

Key Issue 3: Why are Different Places Similar?

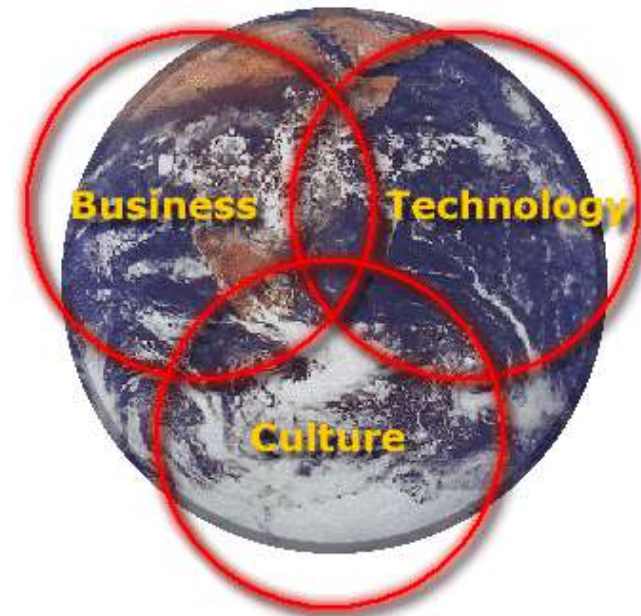


Scale: From Local to Global
Space: Distribution of Features
Connections Between Places

Globalization

Scale is the relationship between the portion of Earth being studied and Earth as a whole. Geographers think of scale at many different levels- from local to global.

Scale is an increasingly important concept in geography because of globalization- which is a force or process that involves the entire world and results in making something worldwide in scope.



Globalization of the Economy

The world is connected globally through an ever flowing monetary system- that is connected. When the economy of the United States is affected- the rest of the world is affected. The same with strong European and Asian economies- when they are affected, the rest of the world is affected.

- **Housing Bubble-** a rapid increase in the value of homes followed by a sharp decline in their value. Global crisis around 2009
- **Transnational Corporation-** Conducts research, operates factories, and sells products in many countries, not just where it is head quartered.



Globalization of Culture

Geographers observe that increasingly uniform cultural preferences produce uniform “global” landscapes. Underlying the uniform cultural landscape is the globalization of cultural beliefs and forms, especially religion and language. Christianity and Islam are rapidly becoming the two formal religions of the world. Globalization requires a form of common communication, and the English language is increasingly playing that role.

As more people become aware of global cultures and aspire to attain to possess them, local cultural beliefs, forms and traits are threatened with extinction.



