

# **Introduction to Human Geography**

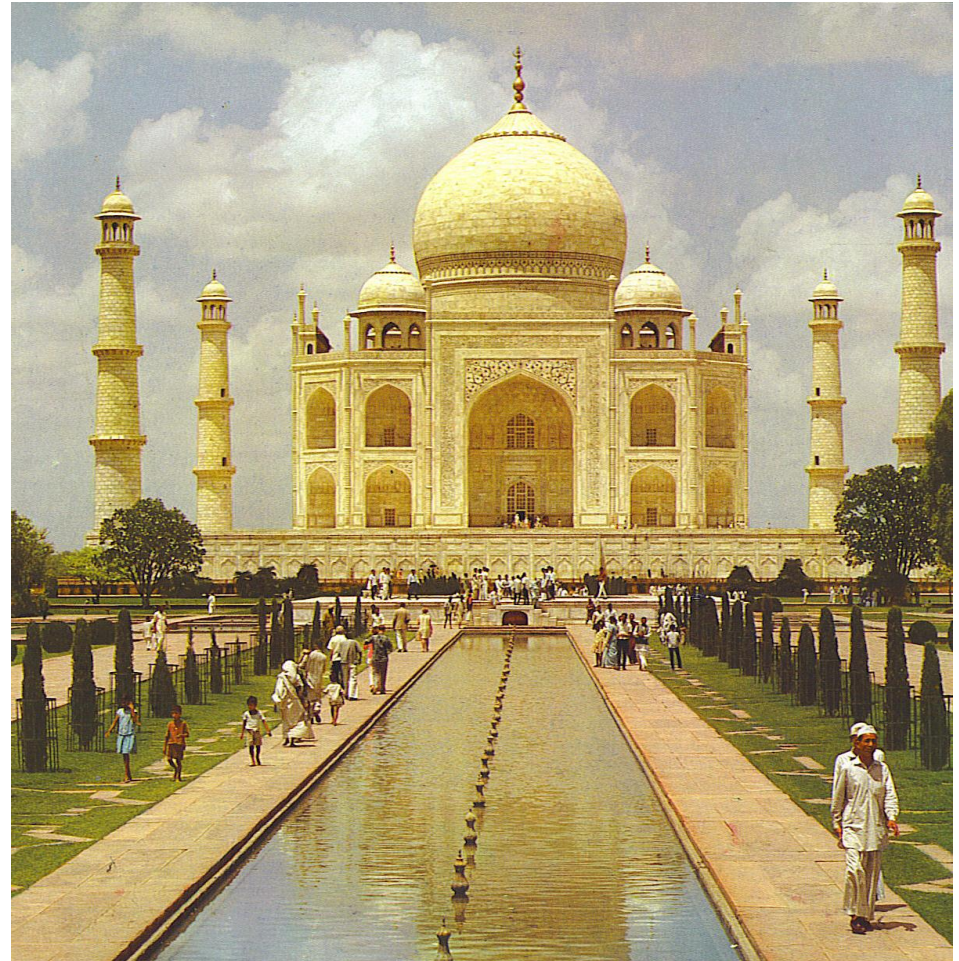
# The Two Types of Geography

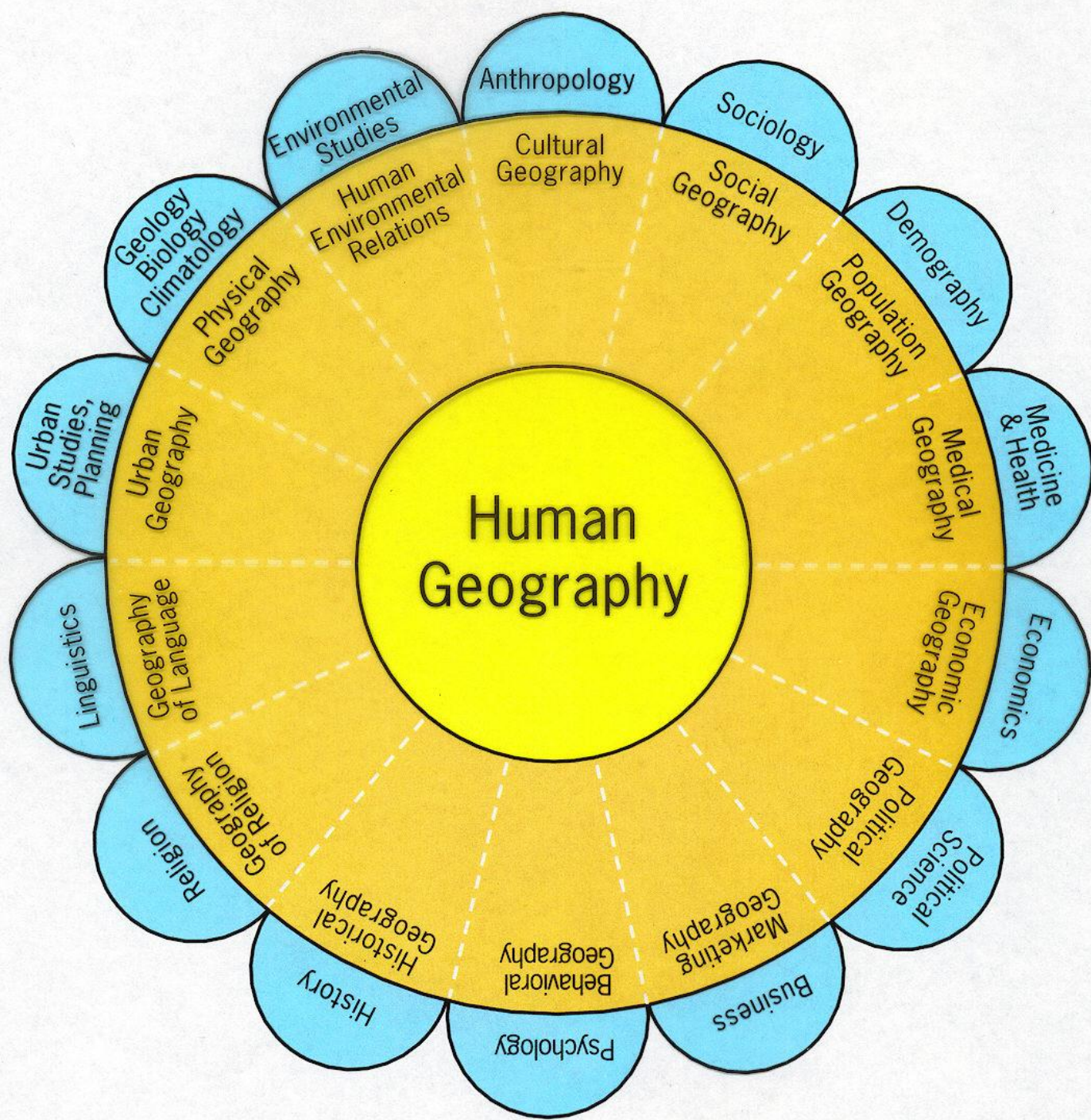
- **Physical Geography**

- Topography
- Climate (Koppen)
- Flora and Fauna
- soil

- **Human Geography**

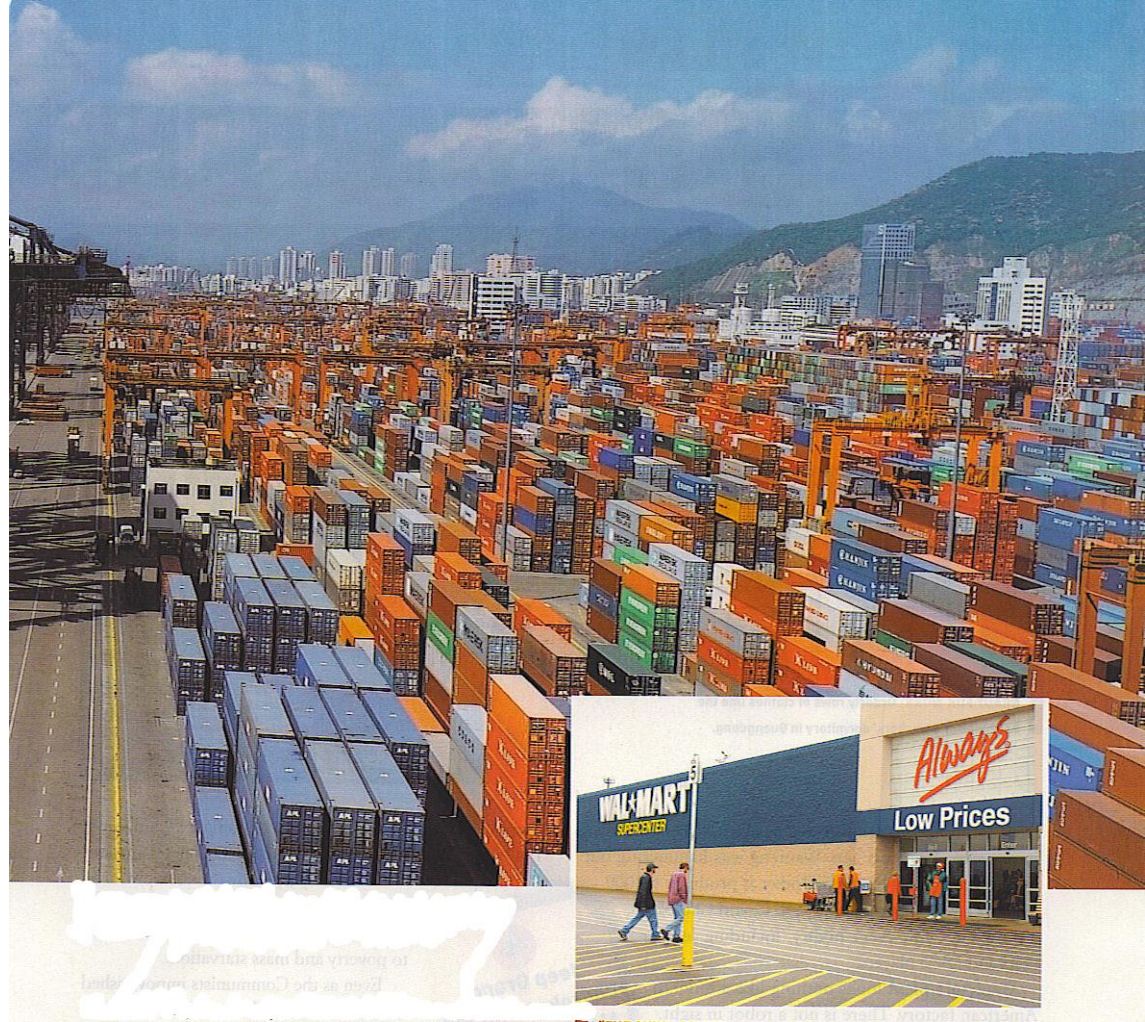
- Culture
- Population
- Economic
- Political
- Urban
- Agriculture





