

Glossary

INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY AND MAPS

Absolute location

Location based on latitude and longitude coordinates.

Aristotle and Plato

Greek philosophers who believed that the Earth was round.

Cartograms

Maps that assign space by the size of some datum. For example, world population by country is often illustrated in a cartogram, with countries with larger populations appearing larger on the map.

Cartographers

Map makers; they are very concerned with the problem of distortion.

Concentration

The density of particular phenomena over an area; in terms of concentration, objects can either be clustered or agglomerated.

Conformal maps

Maps that distort area but keep shapes intact.

Conic projection maps

Maps that put a cone over the Earth and keep distance intact but lose directional qualities.

Cultural landscape

Cultural attributes of an area often used to describe a place (e.g., buildings, theaters, places of worship).

Cylindrical maps

Maps that show true direction but lose distance (e.g., a Mercator map).

Dark Ages

A time when academic thought was not advancing in Europe but was very active across the rest of the world.

Density

Describes how often an object occurs within a given area or space; most often used in terms of population density.

Diffusion

Describes the spread or movement of a principle or idea.

Distribution

This term comes from the idea that everything on the Earth's surface must have a physical location. There are three different aspects of distribution: density, concentration, and pattern.

Environmental determinism

An important development in the field of geography in the early 20th century that stated that human behaviors are a direct result of their environment. This philosophy gave some people the justification to believe that Europeans were smarter than other peoples, because they live in a more temperate climate.

Equal-area projection maps

Maps that try to distribute distortion equally throughout the map; these maps distort shapes.

Expansion diffusion

The term used to describe the spread of a characteristic from a central node through various means.

There are three different types of expansion diffusion: hierarchical, contagious, and stimulus diffusions.

Flow-line maps

Maps that are good for determining movement, such as migration trends.

Formal regions

Regions where anything and everything inside has the same characteristic or phenomena.

Functional regions

Regions that can be defined around a certain point or node; functional regions are most intense around the center but lose their characteristics as the distance from the focal point increases.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

A way for geographers to obtain new information, GIS layers geographic information into a new map, showing specific types of geographic data. Watershed, population density, highways, and agricultural data are geographic features that can be used as layers of data.

Geographical Positioning Systems (GPS) A way for geographers to obtain new information, GPS technology is found in cars and cell phones; it uses the Earth's latitude and longitude coordinates to determine an exact location.

Geography

The description of the Earth's surface and the people and processes that shape those landscapes.

Gerardus Mercator

One of the first people to produce a world map that showed, with relative accuracy, the general outline of the continents. His map exaggerated the landforms around the polar regions, because all lines of latitude and longitude meet at right angles.

Hierarchical diffusion

The notion that a phenomenon spreads as a result of the social elite, such as political leaders, entertainment leaders, or famous athletes, spreading societal ideas or trends.

Human geography

The study of human characteristics on the landscape, including population, agriculture, urbanization, and culture.

latitudes (parallels)

Parallel lines that run east/west on the surface of the Earth; the highest degree of latitude is 90 degrees.

Longitudes (meridians)

Parallel lines that run north/south on the surface of the Earth.

Maps

The basic tools used by geographers to convey information. Maps generally are a representation of the Earth's surface, although they do come in many forms.

Mental map

A map that contains what a person believes to exist; most people have mental maps, and they prove to be a useful tool in communication.

Middle Ages

A time after the fall of the Roman Empire and before the Enlightenment.

Migration diffusion

The term used to describe the physical spread of people moving from one place to another.

Oval projection maps

Maps that combine the cylindrical and conic projections (e.g., the Mollweide projection).

Pattern

Describing how objects are organized in a space, patterns can be anything from triangular to linear or even three-dimensional.

Planar maps

Maps that show true direction and examine the Earth from one point, usually from a pole or a polar direction (e.g., any azimuthal map).

Possibilist

An approach to geography favored by contemporary geographers that suggests that humans are not a product of their environment but possess skills necessary to change their environment to satisfy human needs. With this approach, people can determine their own outcomes without regard to location.

