24 hours, or one day.

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Latitudes are scientifically derived by the earth's shape and its rotation around the sun. Zero degrees longitude runs through Greenwich, England because it was the world's most powerful country.

# Thinking about Regions

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Geographers identify areas of the world formed by distinctive combinations of features.

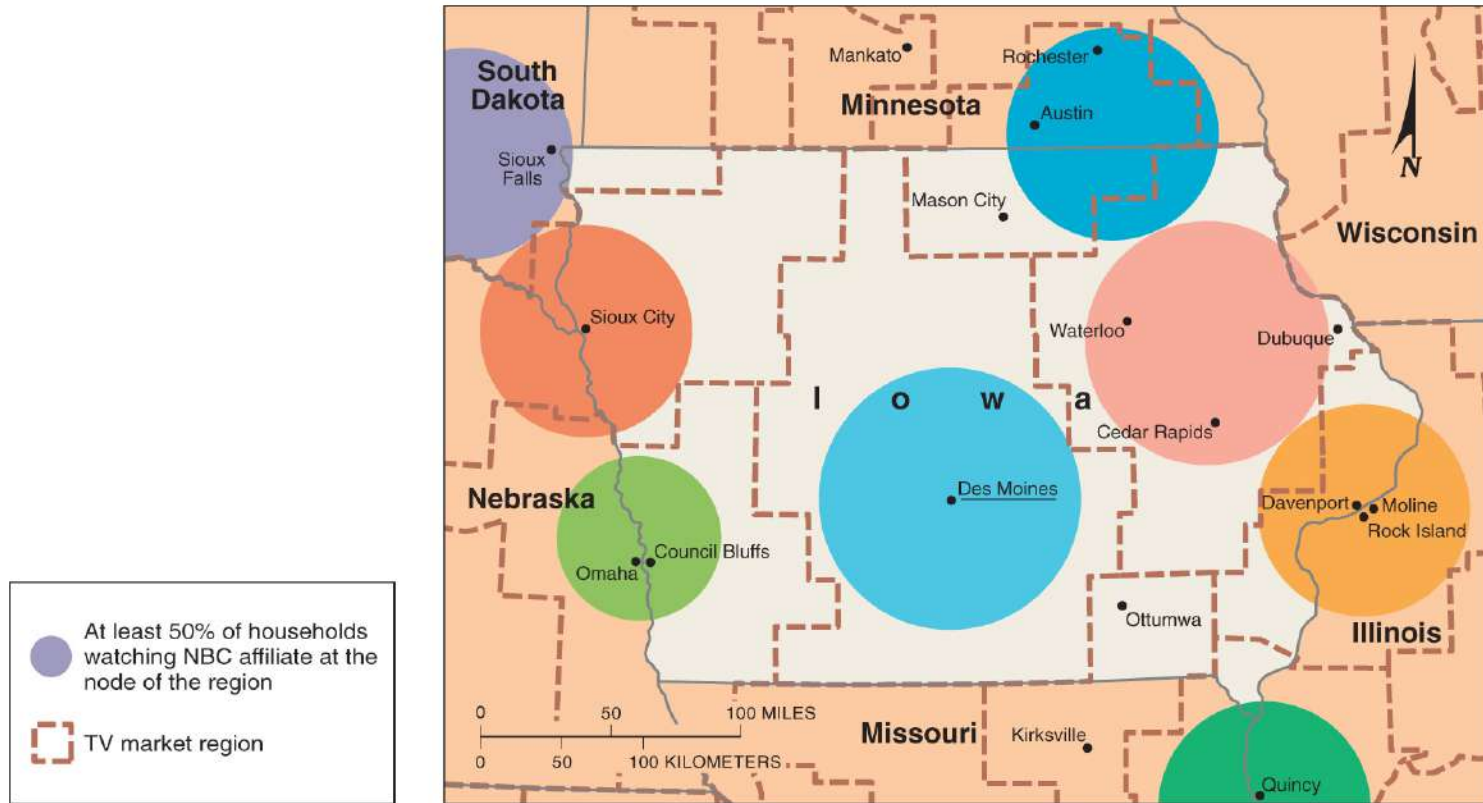


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There are three types of Regions:

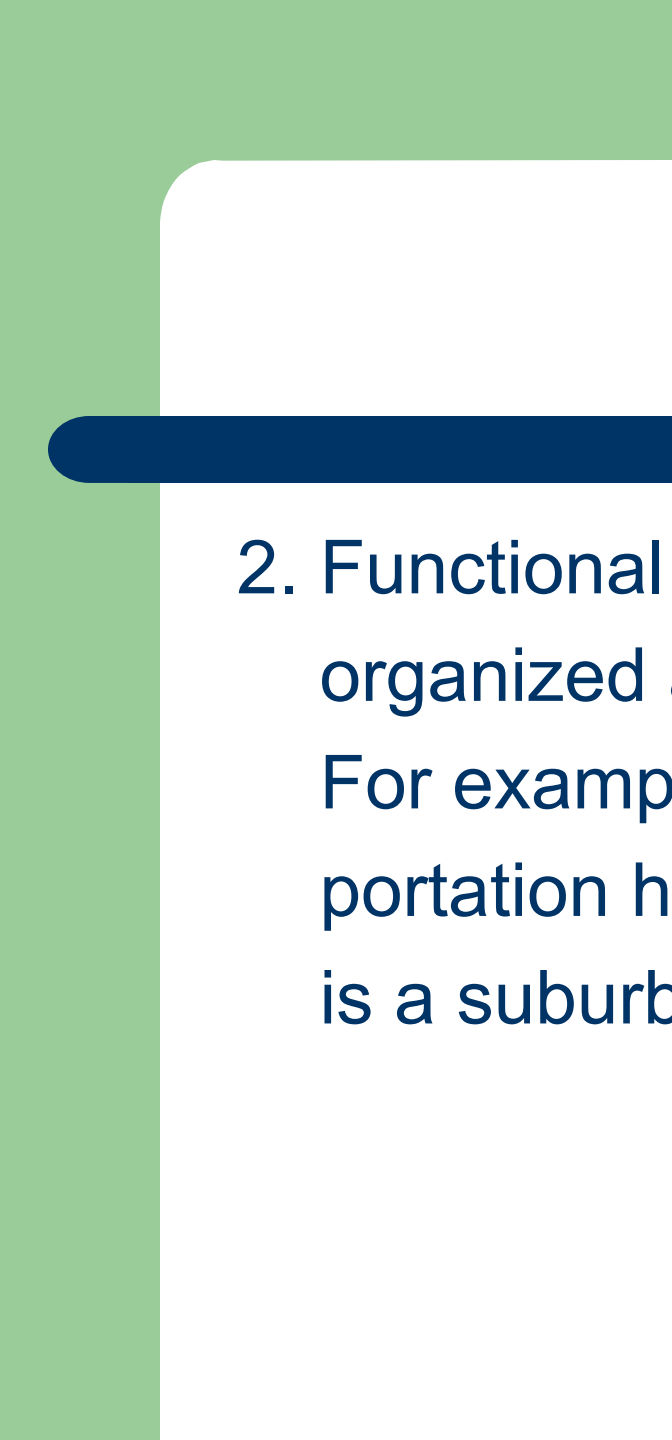
1. Formal Region-a uniform region, is an area within which everyone shares in common one or more distinctive characteristics.  
Can be religious, political, ethnic, etc.