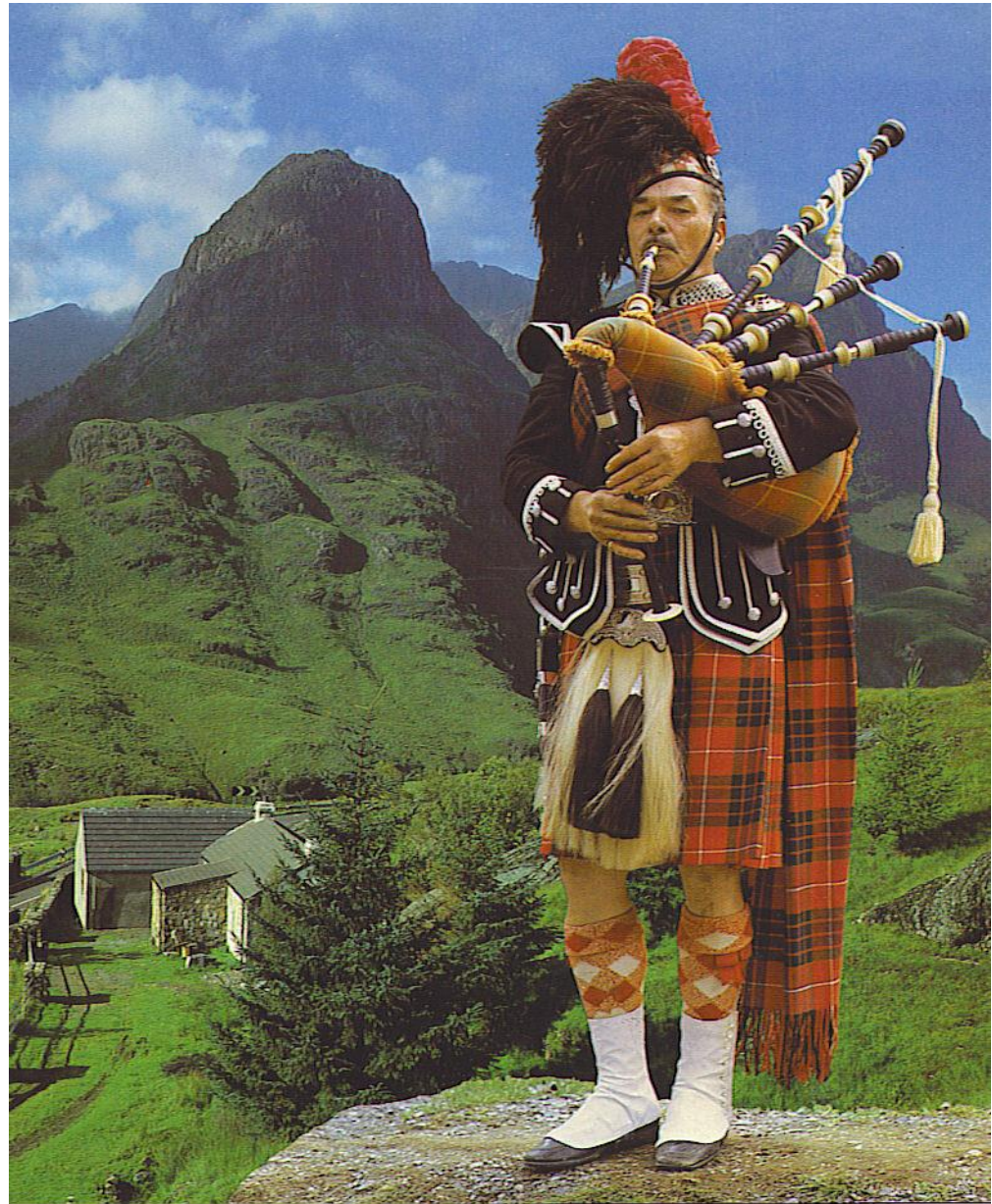
# Globalization

- The spread of economic activities from one country to many other regions.
- The establishment of integrated industrial and service sectors world-wide.
- Primarily an economic factor, it has enormous social and political consequences.

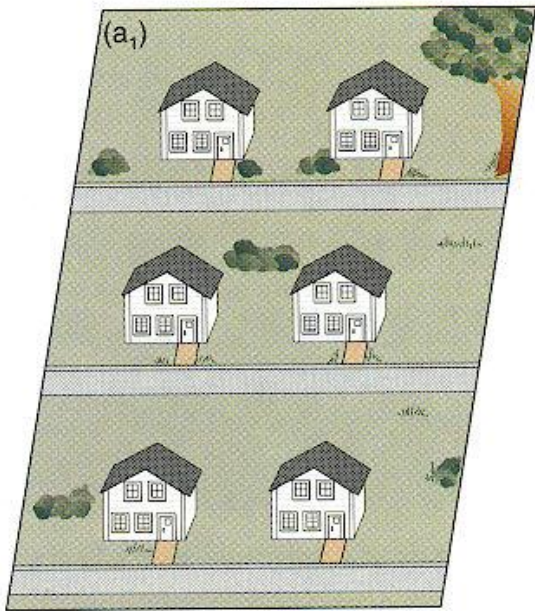


# Local Diversity

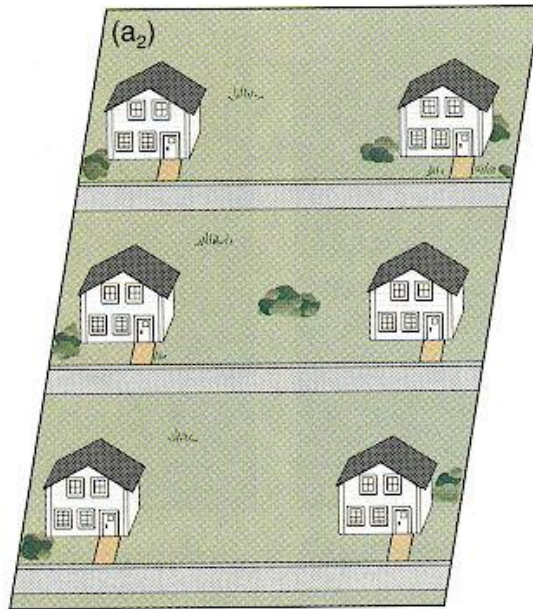
- Ironically as the world becomes more globalized it has become more diverse.
- Many people search for ways to express their unique cultural traditions and identity as a reaction to globalization.



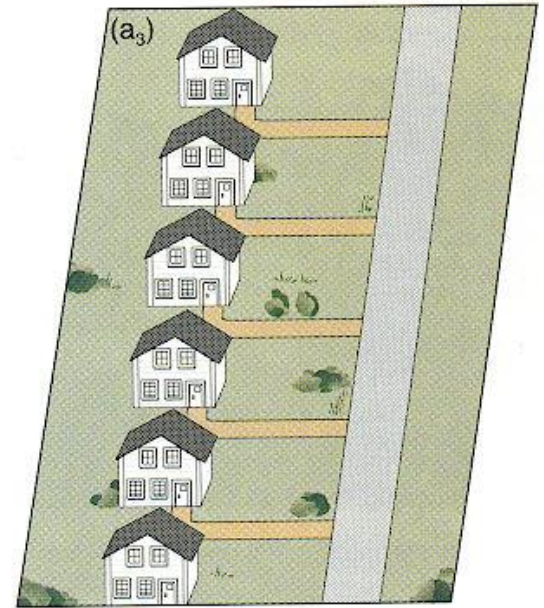
- Distribution-geographers are concerned about the arrangement of features on the earth's surface.
- 3 main properties of distribution are:
  - **Density**-the frequency that something occurs in a given space.
  - **Concentration**-changes in distribution-how close together-dispersed or clustered.
  - **Pattern**-the arrangement of the distribution of features in a given space.



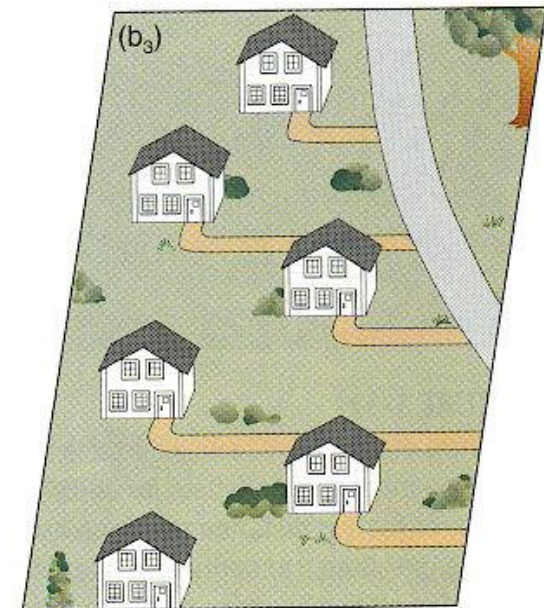
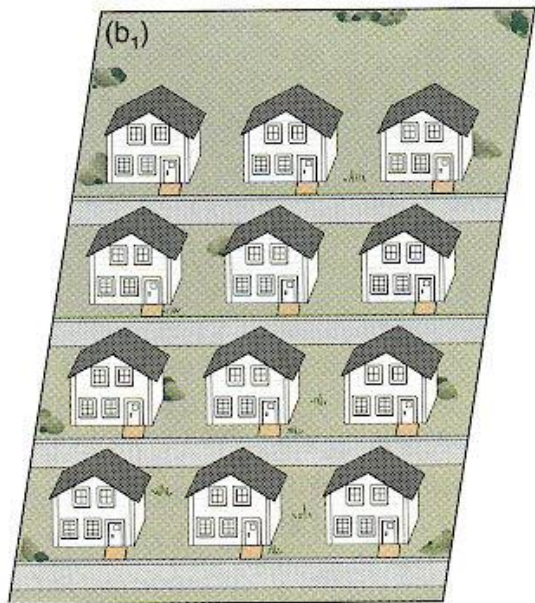
Density



Concentration



Pattern



- **Absolute location** or **mathematical location** is the exact latitude and longitude coordinates of a place.
- **Relative location**-the location of a place in relation to other physical or human features.
- **Centrality**-the function of location relative to urban places, resources, productive farmland and efficient transportation systems. Cities for example dominate their locations economically, politically and culturally thus displaying centrality.