Ptolemy

Wrote the series *Guide to Geography*, which gave very detailed descriptions of cities and people during the Greek period when the Roman Empire took hold of the Mediterranean region.

Region

A concept used to link different places together based on any parameter the geographer chooses.

Relative location

A location that is based on, or refers to, another feature on the Earth's surface.

Scale

The relationship between the size of a map to the amount of the planet it represents; the dimension into which one is trying to cast the real world.

Spatial interaction (movement)

Concerned with how linked a place is to the outside world, this theme of geography deals mainly with area, because how well an area is connected to the world determines its importance.

Thematic map

Used to determine some type of geographic phenomenon, thematic maps can be represented in various ways: area class maps, area symbol maps, cartograms, choropleth maps, digital images, dot maps, flow-line maps, isoline maps, point symbol maps, and proportional symbol maps.

Vernacular region (perceptual region)

A region that exists primarily in the individual's perception or feelings (e.g., the concept of "the South" differs depending on where someone lives in the United States).

Zheng He

In the mid 1400s, this famous Chinese explorer wrote in his journal of a coast with tall trees and mountains expanding as far as the eye could see. It is suspected that he may have come across the coast of Alaska or even the West Coast of the United States. His most famous explorations include those around the Indian Ocean.

POPULATION AND MIGRATION**Arithmetic density**

Determined by dividing the population of a country by the total land area.

Coyote

A nickname given to person who is hired to assist illegal immigrants into the United States, often at a cost that does not depend upon success of entry.

Crude birth rate

The number of births in a society per 1,000 people.

Crude death rate

The number of deaths in a society per 1,000 people.

Cyclic movement

The seasonal migration of livestock to areas where food is more available.

Demographic equation

Determines the population growth rate for the world by subtracting global deaths from global births.

Demography

The scientific study of population characteristics that analyzes population trends and predicts future occurrences based on current statistics.

Dependency ratio

Determined by comparing the sum of persons age 0-14 and over 65 to those age 15-64; children and the elderly depend on the population's workforce for support.

Distance decay

The lessening of a phenomenon as the distance from the hearth increases.

Dowry death

This is the term used to describe a situation in certain countries where the bride is killed because of her inability to pay the promised dowry.

Emigrants

People who leave a country or region.

Gravity model

The greater the sphere of influence a city has, the greater its impact ("gravity") on other cities around it. This model is usually tested by measuring travel, phone calls, and overall trade between two or more cities.

Immigrant

A person who emigrates to another country.

Industrial Revolution

Starting in the mid-1700s, many European countries developed new technologies, spurring a more mechanized system of farming and eventually moving them to a stage 3 industrial economy. This transformation brought about many changes, including mass migration to cities and mass production in factories.

Infant mortality rate

The number of babies that die each year before their first birthday.

Intercontinental migration

The movement of people across an ocean or continent.

Intervening obstacle

A physical or mental factor that forces individuals to halt and often abort their migration plans.

Intervening opportunity

Favorable economic opportunity or environmental amenity that causes migrants to stop and stay at a location along their journey.

J-curve

Developed by Ian Bremme, this curve maps a country based on its "openness" and "stability." The movements of countries on both of these scales are largely dependent on their economic progress.

Net migration

The number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants.

Overpopulation

The lack of necessary resources to meet the needs of a population in a defined area determined by carrying capacity.

Physiologic density

Similar to arithmetic density but considered more accurate, this is determined by dividing the population of a country only by the land that is usable by humans.

Place utility

Incentives such as tax breaks and increased recreational opportunities that communities offer to entice people to move there.

Quotas

limits put on immigration by certain countries.

Refugees

People who are forced to leave their country and seek refuge elsewhere, often because of religious or political persecution that may include death.

Sustainability

The saving of resources for future generations to allow them to live at the same standard of living or higher than the population is living at today.