# Formal and Functional Regions

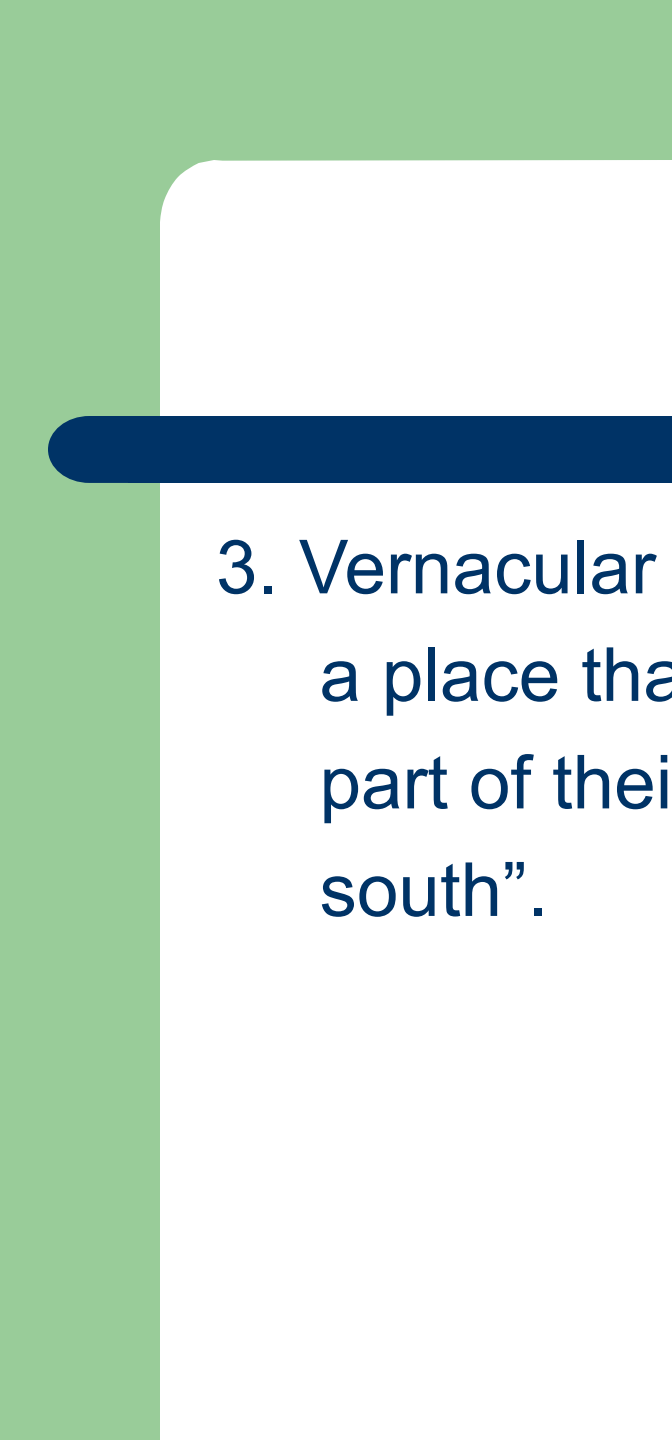


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Fig. 1-11: The state of Iowa is an example of a formal region; the areas of influence of various television stations are examples of functional regions.

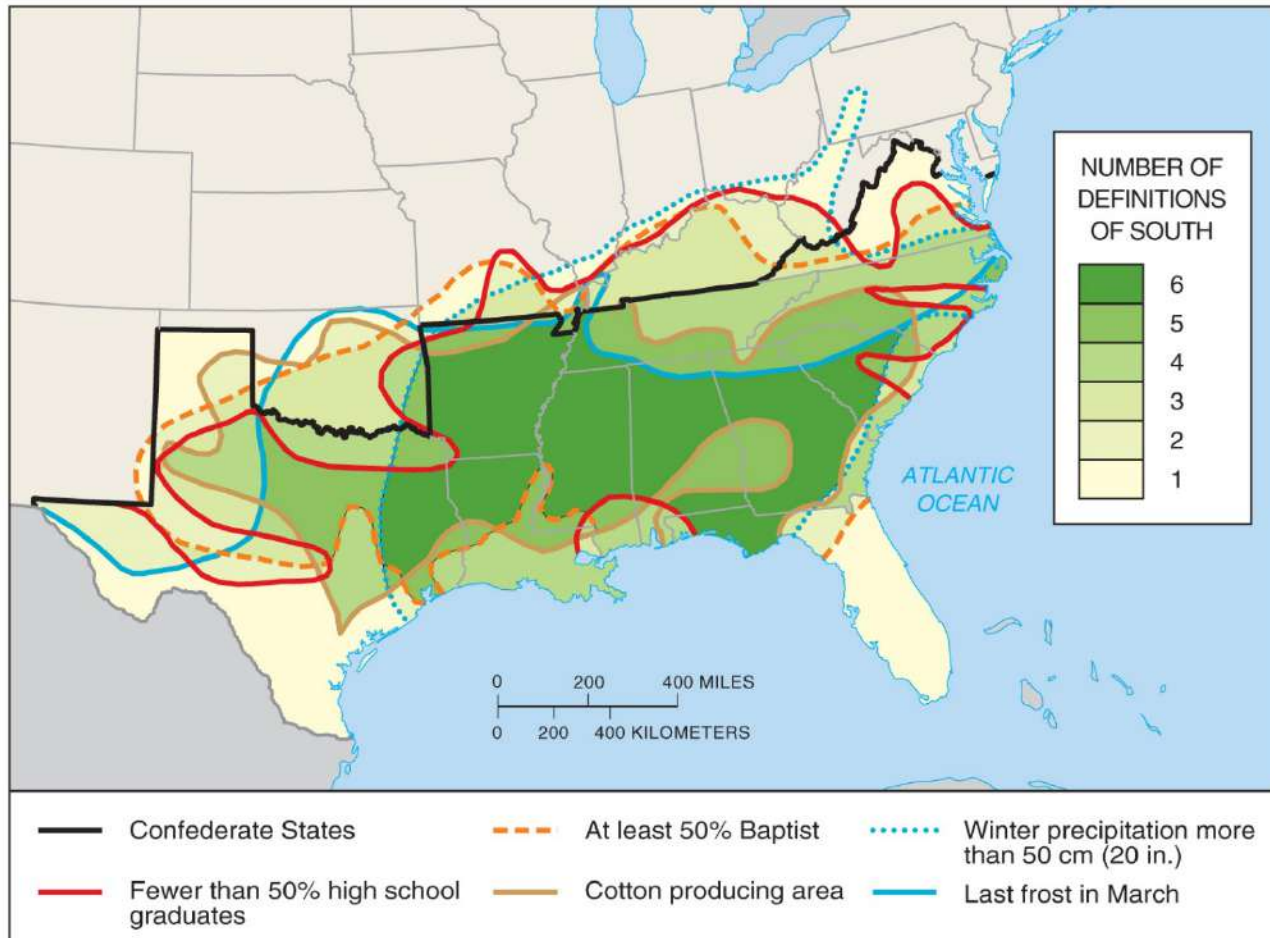
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2. Functional Region- a nodal region, an area organized around a node or focal point. For example Atlanta is a airline transportation hub for the southeast. Marietta is a suburb of Atlanta.