# The Founders of Geography

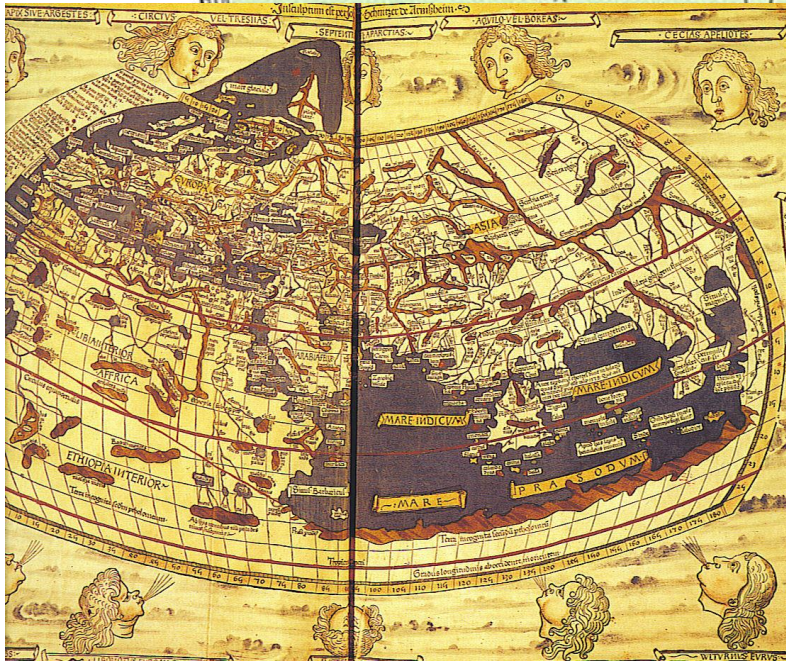
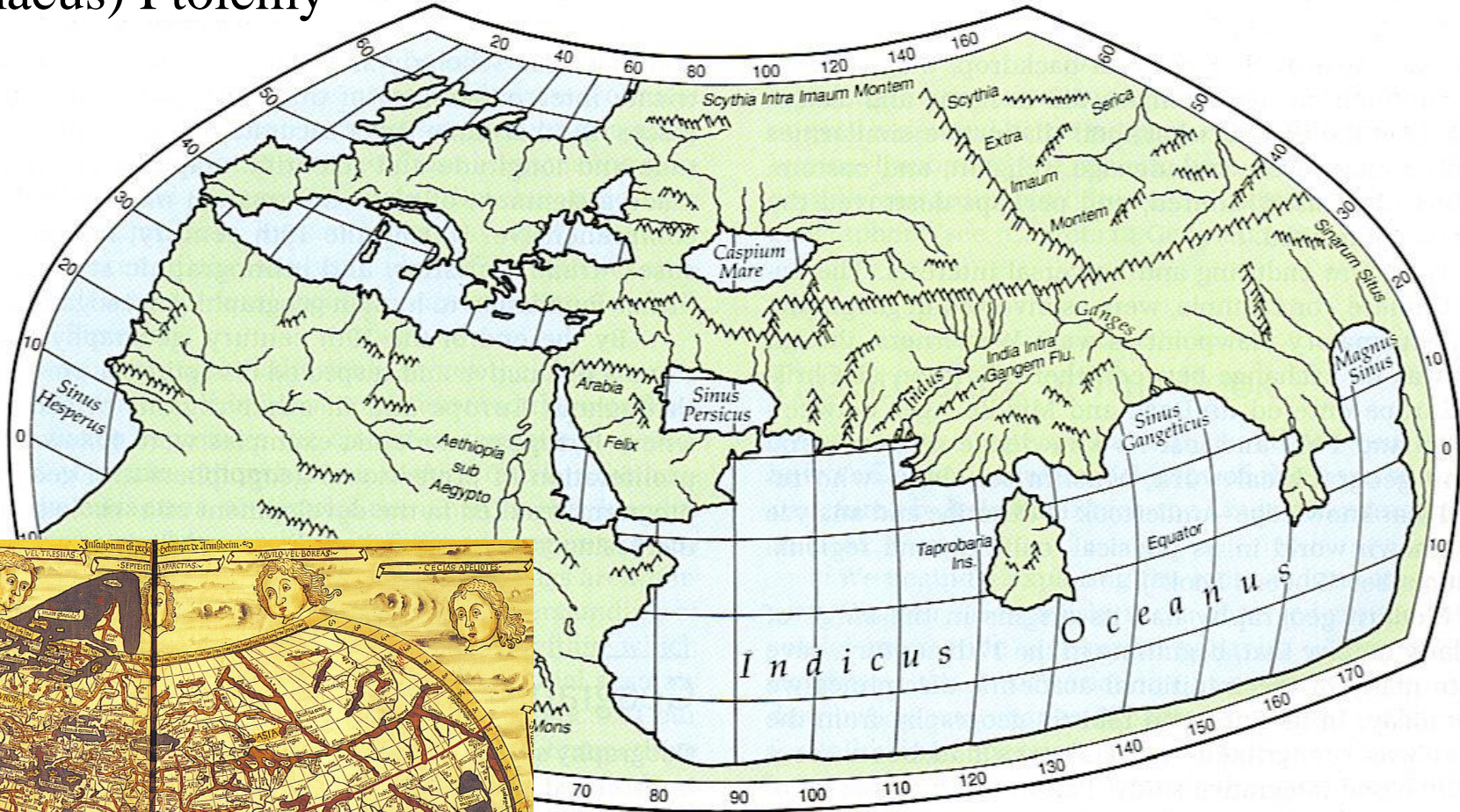
- **Eratosthenes**

- Head librarian at Alexandria in 3<sup>rd</sup> cent. B.C.
- Calculated Earth's circumference
- Coined the term “geography *geo*, earth, *graphein*, to write

- **Ptolemy**

- A 2<sup>nd</sup> cent. A.D. Greek geographer-astronomer
- Adopted a system of latitude and longitude based on 360 degrees
- Wrote *Guide to Geography* the first book dedicated to the field
- Created world maps that were rediscovered and published in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Their inaccuracies led Columbus to believe that he landed in Asia.

# World Map of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. Scholar, Geographer (Claudius Ptolemaeus) Ptolemy



# The Founders of Geography

- **Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)**
  - German philosopher who helped to bring about the formal study of Geography.
  - His belief in the intellectual importance of geography helped to establish it as a formal discipline.
  - He said if it involved time it was History and if it involved place it was Geography.
- **Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859)**
  - Famous German scientists who traveled extensively and wrote about the connection of the physical and cultural environment-paid attention to spatial patterns & cause and effect.
  - Considered the founder of modern geography

# The Founders of Geography

## •Friedrich Ratzel (1844-1904)

–German geographer who wrote helped introduce environmental determinism and geopolitics.

## •Ellen Churchill Semple (1863-1932)

–A student of Ratzel, she brought his ideas to the U.S.

–Believed that religions were a product of their physical environment

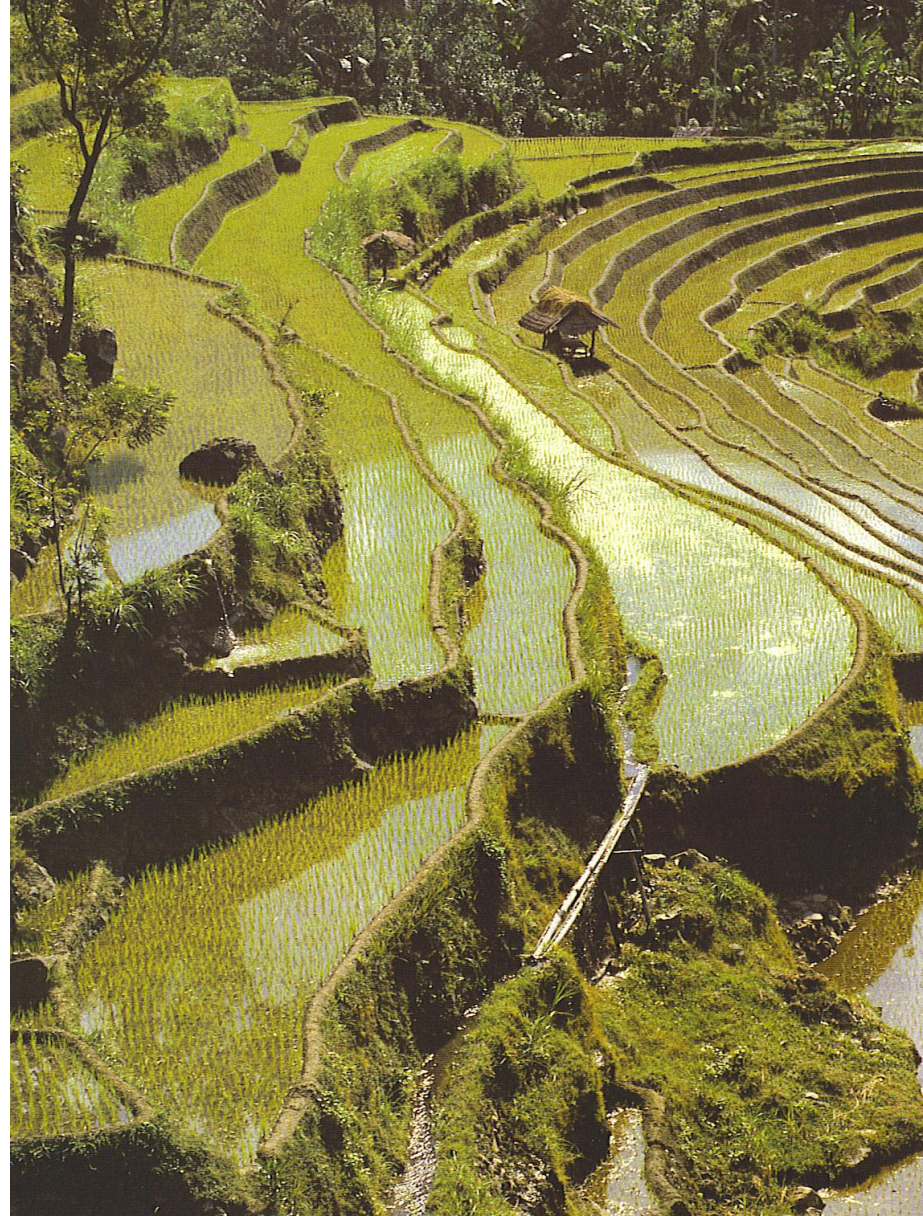
## •Ellsworth Huntington (1876-1947)

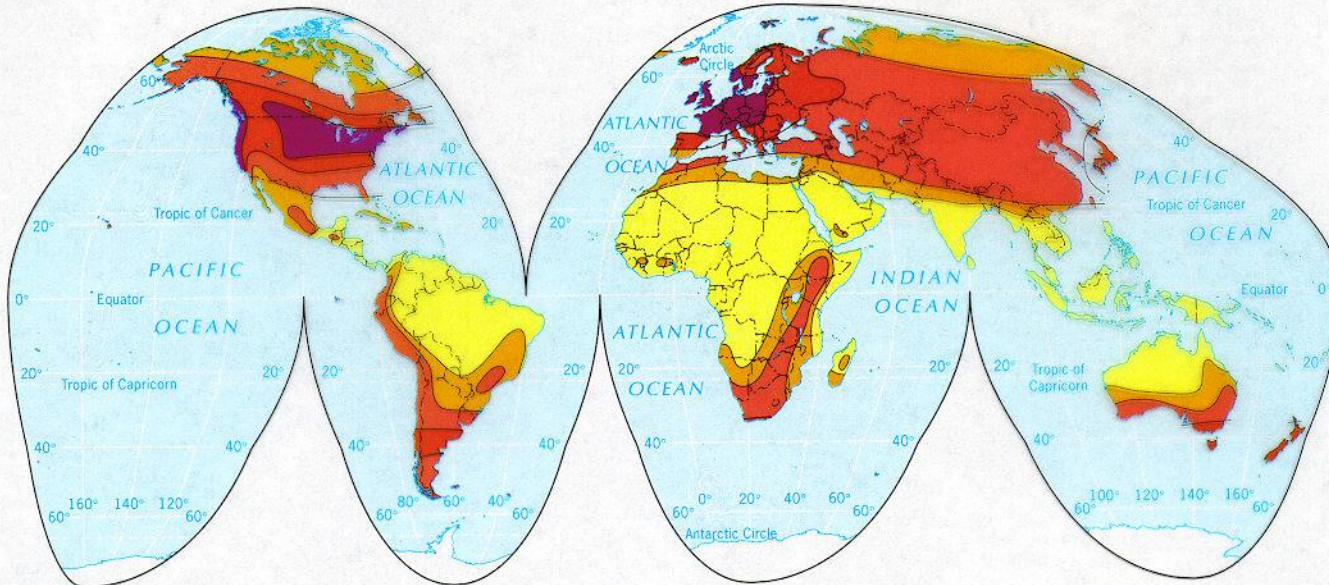
–Taught Geography at Yale (1907-1917)

–Stated that temperate climates influenced the development of civilization and economic success.