Thomas Malthus

A British economist who, in the late 1700s, concluded that the rate of population was growing faster than agricultural productivity.

Total fertility rate

The number of babies that an average woman delivers during her childbearing years.

Transhumance

The movement of livestock to higher elevations during the summer to escape the heat in the valleys and to lower elevations during the winter to escape the severe cold of the mountains.

Zero population growth

Describes a population in which the crude birth rate equals the crude death rate.

AGRICULTURE**Agriculture**

The raising of animals or the growing of crops on tilled land to obtain food for primary consumption by a farmer's family or for sale off the farm.

Biotechnology

A precise science that involves altering the genetic strands of agricultural products to increase productivity, biotechnology is developed mainly in science laboratories and is then tested on farm fields around the world, where it has been, for the most part, extremely successful.

Carl Sauer

Professor of geography at the University of California-Berkeley who started the field of

cultural ecology, and began the hearths of seed agriculture and vegetative planting Carl Sauer was one of the most vehement critics of the philosophy of environmental determinism. Instead he believed that humans had power over their environments and weren't simply a product of them.

Commercial farming

The farming of products for sale off the farm, commercial farming is usually a big business in developed countries and requires the use of heavy machinery.

Continentality

Describes the fact that an area's proximity to a body of water affects its temperature (e.g., because oceans have a moderating influence on temperature, areas near oceans experience less extreme temperature variation).

Creative destruction

Removing what nature originally produced in a location to grow what is desired.

Crop rotation

The planting of different crops each year to replenish the soil's nutrients that were lost to the previous crop.

Double-cropping

The growing of two crops per year to double agricultural output.

Environmental modification

The introduction of man made chemicals and practices that, at times, have drastic effects on native soil and vegetation.

Farm crisis

Occurs when farmers are too productive, causing a surplus of crops and, therefore, lowering prices and producing less revenue for the farmers.

Feedlots

Farms that specialize in cattle or hogs and may have thousands of head of livestock, feedlots can create large amounts of waste runoff, air pollution, and groundwater contamination.

First Agricultural Revolution

The slow change from nonagriculturally-based societies to more agriculturally-based ones through the gradual understanding of seeds, watering, and plant care.

Food chain

After harvesting, commercial grain is sent to the market area, usually in semitrailers, where it is sold to a manufacturer who makes a product with the grain, such as bread. The product is then sold to a wholesaler, who sells it to a grocery store, where individual customers can purchase it.

Grain farming

The mass planting and harvesting of grain crops, such as wheat, barley, and millet.

Intertillage

The manual clearing of rows in the field through the use of hoes, rakes, and other manual equipment.

Johann Heinrich von Thunen

Developed an Agricultural Land Use Model that suggested that certain crops were grown in direct relation to their distance to market.

Long lots

A system of farming where lots up to a half mile or more extend back from a river, which farmers use as their primary means of hauling their agricultural products to the market.

Mixed livestock with crop production

A type of farming where cows raised on a farm are fed with crops that are grown on the same farm.

Planned economy (government-controlled economy)

An economy in which the government dictates the quantity and type of agricultural products that farmers can produce.

Plantation agriculture

Often occurring in less developed countries, plantation agriculture involves the cultivation of one crop to be sold in more developed countries (e.g., coffee plantations in Costa Rica).

Primary economic activities

Subsistence farming based on little mechanization. This is currently performed by aboriginal tribes in Australia.

Quaternary economic industries

Activities that produce nothing one can physically touch but are important in society (e.g., selling Internet time or providing satellite technologies, such as cell phone usage).

Quinary sectors

Usually involving only about 10-15 percent of the workforce in an economy, these sectors employ the people who make decisions concerning the trade of commodities at the governmental and business executive levels.

Second Agricultural Revolution

Coinciding with the Industrial Revolution, the Second Agricultural Revolution used the increased technology from the Industrial Revolution as a means to increase farm productivity. This revolution started exponential population increase.

