

AP Exam Prep – Unit 1
Geography: Nature and Its Perspectives

Absolute distance: Exact measurement of the physical space between two places vs. **Relative distance:** Approximate measurement of the physical space between two places.

Absolute location: Position on Earth's surface using the coordinate system of longitude (North to South Pole) and latitude (parallel to the equator) vs. **Relative location:** Describing a place generally and in relation to other places or physical features

Cardinal directions are north, south, east, and west vs. **Relative directions** are based on perception

Map - 2D representation of a 3D world (most common tool in geography) - **distortion** occurs on a flat surface

Cartography: The art and science of making maps

Size (Area)- When a map portrays areas over the entire map so that all mapped areas have the same proportional relationship to the areas on the Earth that they represent, the map is an equal area map / **Direction** - A map preserves direction when azimuths (angles from a point on a line to another point) are portrayed correctly in all directions /

Distance - A map is equidistant when it portrays distances from the center of the projection to any other place on a map

Scale -the relationship between a distance portrayed on a map and the same distance on the Earth. (Large scale more detail (Cumming) - small scale less detailed (World)

Projection - the method of portraying the Earth (or any portion of it) on a flat map

General:

Azimuthal projection (planar) - result from projecting a spherical surface onto a plane, usually one of the poles (Distances measured from the center are true)

Conic projection: Result from projecting a spherical surface onto a cone (keeps distance)

Cylindrical: result from projecting spherical surface into a cylinder (keeps direction, but distorts shape)

Oval projection: Combination of cylindrical and conic (more equidistant)

Conformal projection - When the scale of a map at any point on the map is the same in any direction

Specific:

Fuller Projection – Maintains shape and area but loses direction (looks completely different)

Goode's Homosline Projection - Equal area that breaks up the globe into continents and separated the oceans (map has spaces)

Mercator projection- true compass direction, straight lines but size and shape are distorted

Molleweide Projection - Area is true, but shape is distorted because parallels are shown as straight lines

Peter's Projection - Area is true, but shape is distorted (continents looked stretched out)

Robinson Projection- Rounded corners, the main type (equal-area: distorts shape, area, scale, and distance in an attempt to balance the errors)

- **Reference Maps:** Show the location of places and geographic features vs. **Thematic Maps:** show the degree of some attribute
 - **Cartogram** - Size on the map equals value
 - **Choropleth map** - Colors and shading represent information
 - **Dot density map** - Dots equal the frequency of data
 - **Flow Line Map** - Lines represent movement
 - **Isoline map** - a map that uses contoured lines to connect points of similar values (*Isotherms*: Lines connecting points of equal temperature values)
 - **Proportional Symbol Map** - Symbol size equals value
 - **Statistical map** - variation in quantity of a factor such as in a geographic area is shown
- **Region:** An area characterized by similarity that sets it apart from other areas.
 - **Formal Region (Uniform):** An area within which everyone shares in common one or more distinctive characteristics
 - **Functional Region (Nodal):** Area organized around a node or focal point. The characteristic chosen to define a functional region dominates at a central focus or node and diminishes in importance outward
 - **Perceptual Regions (Vernacular):** A place that people believe exists as a part of their cultural identity. Such regions emerge from peoples informal "*sense of place*" (see: mental map) (US Regions: South, Southwest, Northeast, Midwest, etc.)
 - **Sense of Place:** Developed by people through forming an opinion of a place based on emotion, memory, meaning, events, and experiences.
 - **Perceptions of Place:** Opinions of places formed by the media or secondary sources. (Books, TV, Internet, News)
 - **Mental (Cognitive) Maps:** Self-created maps that are stored in our minds of places we have been to, or regularly go to.
- **Cotton Belt-** Region in the South that used to be dominated by agriculture (plantations) and is often referred to as the New South (South Carolina to east Texas)

- **Rust Belt-** Region in the northern industrial states, including Ohio, Michigan (Great Lakes), and Penn. (Pittsburgh), in which heavy industry was once the dominate activity. in the 1960's-80's, these states lost much of their economic base to economically attractive regions of the US and to countries where labor was cheaper, leaving old machinery to rust in the moist climate
- **Sun Belt-** region in the US that grew because of industry and retirement option - stretches across the southern and southwestern parts of the nation (Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, *Mississippi*, *Louisiana*, Texas, *New Mexico*, Arizona, Nevada, and California)
- **Movement:** The mobility of people, goods, and ideas across the Earth.
 - **Activity spaces:** Places traveled to routinely in order to carry out daily activity
- **Diffusion** -The process of spread of a feature or trend from one place to another over time.
 - **Cultural Diffusion:** The process of a trait spreading outward from its hearth to other places
- **Relocation diffusion:** The spread of an idea through physical movement of people from one place to another.
- **Expansion Diffusion:** A trait develops in a hearth and remains strong there while also spreading (snowball effect)
 - **Contagious diffusion (type of expansion diffusion):** The rapid, widespread diffusion of a characteristic throughout the population. (Ex: ideas placed on the internet)
 - **Epidemic:** A regional or localized outbreak of a disease or other phenomena
 - **Pandemic-** A worldwide or vastly widespread outbreak of a disease or other phenomena
 - **Hierarchical diffusion (type of expansion diffusion):** The spread of an idea from persons or nodes of authority or power to other persons or places (Ex: hip-hop/rap music)
 - **Stimulus diffusion (type of expansion diffusion):** the spread of an underlying principle, even though a characteristic itself apparently fails to diffuse. (Ex: PC & Apple competition)
- **Hearth** - The region from which innovative ideas originate. This relates to the important concept of the spreading of ideas from one area to another.
 - **Independent Invention:** A trait with many hearths that developed independent of each other
- **Node** - focal point or area of importance
- **Culture:** All encompassing term that identifies the lifestyle, values and beliefs of a group of people
 - **Cultural Trait:** A single attribute of a culture.
 - **Cultural Complex:** A combination of cultural traits (which may or may not be shared with other cultures)