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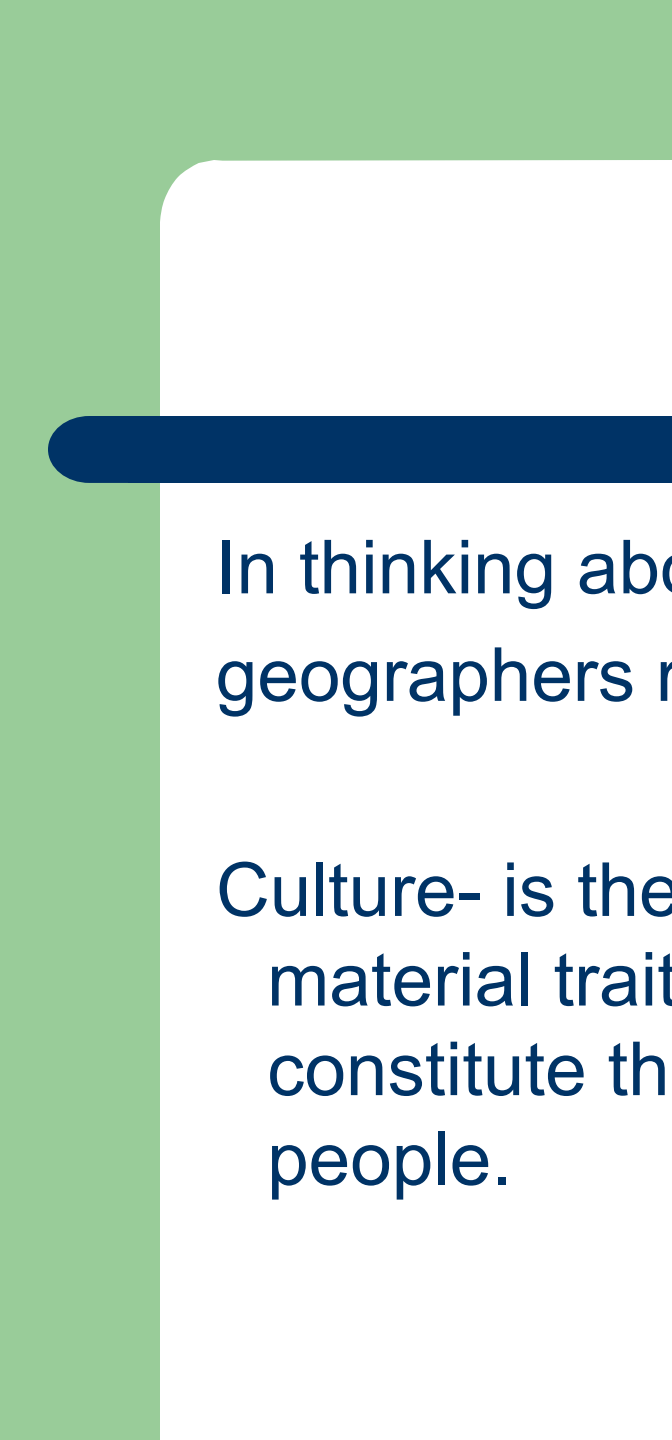
3. Vernacular Region- a perceptual region, a place that people believe exists as a part of their cultural identity. Ex: “ the south”.

# Vernacular Regions



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Fig. 1-12: A number of features are often used to define the South as a vernacular region, each of which identifies somewhat different boundaries.