Secondary economic activities

Industrial activities in which factories take raw materials, such as natural resources, and produce some type of product for either trade or sale. Many people in the United States are still employed in secondary economic activities.

Seed agriculture

The taking of seeds from existing plants and planting them to produce new plants.

Shifting cultivation

The moving of farm fields after several years in search of more productive soil after depleting the nutrients in the original field.

Slash and Burn agriculture

The process of burning the physical landscape for both added space and additional nutrients put in the soil.

Subsistence farmers

Producing the food that their families need to survive, subsistence farmers depend on the crops that they grow and the animal products they raise for their daily sustenance.

Suitcase farms

These farms, where no one resides permanently and migrant workers provide the majority of manual labor cheaply, go against the grain of traditional farming in the United States.

Tertiary economic industries

Service activities in which an increasing number of people are involved in selling goods rather than producing them.

Third Agricultural Revolution (Green Revolution)

This transformation began in the latter half of the 20th century and corresponded with exponential population growth around the world.

LAND USE AND RESOURCES

Acid rain

Describes any form of precipitation with an unusually low pH value. The low pH value is the result of pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, which chemically alter water droplets. The burning of fossil fuels increases the occurrence of acid rain.

Air pollution

The presence of unnatural human products in the atmosphere as a result of human activities (e.g., the presence in the air of the by-products of burning fossil fuels).

Biomass

The use of agricultural products or natural vegetation to produce a fuel that automobiles or other engines can use.

Debt-for-nature swap

The forgiveness of debts in exchange for setting aside land for conservation or preservation; this swap is of interest to many less developed countries that *have* tallied up large debts to more developed countries and felt pressure to repay them.

Ecotourism

Using the natural beauty of the land as a selling point to promote tourism, which then provides the necessary funds to preserve that ecological area and, often, sustain the associated human community.

Fossil fuels

Nonrenewable resources, including coal, oil, and natural gas, created by the breakdown of carbon-based sediment and, *over* time and under pressure, formed into the resources that we use today.

Geothermal power

An alternative energy source that uses the heat from the Earth's interior to heat homes and businesses on the surface of the Earth.

Greenhouse effect

The gradual warming of the Earth's atmosphere due to pollutants (greenhouse gases), primarily from more developed countries, which keep the warmer air closer to the Earth's surface.

Hydroelectric power

The use of water to create electricity.

Nonrenewable resources

These resources take thousands of years to be produced and cannot replenish themselves.

Nuclear power

A controversial form of alternative energy, nuclear power needs the nonrenewable resources such as uranium or plutonium for its production and creates long-lasting, dangerous waste products. It is, however, the most powerful energy source known. The two types of nuclear power are fission nuclear power and fusion nuclear power.

Open pit mine

A mine in which the land is removed and the resources are extracted in the open air.

Production

The removal of a resource from the Earth in order to obtain energy.

Renewable resources

Resources that *have* the ability to replenish themselves in nature relatively quickly, thereby being infinitely available to consumers.

Reserves

The amount of a resource that is left in the ground yet to be used.

Resource crisis

The eventual depletion of the fossil fuels on which energy-dependant economies rely heavily.

Shaft mine

A mine in which tunnels are dug horizontally under the surface of the Earth and shafts are placed deep into the Earth.

Solar energy

The use of the sun's heat to create electricity' solar energy is one of the best renewable resources available because of its accessibility and cleanliness.

Topocide

The killing off of landscape to build a new one, topocide uses land for economic purposes in the sense that the intention is to destroy the previously existing landscape.

Tragedy of the Commons

Garrett Hardin's term for the idea that humans will inevitably do what is best for themselves despite what is the best for the public good.

Wind Energy

Using the movement of wind to generate power by spinning the blades of windmills in wind parks, which then spin turbines, which then produce electricity, wind energy is one of the most promising types of renewable energy.

INDUSTRY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**Agglomeration**

The centralization of parts of an industry for the mutual benefit of the industry as a whole.

Basic industries

The industries that are the focal point of the economy for a city.

