AP Human Geography   Teacher: Mr. Corrado 720-339-6002 (cell #)

Your name: _____   **Date of visit:** _____
Who I worked with: _____

Southlands Mall Field Study –AP Human Geography Gateway High School

A field study designed to practice the geographic process and refine the students understanding of the concepts of region, place, culture and economic geography.

Field studies are an important element of developing, practicing and refining geography skills such as observation, description, analysis and critical thinking. During this field study students will make <u>observations</u> and draw <u>conclusions</u> about the structural content of space within the mall boundaries. They will be expected to take field notes on questions that I will give them that day. Special focus will be placed on analyzing the dispersion, density and patterns of stores, people and facilities within the mall. The purpose of this type of spatial analysis is to develop a better understanding of the concepts of place, region and cultural landscape, which are critical concepts for geographers.

You will conduct **three**-location analysis of the Southlands Mall:

- **Analysis #1** – The Big Box's end of the mall – Penney's Wal Mart and Sam's and the northern box stores labeled J on your map (45 minutes)
- **Analysis #2** – Southern Restaurant Region M on your map (45 minutes)
- **Analysis #3** – Main Street. – A through I on your map (45 minutes)

For this field study you may work in groups of 3-4 people but each person must turn in all parts of the assignment and be on task and engaged the entire time of the field study. If in the estimation of the teachers and your group you are not on task you will receive no credit or hours for the assignment. Good luck and have fun.

What do I need to turn in?

❑ Completed Region Analysis #1, #2 and #3.- questions in packet (120 pts)

❑ Map of Southlands (30 pts) – Pick up Southlands Map on Main Street. Look inside regions activity for directions.

❑ Read the following quote and then answer the prompt below (50 pts)
  ❑ According to H.J, de Blij "Structures create an assemblage of visible attributes, a composite of shapes that defines the regional culture. The landscape of culture, however, is in the mind as well as in the eye. Intangible qualities also contribute to its formation, qualities that would not appear on a photograph or an ordinary map. Enter an African or Arab town, and you may be greeted by sounds of music and smells of cooking, the shouts of traders and the bustle of people- all of which will remain essential elements of your perceptions of these cultures". (de Blij is referring to the material and non-material elements of culture) … Architecture is a reflection of a culture's assertion of identity, values, priorities, aspirations, technology and economy.

  ❑ **One page response to the following questions:** This should be a well-developed substantial response. Please type on a separate sheet of paper. Font no larger than 12 (2-3 paragraphs).
    o Explain how Southlands Mall is a representative icon of our culture. Include in your analysis a discussion of how it contains and represents both material and non-material elements of our culture. Response should include the concepts mentifact sociofact and artifacts.
    o Discuss three distinct reasons why Southlands Mall is located at the intersection of E-470 and Smoky Hill Road in Southeast Aurora?

Photos (6)

❑ Turn in 3 pictures (.jpg if digital) of **<u>you</u>** with your completed packet in front of each of the locations for the field study (3 pictures total) – This step is **<u>not</u>** optional if you want credit for the assignment. Pictures on your cell phone or digital camera brought to class are fine. No photos, no credit for entire field study ☺
❑ Photos of three additional items you discussed in your responses.

_____: Initials of teacher indicating photos viewed and / or turned in.

Analysis #1 – Big Box area "L and J" on you map --- Answer each of these questions or prompts related to this region. The following set of questions related to regions. Regions have…

(1)… relative and absolute location. Where is the Big Box region in the mall?

(2) …spatial extent? How big is the Big Box's area. Where does the region begin and end?

(3) …internal integration or uniformity in the feature or features defining the region. What are the uniform or common features that exist throughout this region?

(4) …boundaries based on the outer limits of that uniformity or integration. Where is the boundary? How is the boundary demarcated or delimited?   Be very specific. Hints: Look at the lighting, type of stores, decorations, sounds, type of building materials, colors etc.

(5) …a position as one possible spatial summary in a hierarchy of regions. How does this region fit into the overall plan or hierarchy for the mall? What is its role and importance to the mall as a whole?

☐ **Boundaries** between regions often have <u>transition zones</u>. These transition zones often have a mixture of characteristics from the two regions. What type of region is next to the Big Box region? Is there any evidence of a transition zone between the two regions? Explain.

☐ Classify the Big Box region of the mall as any or all of the following types of region: formal, functional, and perceptual. Explain why it fits or does not fit the definition for each type of region.

Pattern Identification - Write down your observations on the following topics.

•Density of stores in the total region of Big Box. Use terms such as high, medium or low density as compared to other sections of the mall. Use your definition of the Big Box region.

•Dispersion of stores - how are they spread out? How big are the stores, how spread out are they? What stores are next to each other? Try to speculate on why they are next to each other..

• How are the stores arranged? What pattern are the stores organized into? (shape) - ie. linear, centralized, random or irregular, rectangle, cluster. Don't feel limited to this list.

- Why are the stores arranged in this fashion?

- Not all store space may be occupied. How are the empty spaces treated? Why? The map has an interesting label for them, perceptually.