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In thinking about why each region is distinctive geographers refer to culture

Culture- is the body of customary beliefs, material traits, and social forms that constitute the distinct tradition of a group of people.



Cultural ecology- the geographic study of human-environment relations.

Environmental Determinism-human actions were scientifically caused by environmental conditions.

Possibilism- Physical environment may limit some human actions, but people can adjust to their environment.

# Thinking About Scale

Scale refers to how geographers understand how each place is unique yet at the same time similar to other places.

Map scale- the relation of a feature's size on a map and its actual size on earth's surface

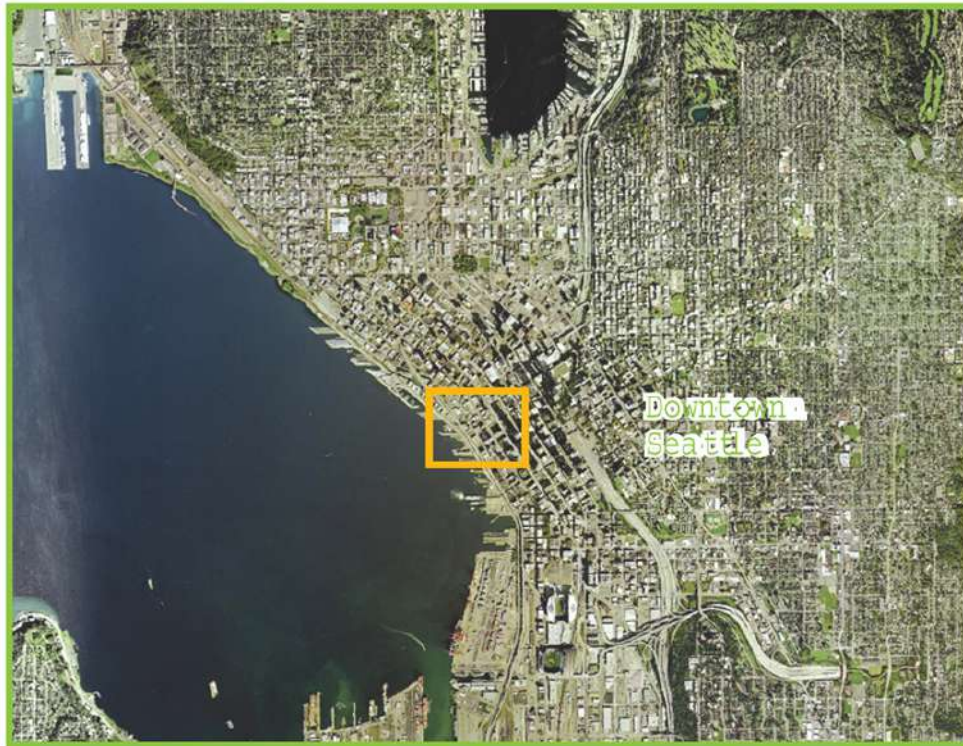
Map scale is represented in 3 different ways:

1. fraction (  $1/24,000$  )
2. ratio ( 1:24,000 )
3. written statement ( 1 inch equals 1 mile )  
or graphic bar scale