Capitalism

An economic system that lets the competitive market determine the price of goods in a society and in which people have the freedom to choose their outcomes based on their ability to pay for a product.

Communism

An economic system in which the government has total control over the prices of goods in a society, ranging from the price of bread to utility prices.

Core-periphery model

Model suggesting the core areas are more developed while periphery areas are less developed and often times the periphery is at the economic beckoning of the core through resources.

Cumulative causation (positive feedback) Continued growth that feeds on itself.

Deglomeration

Occurs when the market becomes saturated with a particular industry, creating too much competition

and forcing some businesses to shut down.

Dependence theory

Suggests that more developed countries exploit less developed countries to remain at the top of international trade.

Development

The continued progress of a society in all areas, including demographics, economics, and social factors.

Fixed costs

Costs that do not fluctuate depending on the quantity ordered.

Footloose industry

A company with no allegiance or ties to a country or a location that, therefore, can move its primary location.

Fordism

Describes an assembly line on which each employee is doing a specific task to speed up the overall process of production.

Foreign direct investment

The direct investment by a company in the economy of a foreign country characterized by a direct relationship between the investor and the product of the investment.

Four Asian Tigers (Asian Dragons) Includes South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore, each of which is currently experiencing rapid economic growth as a result of its industrial base and the exporting of items to areas like the United States and Europe.

Gross domestic product (GDP)

Determined by summing the selling value or market price of all the goods and services that are produced in a particular country in a given year.

Gross domestic product per capita Determined by dividing the total amount of goods and services produced in a country by the total population of the country.

Gross national product (GNP)

Determined by summing the value of the goods and services produced by a country's factors of production within a given time period (usually one year).

Human Development Index

Includes the characteristics such as life expectancy, literacy, education, and standard of living that affect all people's lives regardless of culture.

Industrial Revolution

Starting in the mid-1600s, the Industrial Revolution was an extension of the Enlightenment period in Europe. The opening of thought and a movement away from the Catholic Church prompted many changes in thought, art, and technology, ultimately leading to major changes in the technology and transportation systems within industry.

International division of labor

The specialization of labor so that production becomes individualized, thereby increasing the speed, efficiency, and quality of the overall work process.

Labor-intensive industries

Businesses that require relatively more human effort in the production process (e.g., agriculture).

Multiplier effect

The expansion of the economic base of a city as a result of increased demand sparking increased production, which in turn employs more people who then demand even more goods and services.

Neocolonialism

A situation wherein the less developed countries of the world are still economically dependent upon the more developed countries.

New international division of labor

The outsourcing of jobs from more developed countries to lesser developed countries to produce goods more cheaply.

Nonbasic industries

Industries that serve as secondary businesses, established after the city has already established its basic industry.

Site

The internal characteristics of a place based on its physical features.

Situation

The relationship that a particular location has with the locations around it.

Socialism

An economic system in which the government controls the basic elements of an economy, such as food prices, transportation costs, and energy prices.

Time-space compression

The increase in the efficiency in the delivery process by diminishing distance obstacles, perhaps via email, fax machines, etc.

Transnational corporations

Large companies with offices or divisions in countries around the world.

Treaty ports

Ports that must remain open for international trade because of the signing of various treaties.

Variable costs

Costs that fluctuate based upon the volume of the order.

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY**Allocational boundary disputes**

Disputes that usually involve conflicting claims to the natural resources of a region and the drilling or mining of it.

Buffer state

A country that lies between two states in conflict but which remains neutral.

City-state

A state that is comprised of a large urban area or city (e.g., Singapore).

Colonialism

The practice of establishing political dominance over another people for economic, political, and territorial gain.

Commonwealth

Territories that have established a mutual agreement for the benefit of both parties.

Coup d'etat

A group revolt against a country's current ruling power.

Demarcation

The process of showing the physical representation of a boundary on the landscape.