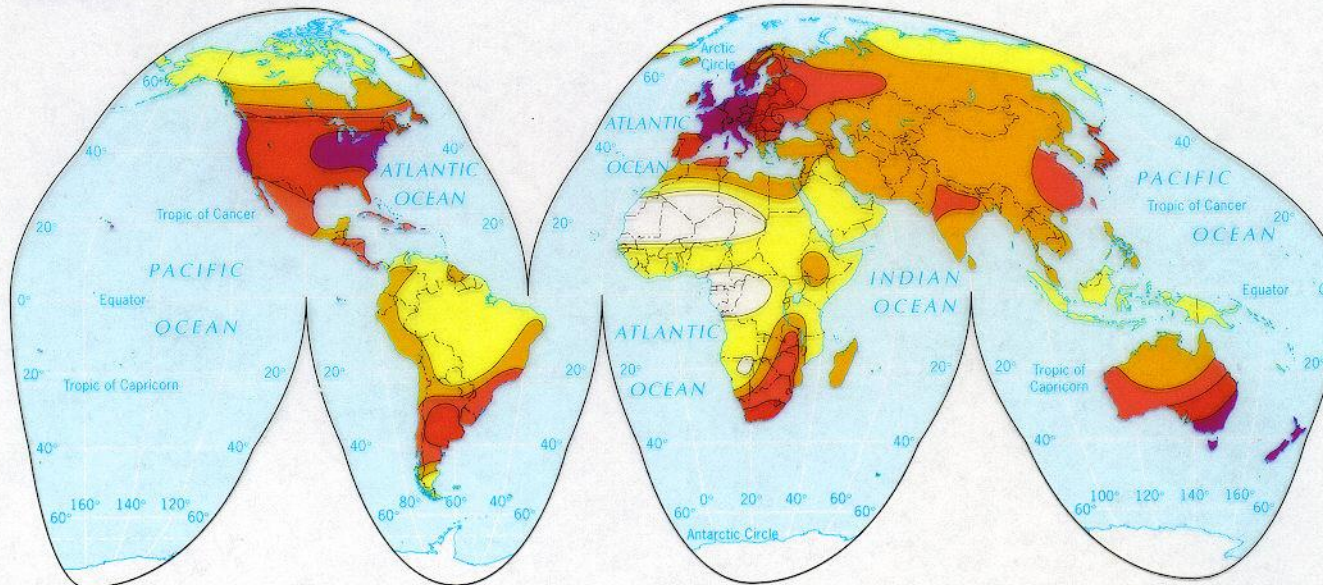
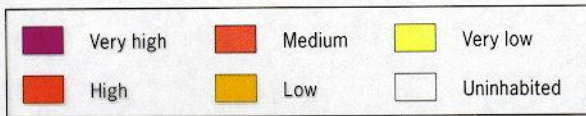
–His assertions were a justification for the imperialism of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

- Ratzel, Semple and Huntington made **environmental determinism** a cornerstone of geographic thought.
- **Possibilism** has replaced environmental determinism.
- The environment may limit some human actions, but people have the ability to adjust to their environment.
- When climate limits the crop, people can grow crops that are compatible.





**DISTRIBUTION OF CLIMATIC ENERGY**



**DISTRIBUTION OF CIVILIZATION**

- In the 1980s the National Geographic Society created the **Five Themes of Geography**
  - **Location**-absolute (latitude and longitude) and absolute location.
  - **Place**-the distinctive physical and human characteristics of a place.
  - **Human-Environmental Interaction**-how people interact with their environment.
  - **Movement**-the mobility of people, goods and ideas-the patterns and change in human spatial interactions-accessibility & connectivity of places.
  - **Regions**-an area that displays a selected criteria-one or more distinctive characteristics.

# Maps

- **Problems**

- Smaller than reality
- Curved earth is distorted when flattened
- Symbols used are limited

- **Properties**

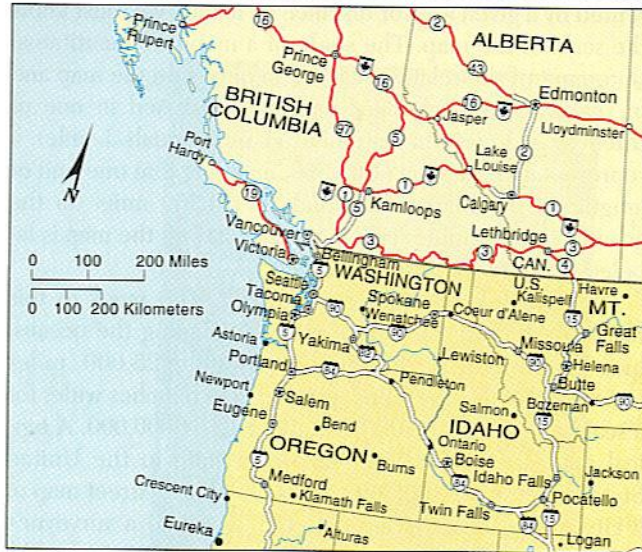
- Scale
- Projection
- Symbols



**Gerhardus Mercator**



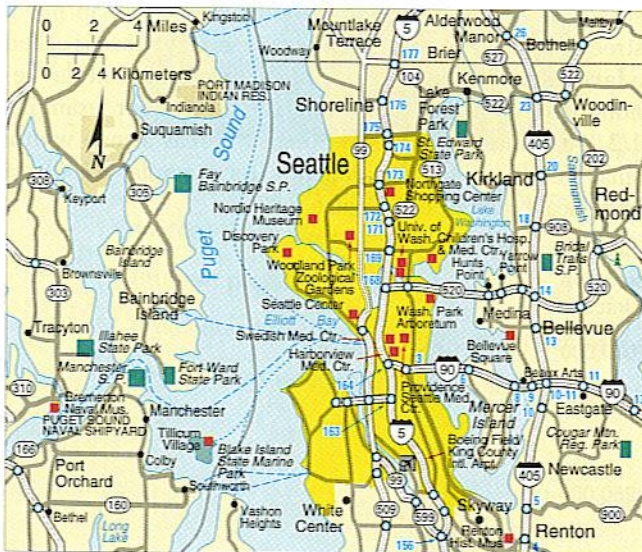
# Seattle, Washington, at Different Scales



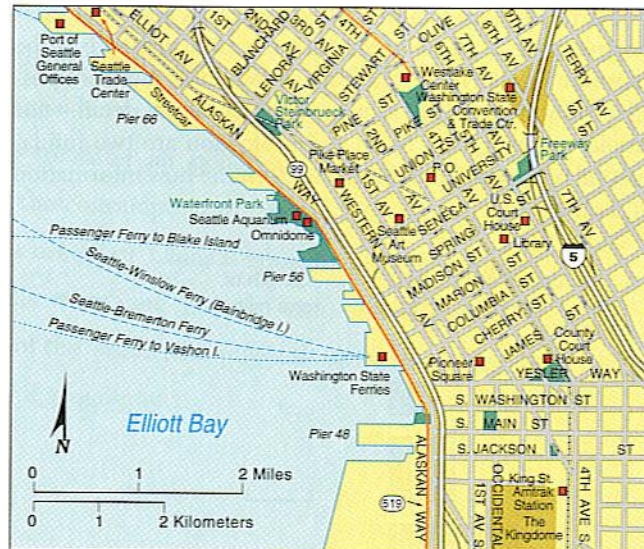
(a)



(b)



(c)



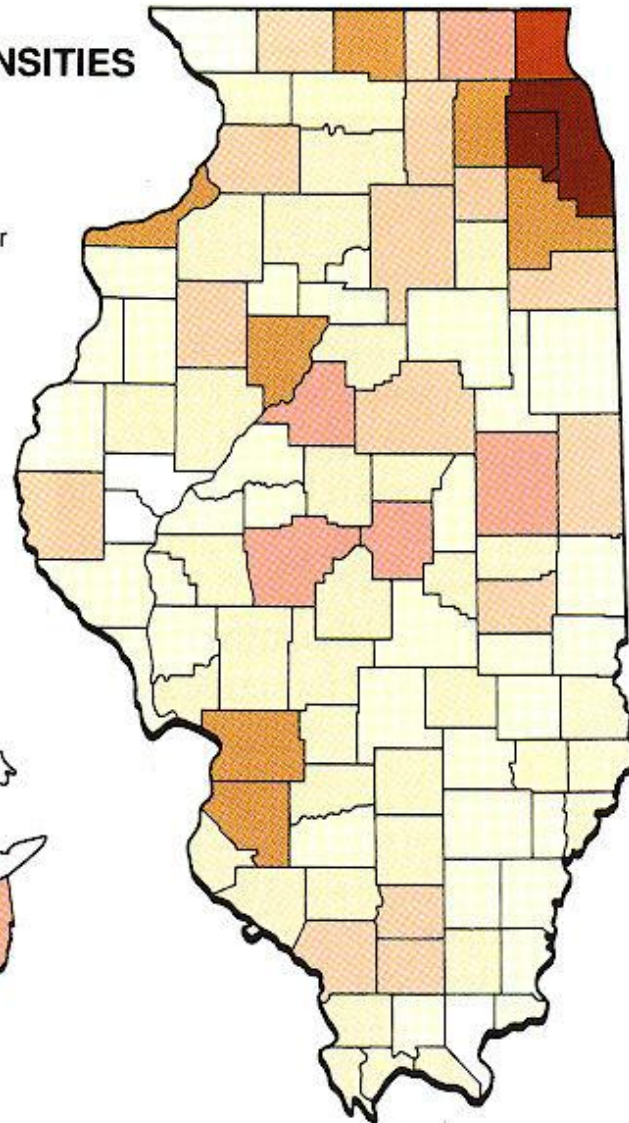
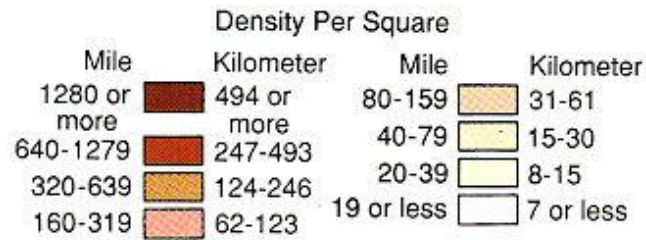
(d)

# Thematic Maps

- **Isoline Maps**-use lines of equal value to represent data like elevation, barometric pressure or temperature
- **Choropleth Maps**-a thematic map in which a variable is depicted with shading patterns or colors.
- **Proportional Symbol Map**-a thematic map in which the size of the symbol varies in proportion to the intensity of the mapped variable.
- **Dot Map**-a thematic map in which a dot represents some frequency of the mapped variable.
- **Cartogram**-a thematic map using relative size of political units to convey a value.



## POPULATION DENSITIES Illinois Counties



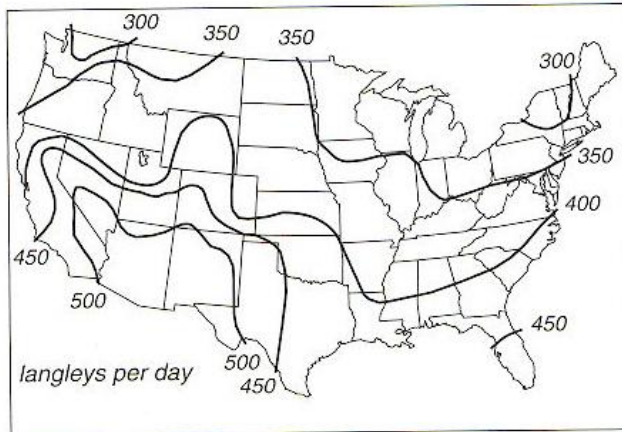
## POPULATION DENSITIES Midwestern States



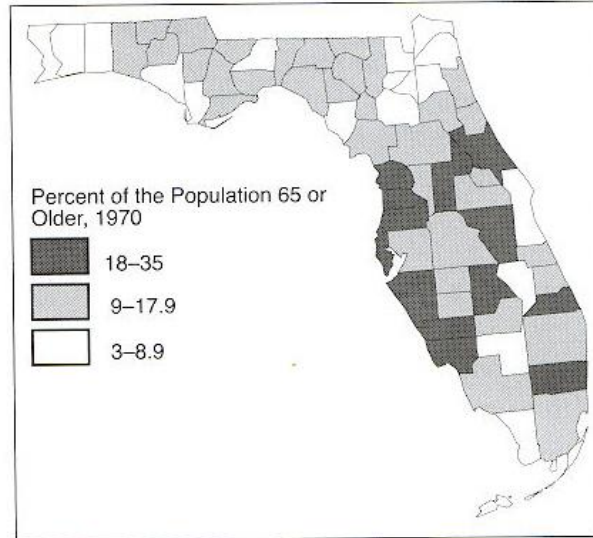
(a)

(b)