Find a seat in an area in front of a big box store. (Area J on your map would be a good place.) Place an X on your map showing where you sat. <u>Sense of Place</u>

☐ Describe what this portion of the mall looks, feels, smells and sounds like.

☐ What can you see while sitting in this area?

☐ How is light used? both natural and artificial How would this place look at night, and what is its effect?

☐ Describe the people in the region and their activities? Gender, age, ethnicity, type of clothing etc. Activities - Tourist, shopper, buying, reading, walking etc.

Analysis #2 Southern Restaurant region "M" on your map---- Answer the following:
<u>Regions have</u>…
(1)… relative and absolute location. Where is the Big Restaurant region in the mall?

(2) …spatial extent. How big is the Food Court's area. Where does the region begin and end?

(3) …internal integration or uniformity in the feature or features defining the region. What are the uniform or common features that exist throughout this region?

(4) …boundaries based on the outer limits of that uniformity or integration. Where is the boundary? How is the boundary demarcated or delimited?   Be very specific. Hints: Look at the lighting, type of stores, decorations, sounds, type of building materials, colors etc.

(5) …a position as one possible spatial summary in a hierarchy of regions. How does this region fit into the overall plan or hierarchy for the mall? What is its role and importance to the mall as a whole?

☐ Boundaries between regions often have transition zones. These transition zones often have a mixture of characteristics from the two regions. What type of region is next to the Restaurant region? Is there any evidence of a transition zone between the two regions? Explain.

☐ Classify the restaurant region of the mall as any or all of the following types of region: formal, functional, and perceptual. Explain why it fits or does not fit the definition for each type of region.

Pattern Identification - Write down your observations on the following topics.

•Describe the density of stores in the restaurant region "M" on the map. Use terms such as high medium or low density as compared to other sections of the mall. Use your definition of the "M" region.

•Dispersion of stores - how are they spread out? How big are the stores, how spread out are they? What stores are next to each other? Try to speculate on why they are next to each other.

• How are the stores arranged? What pattern are the stores organized into? (shape) - ie. linear, centralized, random or irregular, rectangle, cluster. Don't feel limited to this list.

- Why are the stores arranged in this fashion?

- What are the benefits of the restaurant region being located where it is?

Find a location in Region "M" to answer these questions. Place an X on your map showing where you sat. Sense of Place

☐ Describe what this portion of the mall looks, feels, smells and sounds like.

☐ What can you see while sitting in this area?

☐ How is light used, both natural and artificial, and what is its effect?

☐ Describe the people in the region and their activities: gender, age, ethnicity, type of clothing etc. Activities - Tourist, shopper, buying, reading, walking etc.

Analysis #3 - All of Main Street (Barnes & Nobles to Movie theatre)
Regions have…
(1)… relative and absolute location. Where is the Main Street region of the mall?

(2) …spatial extent? How big is the Main Street area. Where does the region begin and end?

(3) …internal integration or uniformity in the feature or features defining the region. What are the uniform or common features that exist throughout this region?

(4) …boundaries based on the outer limits of that uniformity or integration. Where is the boundary? How is the boundary demarcated or delimited?   Be very specific. Hints: Look at the lighting, type of stores, decorations, sounds, type of building materials, colors etc.

(5) …a position as one possible spatial summary in a hierarchy of regions. How does this region fit into the overall plan or hierarchy for the mall? What is its role and importance to the mall as a whole?

 Boundaries between regions often have transition zones. These transition zones often have a mixture of characteristics from the two regions. What type of region is next to the Main Street region? Is there any evidence of a transition zone between the two regions? Explain.

 Classify the Main Street region of the mall as any or all of the following types of region: formal, functional, and perceptual. Explain why it fits or does not fit the definition for each type of region.

Pattern Identification - Write down your observations on the following topics.

•Density of stores in the total region of Main Street. Use terms such as high medium or low density as compared to other sections of the mall. Use your definition of the Main Street region.

•Dispersion of stores - how are they spread out? How big are the stores, how spread out are they? What stores are next to each other? Try to speculate on why they are next to each other..

• How are the stores arranged? What pattern are the stores organized into? (shape) - ie. linear, centralized, random or irregular, rectangle, cluster. Don't feel limited to this list.

- Why are the stores arranged in this fashion?

- Discuss why similar stores are clustered (Agglomerated) C and G on your map are a good example of this. What are the benefits of this arrangement?

- (**MAP**) Using your map of Southlands divide Main Street into four districts. Entertainment, family and kids, teen district and mature / adult shopper. Draw the boundaries on your map and shade each area. Explain the factors you used to draw the boundaries between districts.

- The boundaries between these districts exist but are smoother (subtle) than the sharp (abrupt) boundaries between Main Street and the Big Box region. Explain the difference between sharp and smooth boundaries and give specific examples that support the ideas that the boundaries between districts on Main exist but are smooth.

Sit in the Main Street's region (D and F are good locations)to answer these questions. <u>Sense of Place</u>

 Describe what this portion of the mall looks, feels, smells and sounds like.

 What can you see while sitting in this area?

 How is light used, both natural and artificial, and what is its effect?

 Describe the people in the region and their activities? Gender, age, ethnicity, type of clothing etc. Activities - Tourist, shopper, buying, reading, walking etc.