Definitional boundary disputes

Disputes that arise from the legal language of the treaty definition of the boundary itself; one of the countries involved will usually sue another country in the International Court of Justice (World Court).

Devolution

The release of power by the central or federal government to the different regions of the country.

Ethnocentrism

The idea that one's own culture is the point of reference for everything else.

Ethnographic or cultural boundaries

Boundaries that are outlined by cultural factors such as language, religion, or ethnic groups.

Exclave

A territory belonging to a state but separated from that state by another state.

Forward capital

A capital city that is put in a particular location to show that the home country intends to use that land in the future, although it is not currently in use.

Geometric boundaries

Boundaries created with latitude and longitude features or with other straight lines.

Geopolitics

A concept of political geography that is concerned with the study of human systems, which strive to organize land spatially to fit the needs of humans.

Gerrymandering

The illegal redrawing of political boundaries for political gain by a political power.

Global commons

Areas that no country is allowed to own or claim as its territory.

Immigrant state

A state that is comprised primarily of immigrants.

Iron Curtain

The division of the Western European states, which employed the traditions of democracy and capitalism, from the Eastern European states, which employed the traditions of totalitarian leadership and communism.

Irredentism

The attempt by one country to infuse ideas of coups or separatist movements into another country.

Locational boundary disputes

Disputes that arise when the definition of the border is not questioned but the intention of the border is, as when the border has shifted (e.g., a river shifts its course, changing the landscape).

Manifest destiny

The belief that the U.S. government, with divine intervention, was destined to rule the land extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

Operational boundary disputes

Disputes that arise from two abutting or adjacent countries disagreeing about a major functionality of the border, as when the United States and Mexico disagree over the issue of illegal immigration into the United States.

Physical boundaries

Boundaries created with naturally occurring features.

Plural society

A society characterized by two or more ethnicities living in the same area but each keeping its own identity and characteristics.

Prorupted country

A country that has a protrusion extending out from its main base.

Raison d'etre

Translated from the French "the reason for being." Many people feel nationalistic, placing great importance on the creation and protection of their state, and are willing to die for their state's independence.

Suffrage

The power to vote on issues regarding a person's or people's welfare.

Superimposed boundary

A political boundary that ignores the existing cultural organization of the landscape, a superimposed boundary is usually placed by a higher authority, such as a superpower or a delegation of superpowers, to ease tension and satisfy the demands of the superpower alliances rather than the needs of the country in which the boundary is dividing the population.

Theocracy

A country where one particular religion is intertwined with the political structure.

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY**Acculturation**

The cultural change of a people upon direct contact with a different culture.

Allah

The Islamic deity.

Animism

The belief in luck as well as in spirits.

Assimilation

The dying out of the old culture as it becomes replaced with the culture where a person or group of people currently reside.

Atheists

People who do not believe in any god or godlike figure.

Bahai

A universalizing religion that is practiced in parts of Africa and Asia, Bahai is similar to Sikhism in the sense that both advocate the elimination of religious differences.

Bible

The holy book of Christianity, the Bible is broken up into the Old Testament, which is based on the lives of the Israelites and follows the lives of Moses, Abraham, David, and other leaders prophesizing about the coming of the Savior, and the New Testament, which describes the life of Jesus Christ and the foundations of the new faith.

Buddhism

A polytheistic Eastern religion that focuses on the elimination of desires from the human soul through meditation.

Built environment

Produced by the physical material culture, the built environment is the tangible human creation on the landscape.

Christianity

The world's largest practiced religion has three main branches: the Roman Catholic branch, the Protestant branch, and the Orthodox branch.

Confucianism

Based on the teachings of Confucius, who lived in China at about the same time as Siddhartha Gautama lived in India, this religion focuses on the relationships within the world and is associated with the philosophy of feng shui.

Contagious diffusion

The process of spreading a culture from one place to another through direct contact, similar to the way disease spreads.

Culture

The way of life of a particular people that defines them as a people.

Denominations

Branches of a religion that differ on specific practices or principles of the religion.