# Seattle Region (1:100,000 scale)

# Downtown Seattle, Washington (1:10,000 scale)




1:100,000  
0 0.5 1 MILE

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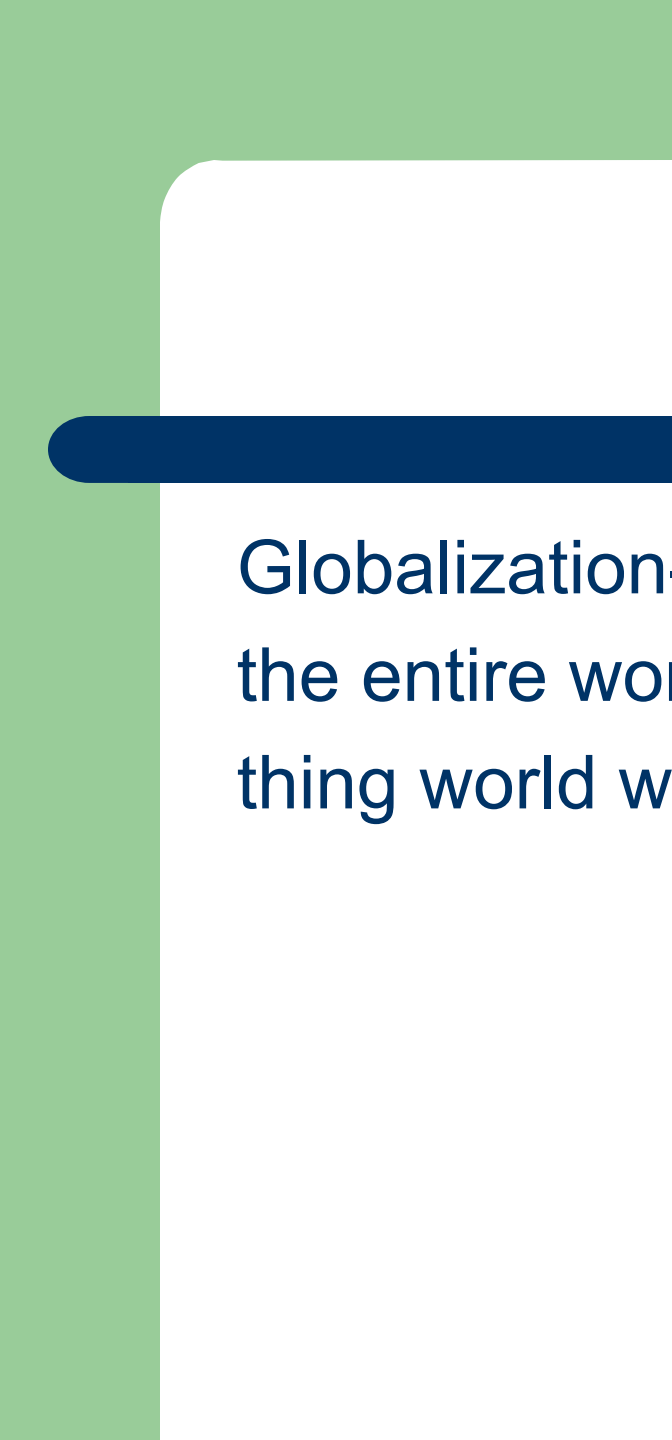
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Scale leads to Spatial Association-which says that different conclusions may be reached concerning a regions characteristics depending on scale.

Scale allows geographers to study global trends particularly in cultural aspects and the environment.

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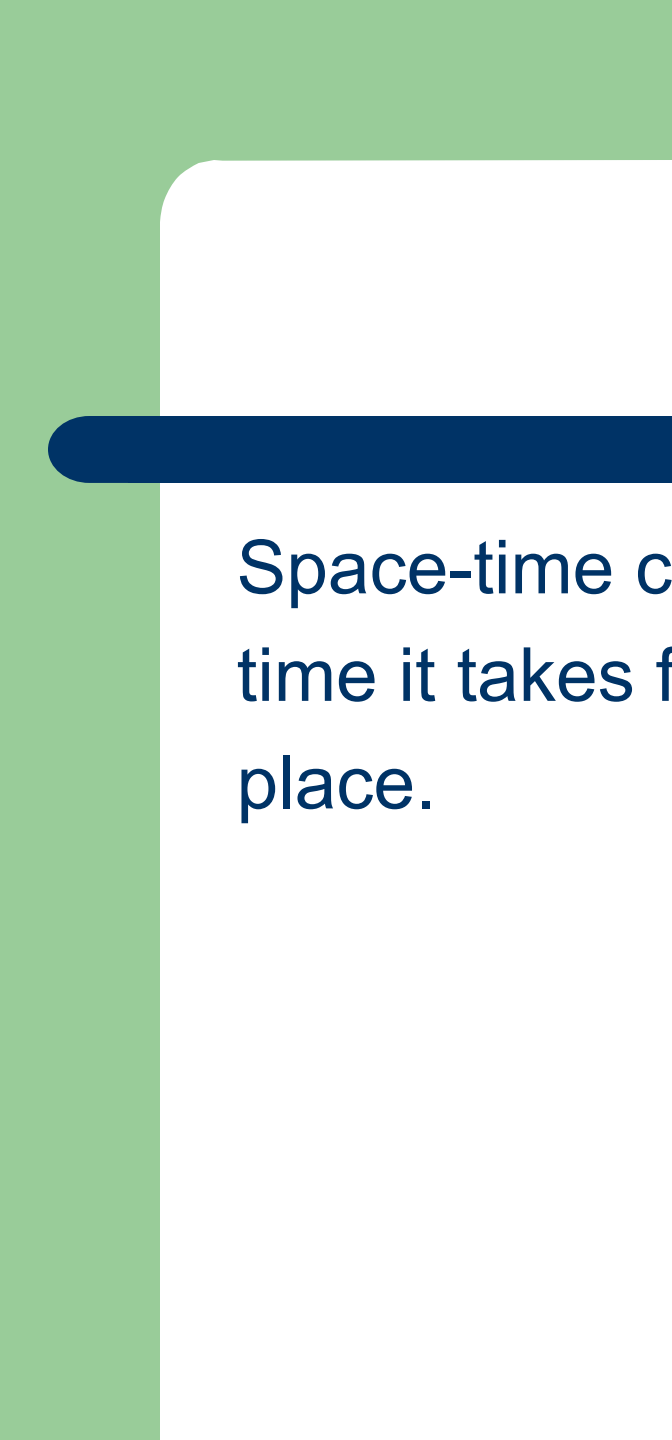
Globalization- a force or process that involves the entire world and results in making something world wide in scope.