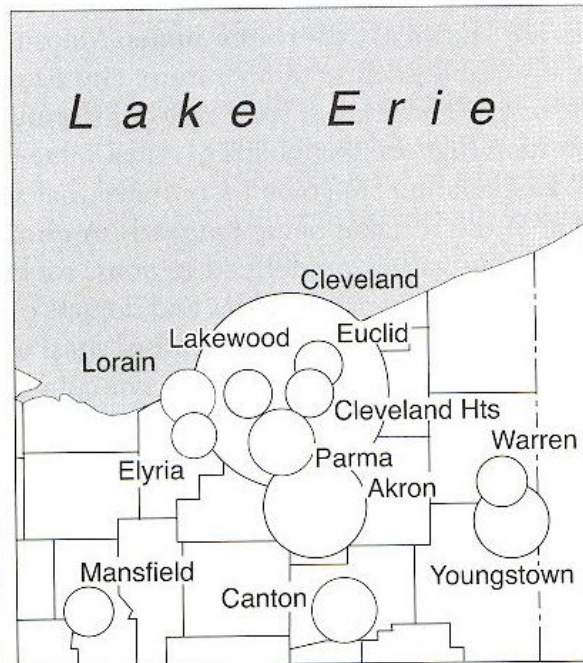
**Choropleth maps**



Isoline:  
Average Daily Solar Radiation

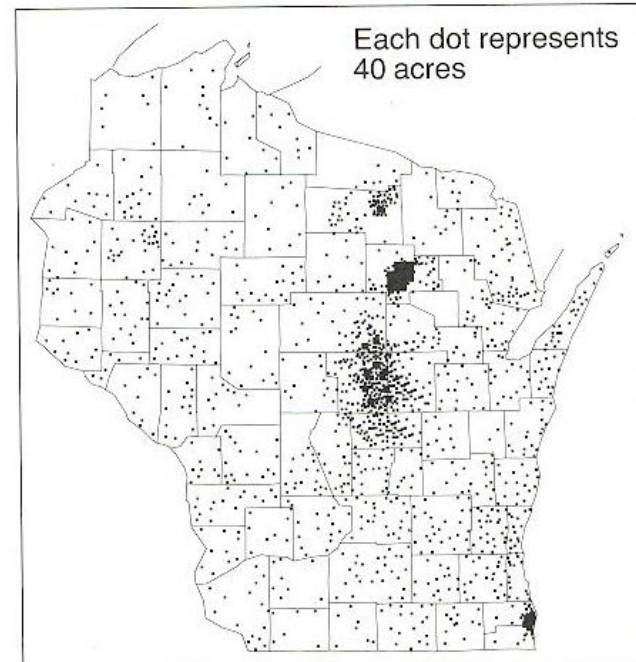


Choropleth: Florida Senior Citizens



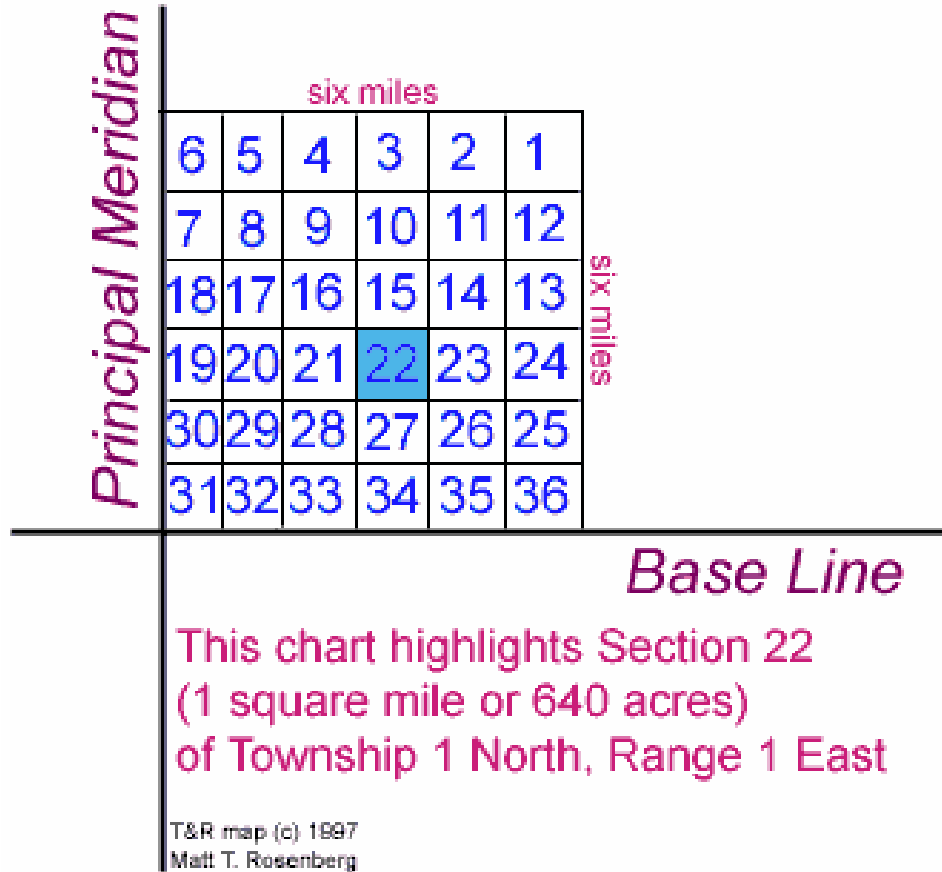
Proportional Symbol:  
NE Ohio Population

○ 250,000  
○ 150,000



Dot: Wisconsin Acreage in Potatoes

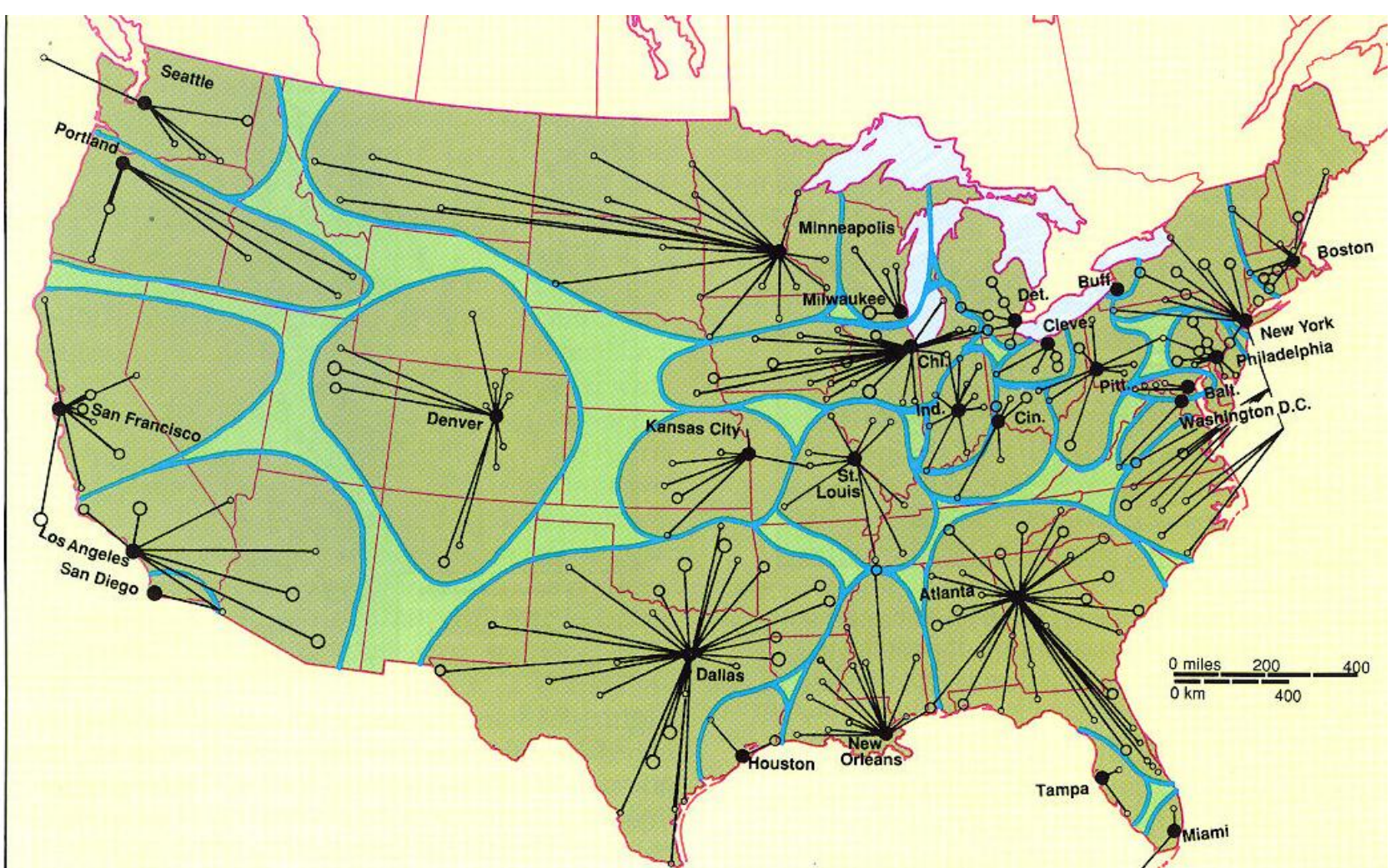
- **The Township and Range System** was created by the US Land Ordinance of 1785.
- Each township is divided into 36 sections each 1 mile by 1 mile and numbered 1 in the NE and 36 in the SE.
- The Homestead Act of 1863 encouraged the settlement of the West by giving each settler a quarter section or 160 acres of land.



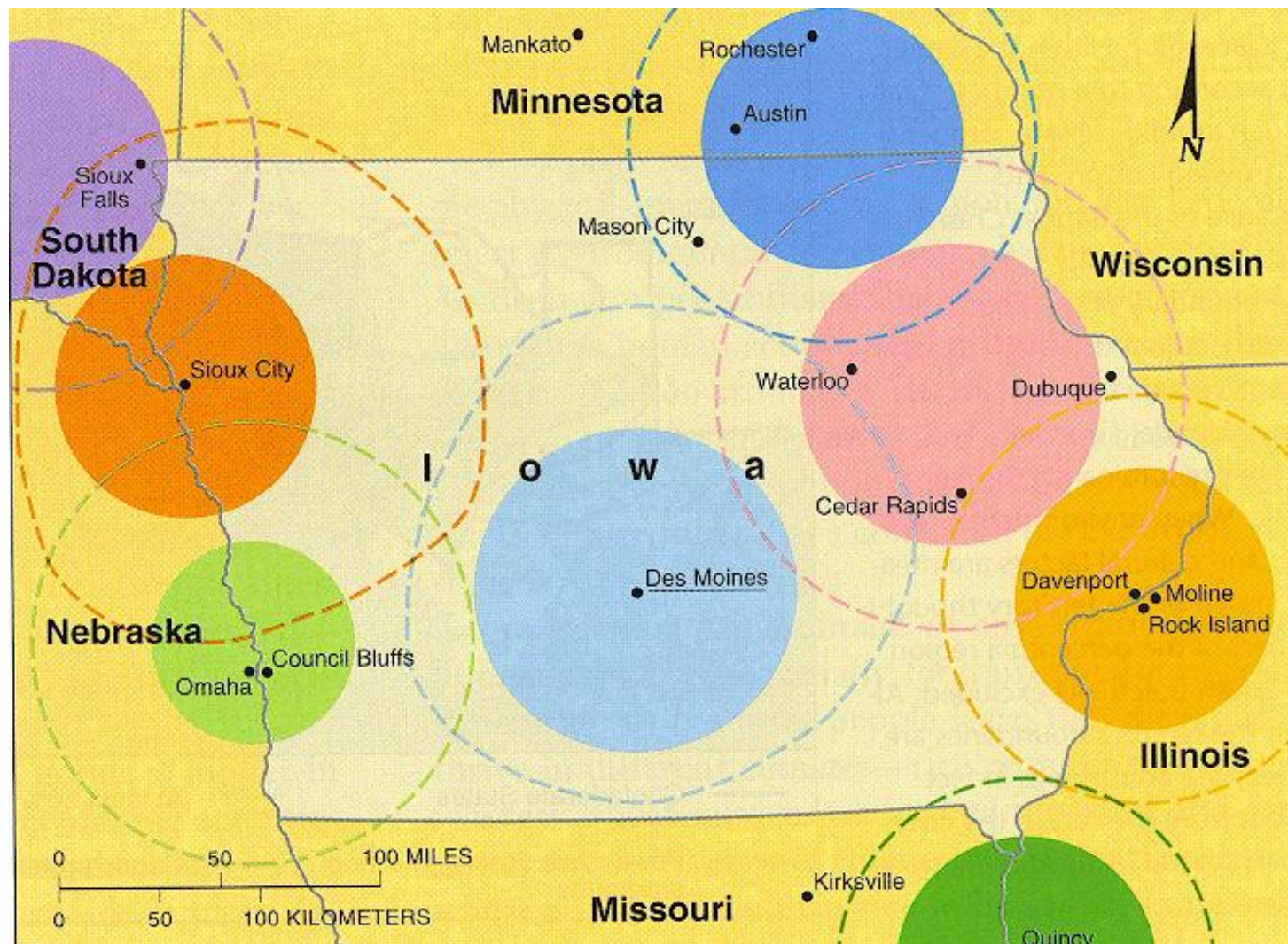
# Regions

- **Formal**-a uniform or homogenous area where all share a common attribute such as language, climate or political system.
- **Functional or Nodal**- an area organized around a center, node or focal point that is organized to function politically, socially or economically.
- **Vernacular or Perceptual**-how people think about or perceive a region-such as Midwest or the South