Dialect

A form of a language that is different in sound, speed, syntax, and vocabulary from the language itself.

Ethnic religion

A religion into which followers are born and little attempt is made to convert others.

Folk culture

The practice of a particular custom of a relatively small group of people that increases the group's uniqueness.

Fundamentalism

A movement based on the literal interpretation of the faith's holy book that strictly enforces behavior to comply with the religion's basic principles.

Hajj

The fifth pillar of Islam, the Hajj is the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, the holiest city in the Islamic religion.

Hinduism

A polytheistic religion, thought to be the oldest religion on Earth, with three primary deities-Brahma, Shiva, and Vishnu-and many lesser deities.

Isoglosses

The definitional boundaries of a dialect.

Jainism

A religion that is based on nonmaterialism but at its core is considered an atheist philosophy.

Judaism

One of the oldest religions in the world, Judaism is based on the writings in the Torah and Talmud, the two holy books of the Jewish religion, and is an ethnic and a monotheist religion. The Jewish bible is called a Tanakh.

Koran (Qur'an)

The Islamic holy book.

Language

The ability to communicate with others in mutual comprehension in oral and written form.

Material culture

Anything that can physically be seen on the landscape.

Missionaries

People who spread a universalizing religion to other regions of the world.

Mohammad

The primary prophet of the Islamic religion, Muhammad lived in the sixth century CE and is said to have received the inspiration for the creation of the Koran.

Monotheistic religions

Religions that worship only one god.

Mormonism (Church of Latter Day Saints) A universalizing religion centered in Utah, Mormonism's sacred books include the Book of Mormon in addition to the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

Nonmaterial culture

Anything on the landscape that comprises culture that cannot be physically touched (e.g., language and religion).

Pidgin language

A mixed language that results from cultures coming into contact.

Polytheistic religions

Religions whose followers worship multiple gods.

Popular culture

The culture that is not tied to a specific location but rather a general location based on its widespread diffusion.

Ramadan

The fourth pillar of Islam in which fasting occurs for a whole month.

Reincarnation

The belief that one has lived a previous life and will continue to live another life after physical death.

Relocation diffusion

The spreading of a custom when people move; language tends to be spread through relocation diffusion.

Secularists

People who want to separate religion from all other aspects of society, including government and other social institutions such as marriage.

Sikhism

This religion, founded by Guru Nanak, holds a belief in one god, rejects the caste system of India, and believes that all people are created equal.

Stimulus diffusion

The spread of a particular concept that is then used in another product.

Taoism (Daoism)

Like Confucianism, this philosophy is based on the release of personal desires, but emphasizes mysticism.

Theocracy

A state that is ruled by religious leaders, where the church plays an integral part in the administration of the country (e.g., Iran and Saudi Arabia).

Universalizing religion

A religion whose members actively try to *convert* others.

Zoroastrianism

The belief that Zarathustra is the father of the religion.

URBANIZATION**Bid Rent Theory**

Suggests that because the closer to the central business district, the higher the value of the land, that only commercial enterprises can afford the land within the central business district.

Blockbusting

The practice by real estate agents of inducing the sale of homes in specific areas by insinuating that a different race is moving into the neighborhood.

Central business district (CBD)

The commercial center or downtown region of an urban area.

Centralization

The concentration of power in one authority, usually under the command of a mayor or some other official.

Cities

Areas with a high population density that can include tens of thousands of people.

Colonial cities

Ancient cities that saw trade as imperative to their success; many of these cities became trading posts or major ports for colonizing countries.

Commercial zoning

The system of regulating land use for business or retail structures.

Commercialization

The process of selling goods and *services* for profit.

Concentric zone model

Developed by Robert Park, Ernest Burgess, and Roderick McKenzie in the 1920s, this model suggests that the social structure extends outwards from the central business district, meaning that the lower classes live closer to the city center, while the upper classes live farther from the city center because they can afford the commute.

Counterurbanization

The process of moving away from urban areas, usually when people want to get away from traffic, crime, and pollution.