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Globalization of Culture- Geographers observe that increasingly uniform cultural preferences produce uniform “ global “ landscapes of material artifacts and of cultural values.

# Thinking About Connections

In thinking about connections geographers explain relationships among places and regions across space.


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Space-time compression- the reduction in the time it takes for something to reach another place.



Diffusion- The process by which a characteristic spreads across space.

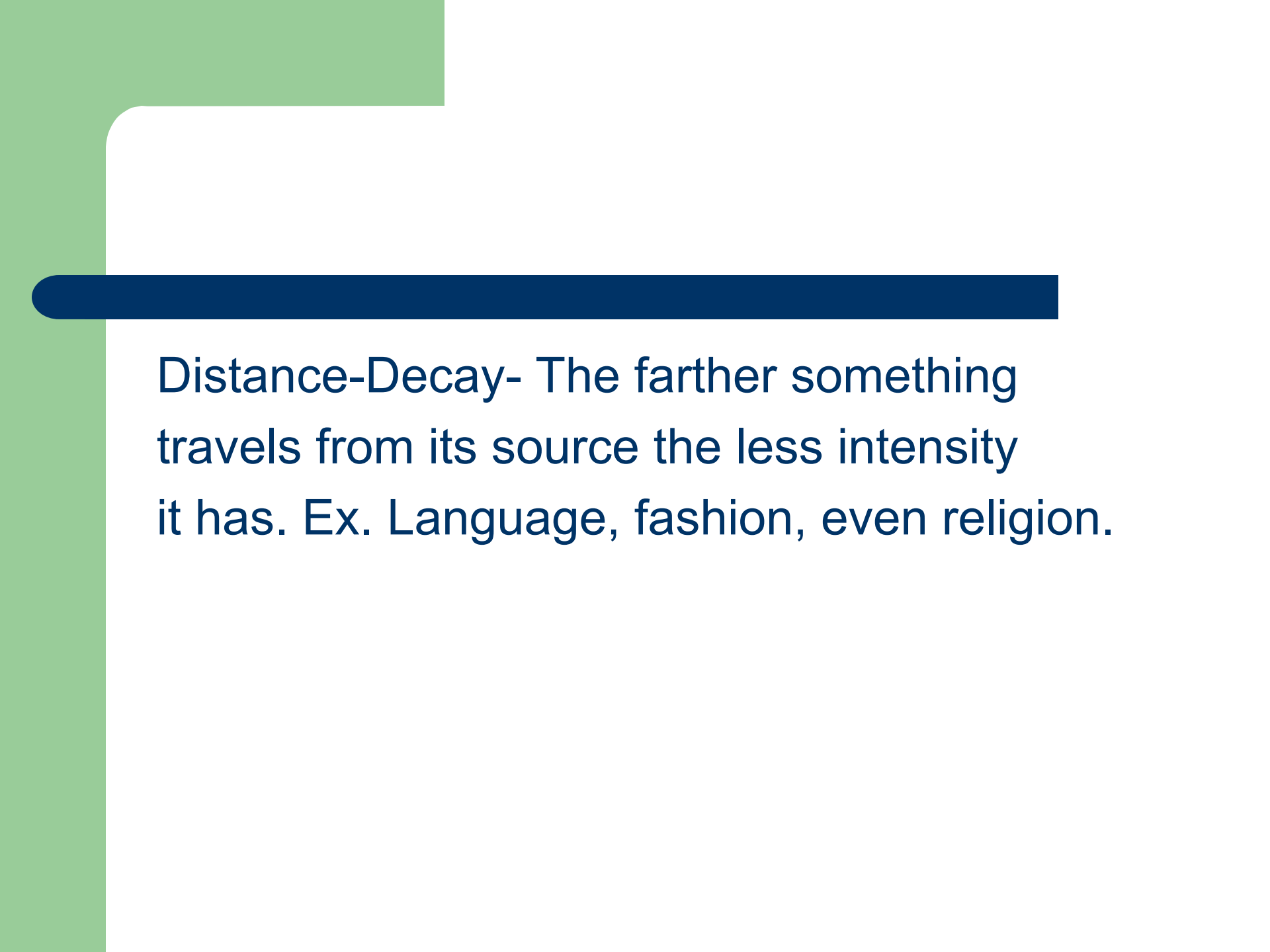
Relocation diffusion-spread of an idea through physical movement of people.