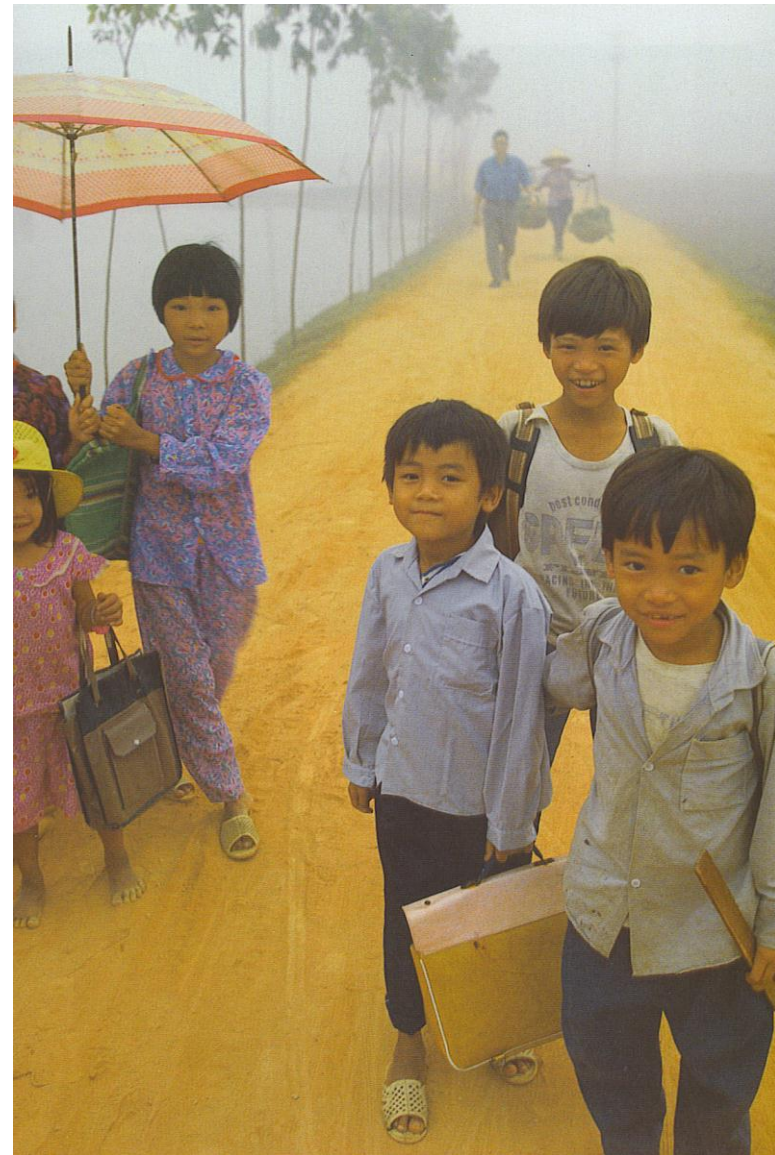
- This **functional regions** on this map are based on the linkages between large banks of major central cities and the correspondent banks that they serve in smaller towns.



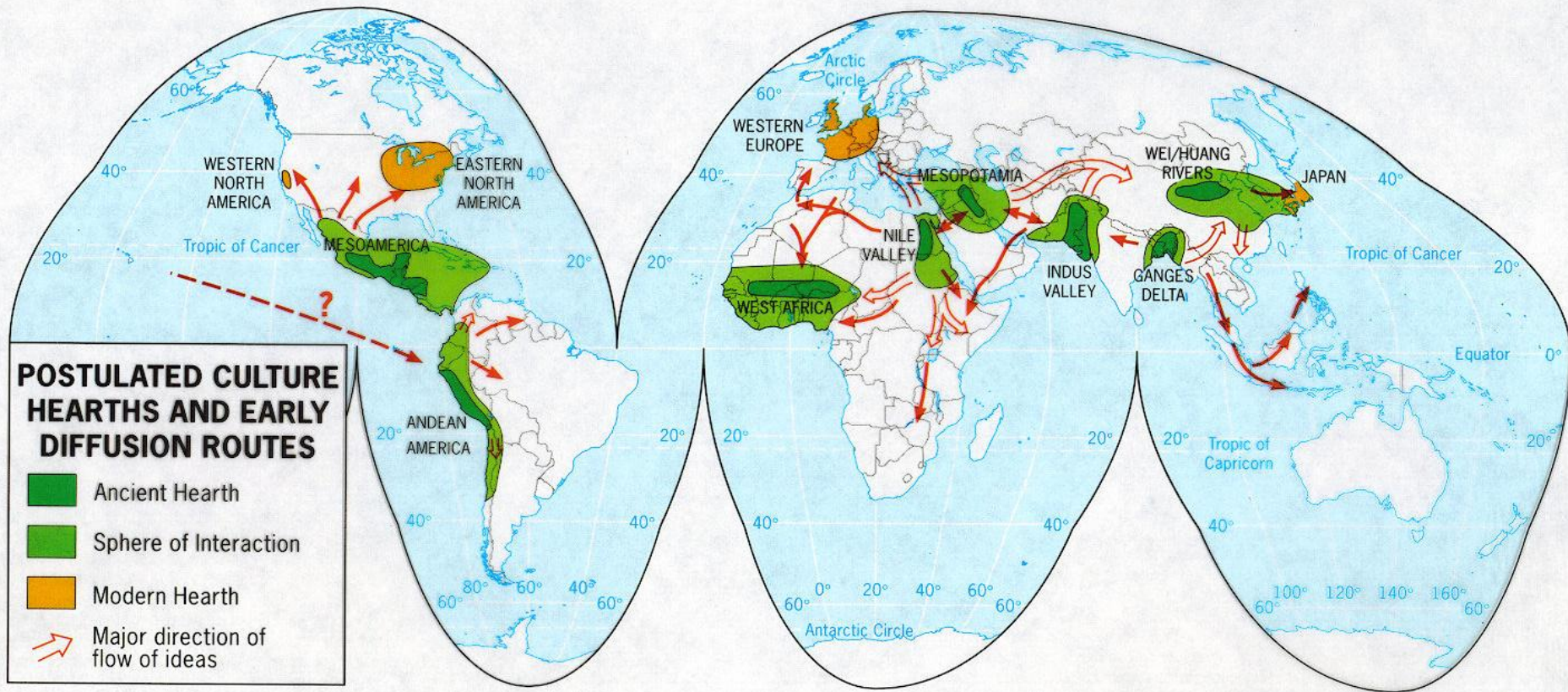
- The state of Iowa is a **Formal Region**.
- The colored circles represent the percentage of households served by a TV station and are **Functional Regions**

# Culture

- **Culture** is the man-made part of the environment.
- **Cultural trait** is a single attribute of a culture such as chopsticks.
- **Cultural region** is a portion of the earth occupied by people who share cultural traits such as religions, languages, political organizations, etc.
- **Cultural realm**-is a large segment of the earth with uniformity in cultural characteristics such as “Latin America”



- **Acculturation**-immigrant populations take on enough of the values, attitudes and customs of the receiving society to function economically and socially.
- **Assimilation**-the complete blending with the host culture and the loss of most if not all of a groups previous distinctive ethnic traits.
- **Syncretism**-the process of fusing the immigrant culture with the native or adjacent culture. E.g. Haitian mix of Catholic and African voodoo religious practices, Tex-Mex cuisine in the Southwest.
- **Cultural convergence**-the sharing of technologies, cultural traits and artifacts among widely separated societies.

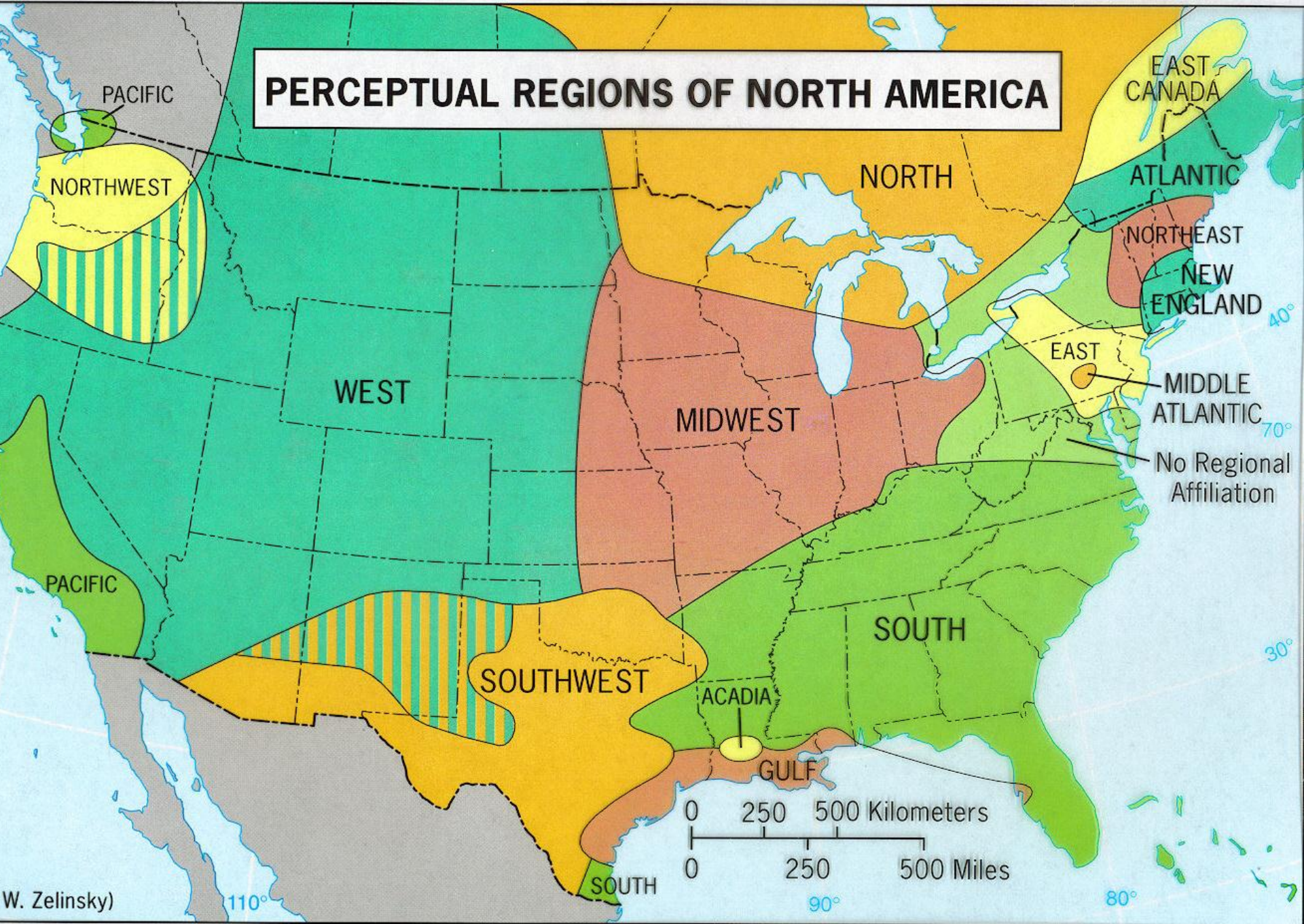


- **Cultural Hearth**-centers of innovation and invention, the center or cradle of a culture.