Decentralization

The distribution of authority from a central figure or point to other sectors in the city.

Entrepots

Cities that reexport goods that are brought into their borders, sending items to all areas of the globe. Being entrepots has brought tremendous wealth to areas such as Hong Kong and Singapore.

Ethnic neighborhoods

Neighborhoods that are dominated by one ethnic group through its commercial establishments, community artwork, or other representations of ethnicity on the landscape.

Gentrification

The process of wealthy people moving into inner-city neighborhoods.

Greenbelts

Rural areas that are set aside to prevent cities from extending too far outwards. Greenbelts also prevent cities that are near each other from merging together.

Grid street system

The street pattern in cities, created for ease and convenience, characterized by an east- west pattern and a north-south pattern that create a gridlike visual.

Hamlets

The smallest of urban settlements with a counted population.

Hinterland

The market area where a product, urban area, or commercial outlet has influence.

Industrial zoning

The system of land-use regulation for the production of materials.

Infrastructure

All of the buildings and roads that make up a city.

Invasion and succession

The continued expansion of the central business district and the continual push outwards of the zones, causing the zones to rebuild their infrastructures so that areas that were once low-income residences are converted into apartments.

Megacities

Cities with over 10 million people located within their metropolitan area and which have a huge sphere of influence over their surrounding areas.

Metropolitan areas

Areas with over 50,000 people.

Multiplier effect

The principle that development spurs more development.

Office parks

Agglomerations of office buildings with facilities established for the phones, Internet, and transportation that allow the successful conduct of business, office parks allow businesses of similar structure and production to locate near each other and, therefore, experience the benefits of the area's infrastructure.

Peak land value intersection

The area with the greatest land value and commercial trade, usually located in the CBD.

Planned community

An area where developers can plot out each house in the development and build the community from scratch.

Postindustrial cities

Cities that specialize in the technology of a specific, more-specialized economic industry through a process of deindustrialization.

Racial steering

The showing of houses only in certain neighborhoods by real estate agents based on the race of the buyer.

Range

The maximum distance that people are willing to travel to purchase a product or partake in a service, often depending on the particular product.

Rank-size rule

The principle that relates cities' relative population sizes to their rank within a country.

Redlining

The refusal of banks or other lending institutions to give loans to minorities or even whites in perceived high-risk areas.

Residential zoning

The system of land-use regulation for housing.

Social structure

The hierarchical classes that are evident within a society, such as the lower, middle, and upper class, which represent the basic structure of an economy.

Suburbs

Areas surrounding cities, generally consisting of residential districts but also possibly including numerous commercial and even industrial activities within their borders.

Threshold

The minimum number of people needed to meet the needs of the industry.

Town

An urban entity with a defined boundary but which is smaller than a city in terms of population and area.

Underemployment

The hiring of too many employees when there is not enough work for all of them to do, or the employment of overqualified persons in positions that do not utilize their skills.

Unincorporated areas

Areas that were once considered urban areas, even though only two or three families live there today.

Urban growth rates

The speed at which individual cities increase their population.

Urban heat island effect

The heat that cities generate as a result of having many buildings and few trees or other vegetation.

Urban hydrology

How a city deals with getting clean water to its citizens, removing dirty water and cleaning it, and then

putting it back into the world's rivers and oceans.

Urban sprawl

The expansion of a city and its suburbs across surrounding rural lands.

Urbanization

The process by which people live and are employed in a city.

Urbanized population

The people living in the world's cities; currently, more people than ever live in cities, partially because of the increased efficiency of agriculture.

Villages

Areas that are larger than hamlets and offer more services.

White flight

The movement of white, middle-class citizens away from the inner city to the suburbs, which are perceived to be safer and more family friendly.

Zone in transition

This area, located outside of the central business district, usually contains the slums.

Zoning

A system of land-use regulation whereby cities determine where each type of economic enterprise-residential, commercial, and industrial-can be located.