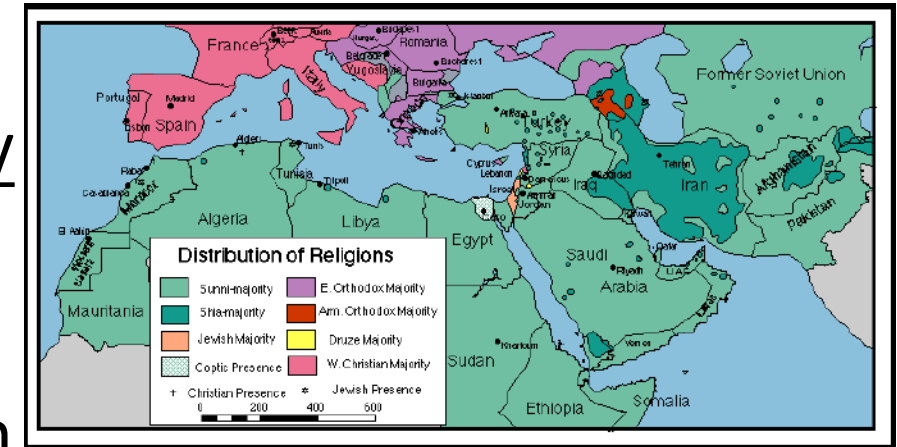
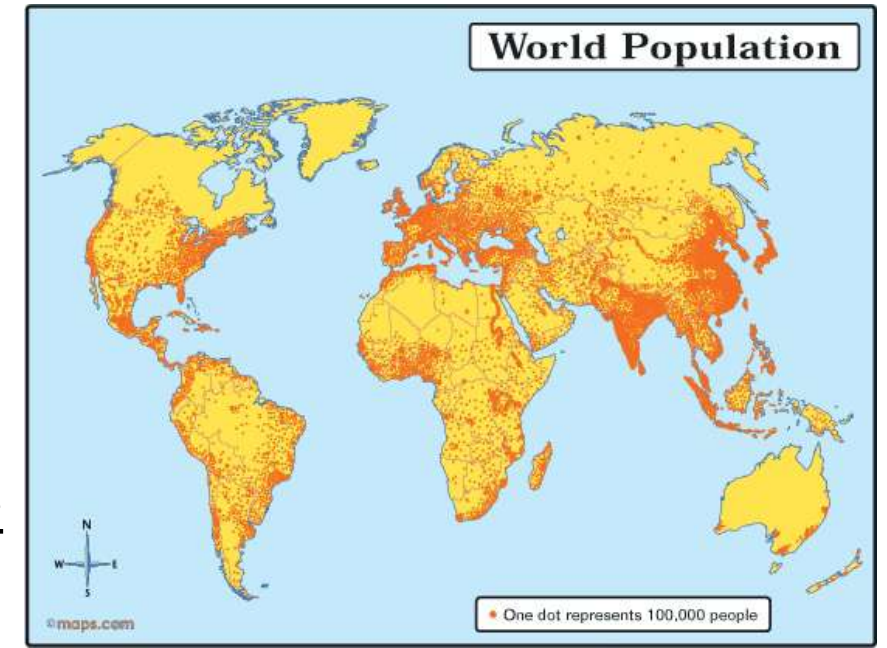
Despite globalization, sometimes cultural differences among places actually flourish. The communications revolution that promotes globalization of culture also permits preservation of cultural diversity. For instance, people in two distinct places can watch the same TV program. Groups of people on every continent may aspire to wear jeans, but they may live with someone who prefers skirts. In a global culture, companies can target consumers with similar tastes in different parts of the world.



Space-Distribution of Features

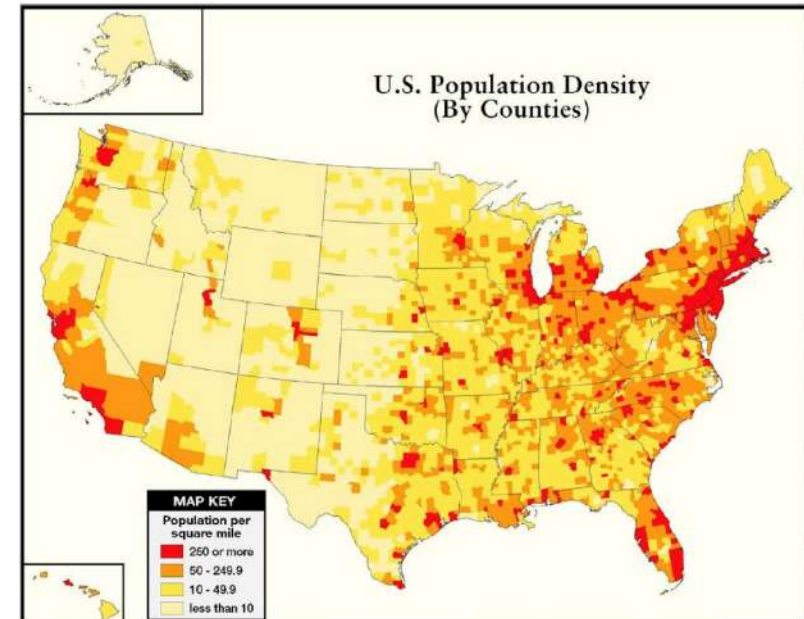
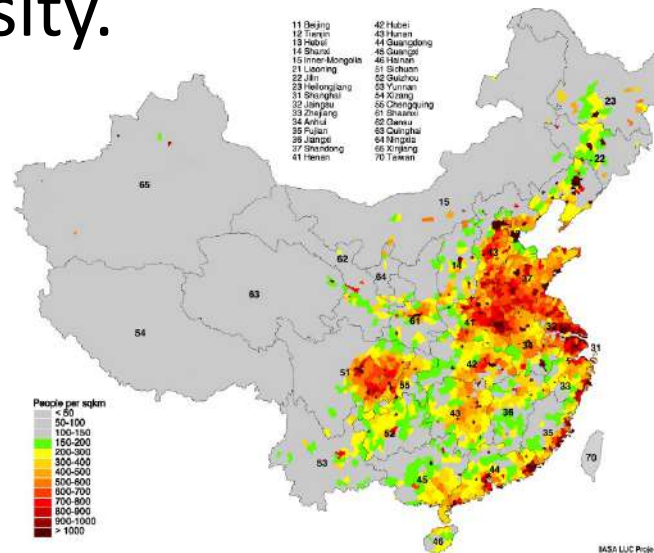
Space refers to the physical gap between two objects. Geographers observe that many objects are distributed across space in a regular manner. Spatial thinking is the most fundamental skill that geographers possess to understand the arrangement of objects across earth. Geographers think of the arrangement of people found in a space and try to understand why they are distributed across space as they are.