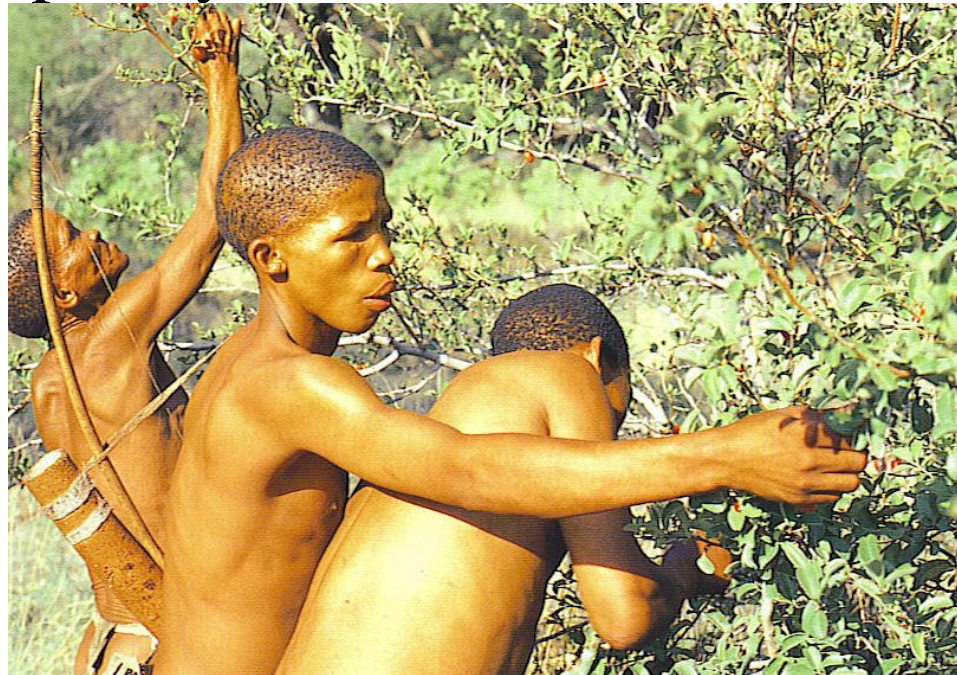
- **Cultural perceptions**-like perceptual regions, there are many intangible elements that define a region's personality.
- Consider the South as a Cultural Region;
  - Houses with porches
  - Foods like grits, greens and cornbread.
  - Drawl or dialects like Cajun.
  - Southern Baptist-Bible Belt
  - Slow pace of life and courtesy, hospitality.



# PERCEPTUAL REGIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

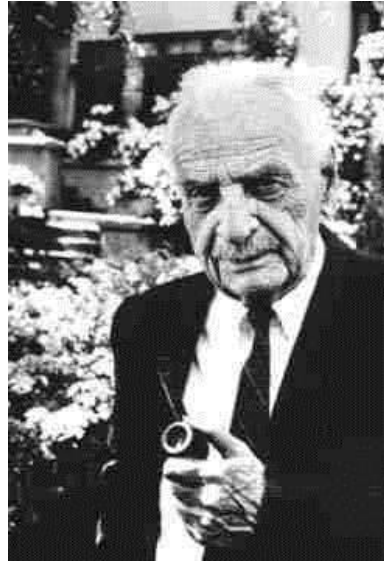


- **Sequent occupance**-refers to the process by which a landscape is gradually transformed by a succession of occupying populations.
- This cultural geography term was first coined by American geographer Derwent Whittlesey in 1929.
- He discussed the evolutionary and dynamic nature of the landscape as shaped by successive cultures and populations.



# Cultural Diffusion

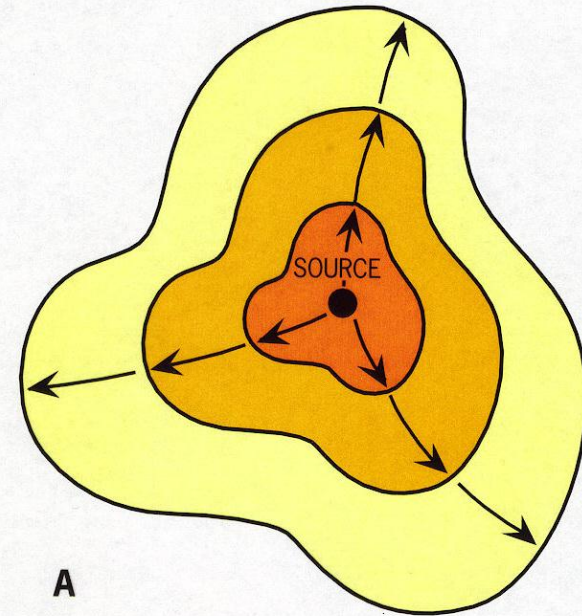
- Cultural diffusion or spatial diffusion is the spread of an idea or innovation from its source to other cultures.
- Diffusion occurs through the movement of people, goods or ideas.
- Carl Sauer focused on cultural diffusion in his book **Agricultural Origins and Dispersals** (1952)



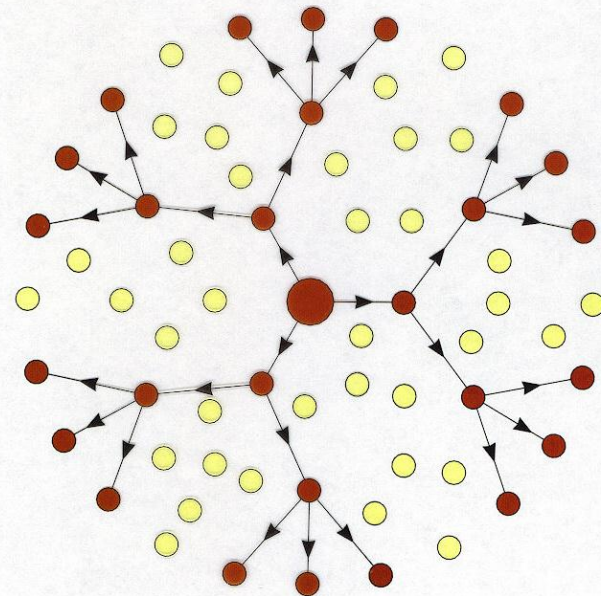
# Types of Diffusion

- There are two main types of Diffusion:
- **Expansion Diffusion**
  - The spread of an item or idea from one place to others. In the process it remains and often strengthens in the origin area.
    - **Contagious diffusion**-rapid widespread diffusion by direct contact. Affects all areas uniformly as it spreads outward. E.g. the spread of Islam.
    - **Hierarchical diffusion**-or cascade diffusion-the process of spreading ideas first between large cities and only later to smaller cities.
    - **Stimulus diffusion**-the spread of an underlying principle even though the main idea is not spread. E.g. industrialization
- **Relocation Diffusion**
  - The innovation or idea is physically carried to new areas by migrating individuals or populations. E.g. Christianity brought to the New World by missionaries and colonists.