Expansion diffusion-spread of a feature through a snowballing effect. Three types of Expansion diffusion:

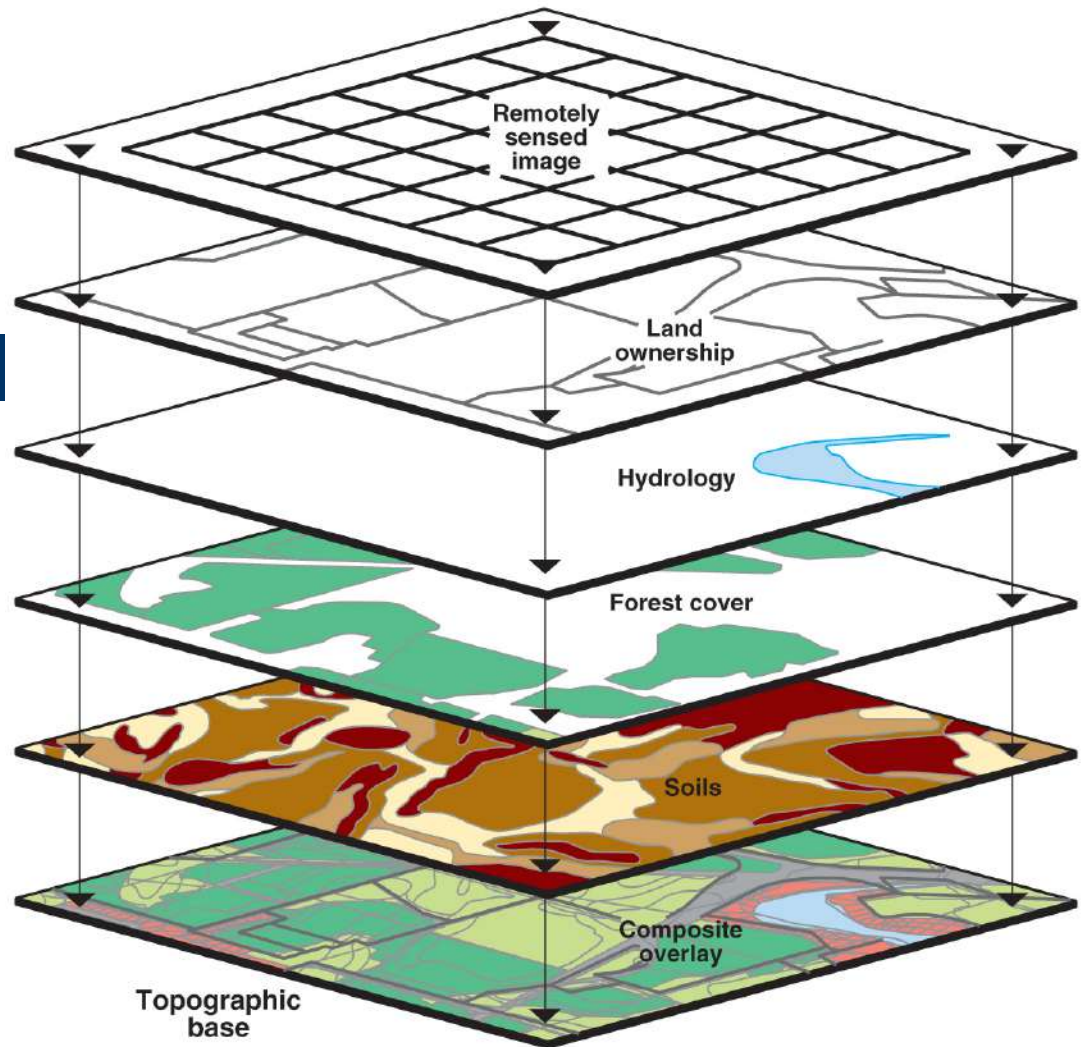
1. Hierarchical-From authority downward
2. Contagious-person to person
3. Stimulus-one idea stimulates the development of other ideas. Most common with technology.





Distance-Decay- The farther something travels from its source the less intensity it has. Ex. Language, fashion, even religion.

# Layers of a GIS



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