Geographers explain how features are arranged across earth. Within any given space, features may be numerous or scale, close together or far apart. This arrangement of features is known as distribution. The three main properties of distribution are density, concentration and pattern.



Distribution: Density

Density is the frequency with which something occurs in a given space. The feature being measured could be people, houses, cars, trees or anything else. The area could be measured in kilometers, miles, acres, or any other unit of area. Remember, a large area does not always lead to a high density. Density involves two measures- the number of a feature (how many trees, people, streets) and the land area (is it a city, large rural area, etc.). China is the most populated country, but does not have the highest density.

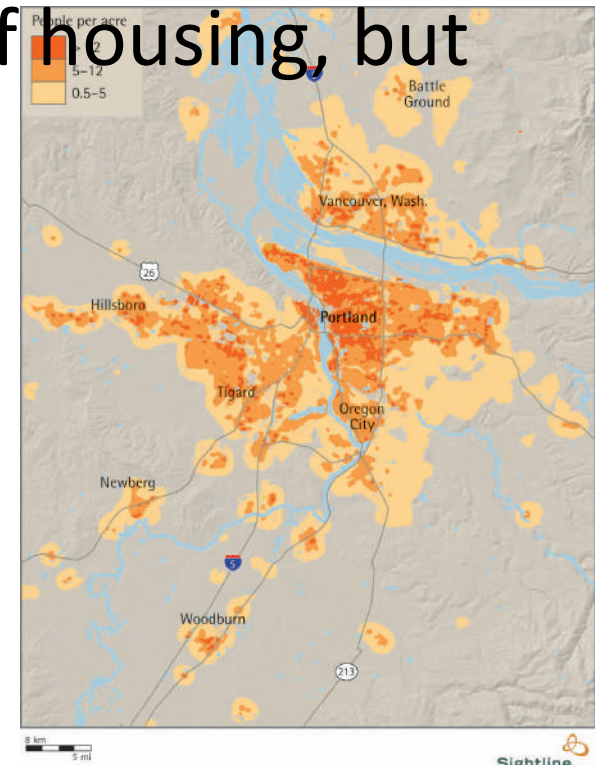
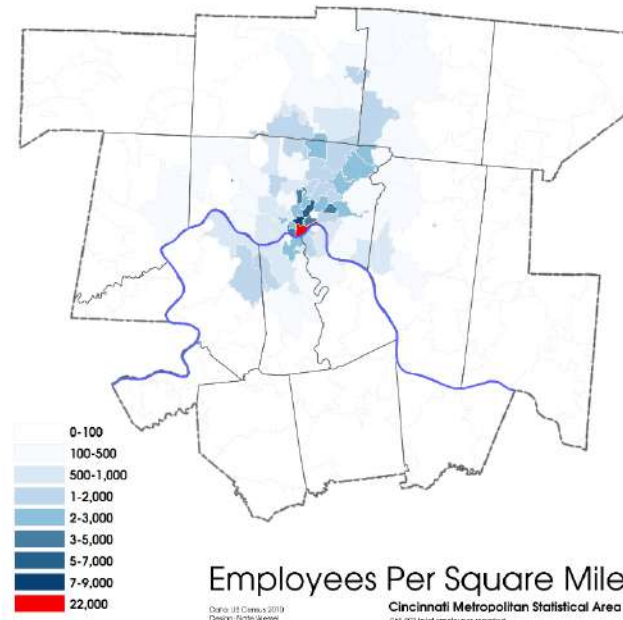