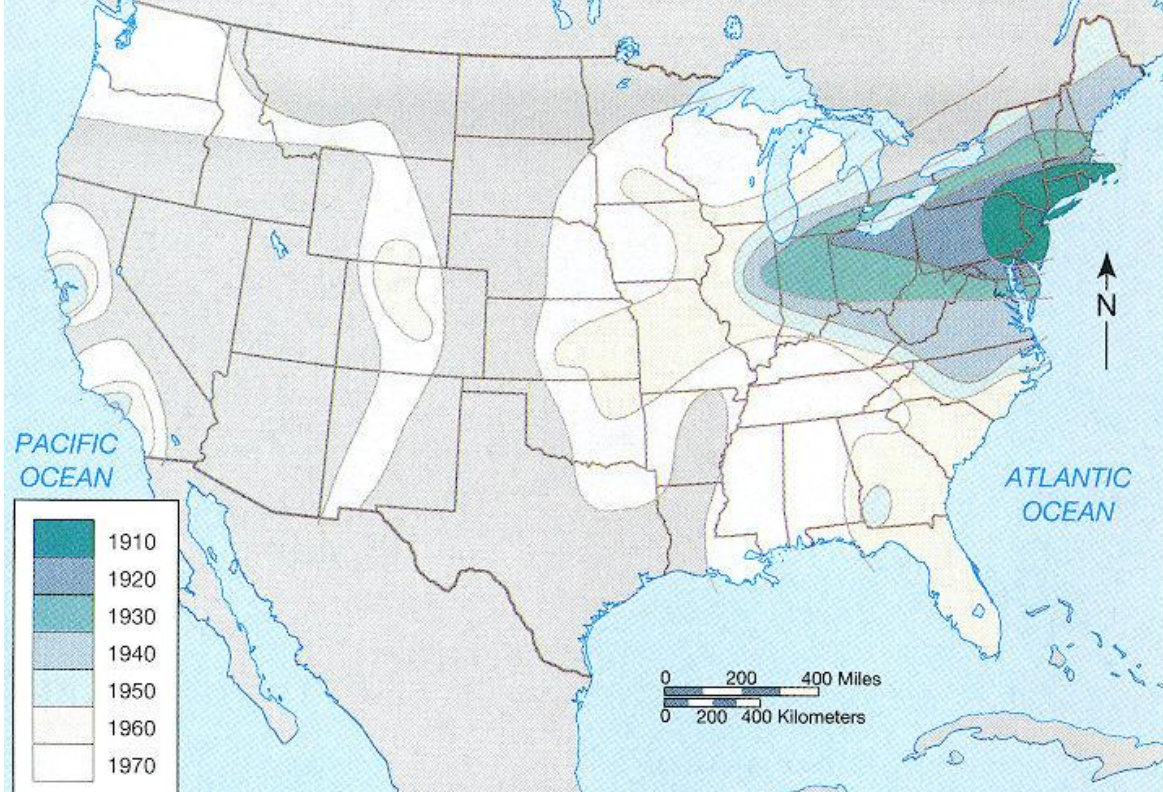
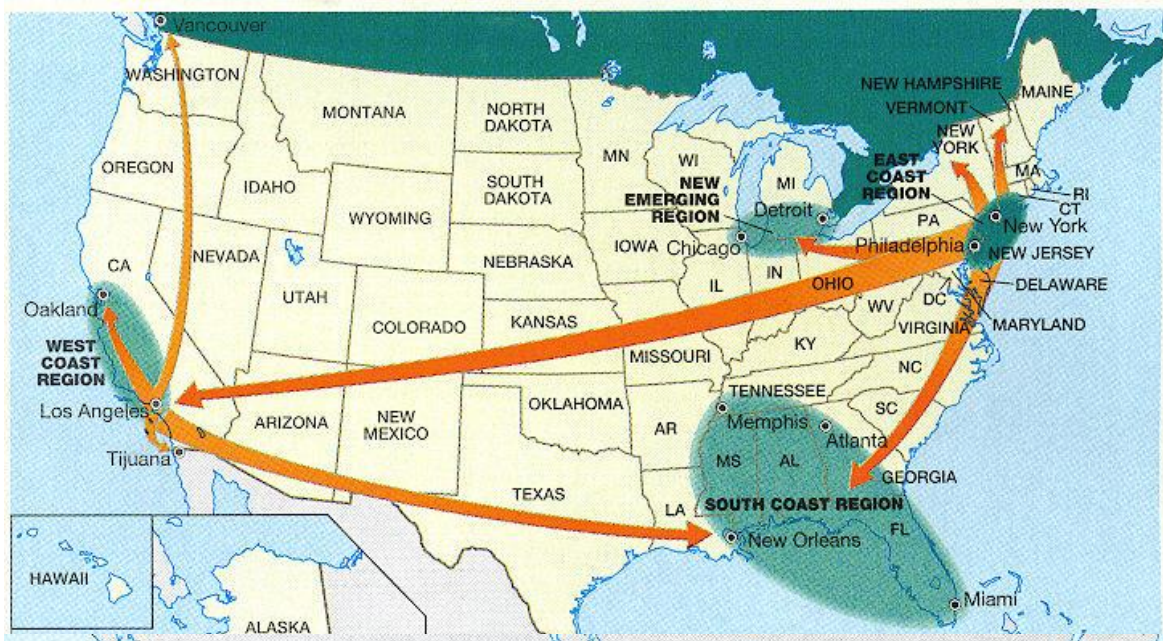
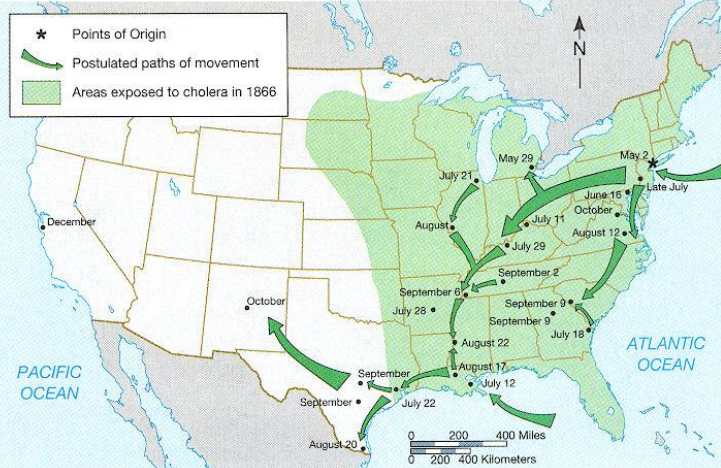
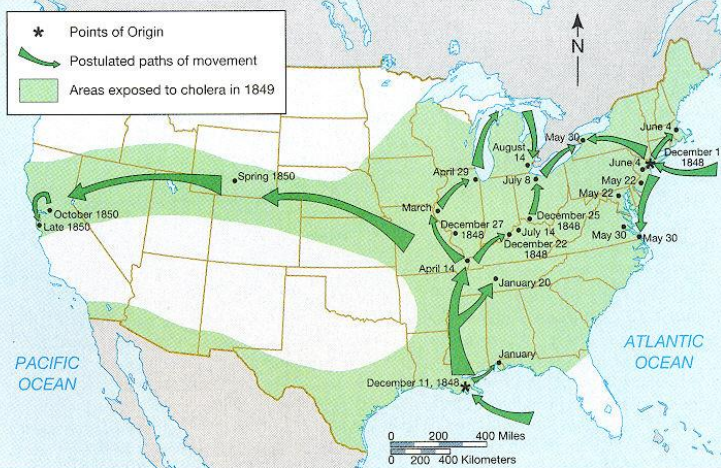
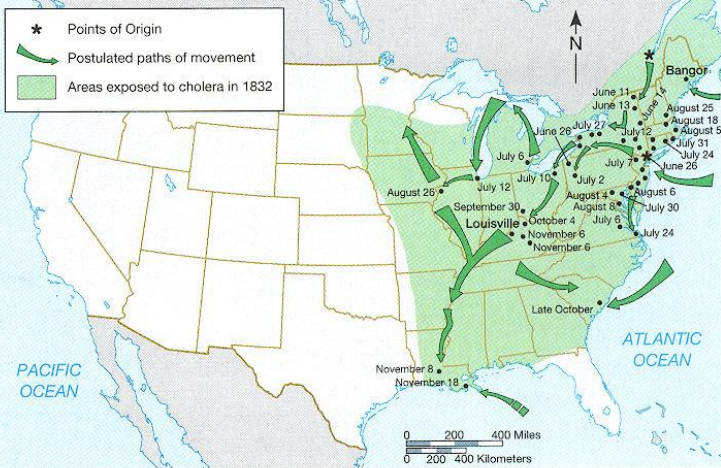
**A**  
**Contagious Diffusion**



**B**  
**Hierarchical Diffusion**

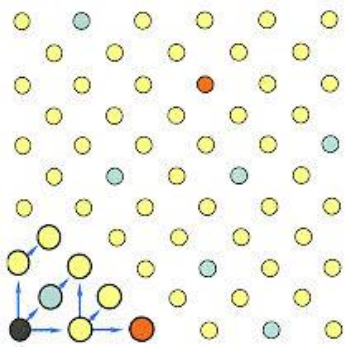


**B**



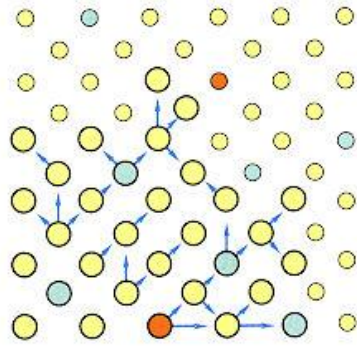
### CONTAGIOUS EXPANSION DIFFUSION

Early Stage



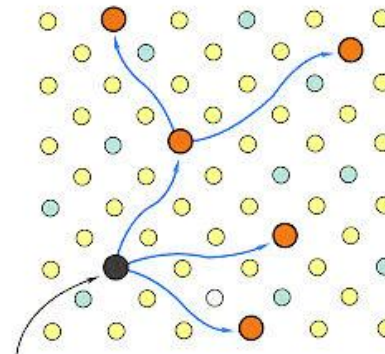
Original knower

Later Stage



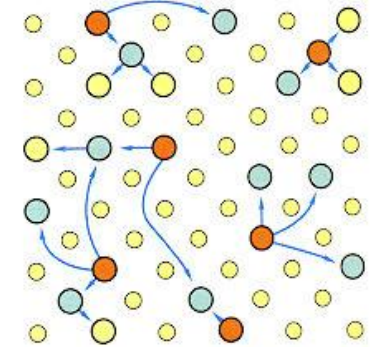
### HIERARCHICAL EXPANSION DIFFUSION

Early Stage



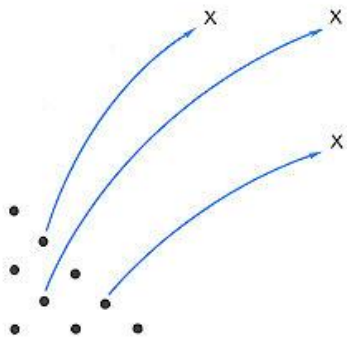
Original knower

Later Stage

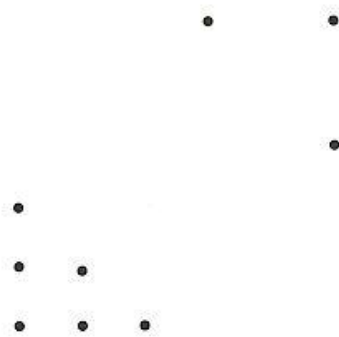


### RELOCATION DIFFUSION

Before Migration



After Migration



Each circle or dot is one person or place.

● Nonknower

●● "Very important" person or place

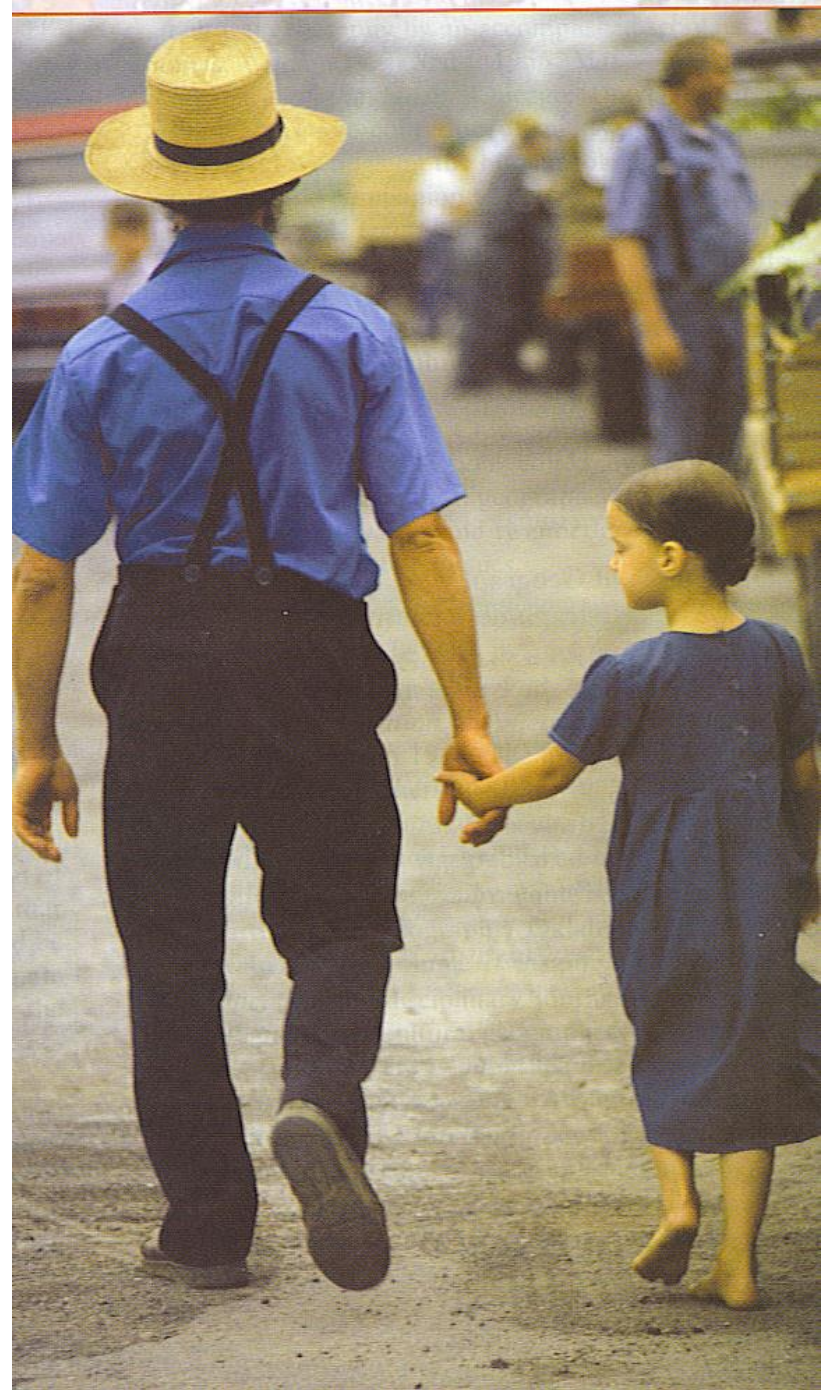
● Knewer

●● "Important" person or place

→ Path of diffusion

●● Person or place low in social-economic hierarchy

- Factors that delay diffusion:
  - **Time-distance decay**-the farther way and the longer it takes to reach an area, the less likely it will be adopted.
  - **Cultural barriers** may pose obstacles to cultural diffusion-taboos or religious beliefs.
  - **Cultural lag**-when a social group is economically or psychologically unresponsive to change.



**THE END**