- **Human Geography:** Focuses on how people make places, organize space and society, interact, and make sense of our locality, region, and world.
 - **Perspective** - geographic way of looking at the world
 - **Anthropogenic**- Human induced changes into the environment
 - **Cultural Ecology:** the study of the processes by which a society adapts to its environment
 - **Environmental Determinism:** Attributing certain behaviors and traits to certain regions and climates vs. **Possibilism:** Argument that the natural environment merely serves to limit the range of choices available to a culture or group of people
 - **Cultural Landscape (Built Landscape):** The visible imprint of human activity on a landscape (**Carl Sauer**) – can become **symbolic** if it is universal
 - **Sequent Occupance:** The notion that successive societies leave their cultural imprints on a place, each contributing to the cumulative cultural landscape
- **Physical Geography:** Study of physical phenomena on Earth.
 - **Natural landscape (physical landscape)** - Landscape before the impact of man
- **Medical Geography:** A branch of Human Geography which deals with how diseases are spread and traced in a space.
- **Political Ecology:** consequences of dominant political-economic arrangements and understandings
- **Five Themes of Geography:** location, human-environment interaction, region, place and movement.
 - **Human Environment Interaction:** The ways in which human society and the natural environment affect each other.
- **Landscape:** Material character of a place; including natural features, human structures, and any other physical characteristics (physical vs cultural vs symbolic)
- **Remote Sensing:** Collect information from satellite systems and aerial images
 - **Geographic Information System (GIS):** Used to compare spatial data and create maps which show patterns.
 - **Global Positioning System (GPS):** Allows us to locate things on Earth's surface using coordinates.
- **Distribution:** The arrangement of something across Earth's surface (density, concentration & pattern)
 - **Concentration** - Dispersed (scattered) vs. clustered (agglomerated)
 - **Density** - How often an object occurs in a given area
 - **Pattern**- How objects are organized in their space (linear, random, centralized, random)

- **Geoid** – Actual shape of the Earth (earth is longer around the equator)
- **Global Grid** - Measurement for any place on Earth using latitude and longitude (coordinates)
 - **Parallels (Latitude)** - run east and west (Equator)
 - **Meridians (Longitude)** - run north and south (Prime Meridian & International Date Line)
- **Time Zones** - The Earth is divided into 24 time zones, corresponding to 24 hours in a day (each zone moves in increments of 15 degrees from the Prime Meridian)
- **Accessibility**- The degree of ease with which it is possible to reach certain location from other locations.
- **Friction of Distance** – Spatial interactions will tend to take place more often over shorter distances; quantity of interaction will decline with distance.
- **Time-Distance Decay:** How the prevalence of a trait lessens as it spreads further away from its hearth over time.
 - **Transferability** – Cost of moving goods from one place to another.
- **Globalization:** The increasing economic, cultural, demographic, political, and environmental interdependence of different places around the world.
 - **Sustainability** – To use the earth without abusing its resources for the benefit of future generations.
- **Time space convergence** – As communication increases efficiency the distance between two places is effectively diminished.
 - **Connectivity**- The relationships among people and objects across the barrier of space.
 - **Networks** - chains of communication
- **Place:** human and physical characteristics that uniquely define a place on the Earth's surface
 - **Toponym (Place Name)** - the name given to a place on Earth.
- **Site:** The physical character of place; what is found at the location vs. **Situation:** The location of a place relative to other places
- **Spatial** - of or pertaining to space on or near Earth's surface (**spatial perspective** - viewing the world through spacing)
 - **Space**- Refers to the physical gap or interval between two objects.
- **Spatial Distribution**- Physical location of geographic phenomena across space
- **Spatial Interaction:** explains how regions communicate and relate to one another

- **Model:** a simplified abstraction of reality, structured to explain relationships and to explain patterns, make informed decisions, and predict future behaviors.
- **Fieldwork:** Going into field of study and making observations
 - **Idiographic**- unique characteristics of a place vs. **Nomothetic** - concepts that can be applied universally