Distribution: Concentration

High population density is also unrelated to poverty.

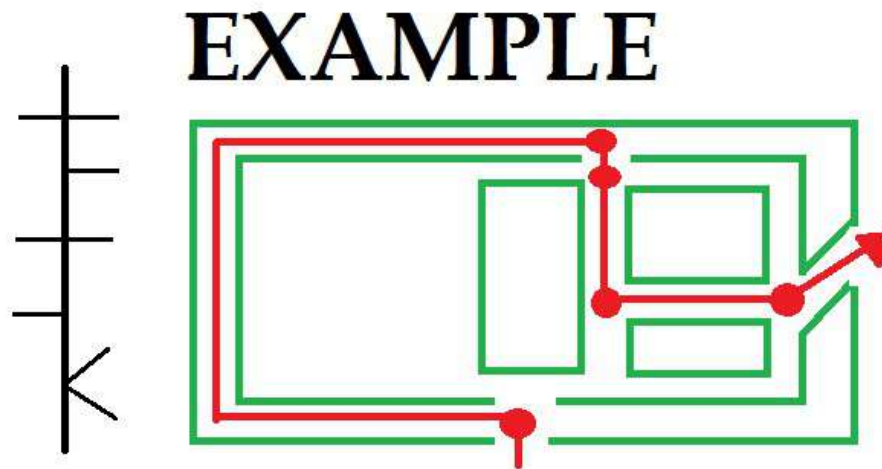
Concentration is not the same as density. Concentration is the spread of something over a given area. Density is the frequency in which it something exists in a given area.

Neighborhoods could have the same density of housing, but different concentrations.



Distribution: Properties

Pattern is the geometric arrangement of objects in space. Some features are organized in a geometric pattern, while others are distributed irregularly. Geographers can observe that many objects can form a linear distribution, such as the arrangement of houses along a street. Objects can also be arranged in a square or rectangular pattern. Many cities and street systems contain a regular pattern of streets known as a grid pattern, with intersections and square or rectangular blocks.



Cultural Identity in Space

Patterns in space vary according to gender, ethnicity, and sexuality.

Geographers study these cultural traits because they are important in explaining why people sort themselves out in space and move across the landscape in distinctive ways.

Movement: Traditional roles and relationships influence how people move across space. (the role of mother and father)

Movement by Ethnicity: Movement across space varies by ethnicity because in many neighborhoods the residents are of a specific color or nationality (all Hispanic neighborhoods, Caucasian, African-American, etc.). The movement into like neighborhoods often are influenced by similar cultural views and like ways of living



Cultural Identity in Contemporary Geography Thought

Cultural groups compete to organize space. Post structural geographers are especially concerned with cultural groups that are dominated in space (women, minorities, etc.). Distinctive spatial patterns by gender, race, and sexual orientation are constructed by the attitudes and actions of others.

Geographers do not take into consideration the sensitivities of cultural diversity, but rather looks at cultural separation from a realistic point of view.



Connections Between Places

Relocation Diffusion:

Connection refers to relationships among people and objects across the barrier of space. Geographers look at various means by which connections occur.

Something originates at a hearth (place which innovation originates) and diffuses (spreads across space) from one place to another over time.

