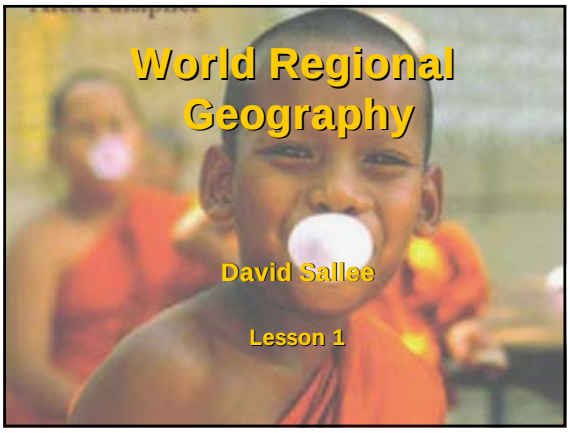


GEOGRAPHY

- The study of place and space
- Studies the location and distribution of features on the Earth's surface
- Studies human activity, the natural environment, and the relationship between the two
- Answers where and why

Where is Timbuktu, and why did the settlement evolve on this site?

www.robbsbolo.com/beyond.htm

GEOGRAPHIC REALMS

Realms are based on Spatial Criteria

- The *largest geographic units* into which the inhabited world can be divided
- Based on both physical (natural) and human (cultural) yardsticks

GEOGRAPHIC REALMS

- The result of the interaction between human societies and natural environments
- A *functional* interaction
- Revealed by farms, mines, fishing ports, transport routes, dams, bridges, villages, and other features on the landscape

GEOGRAPHIC REALMS

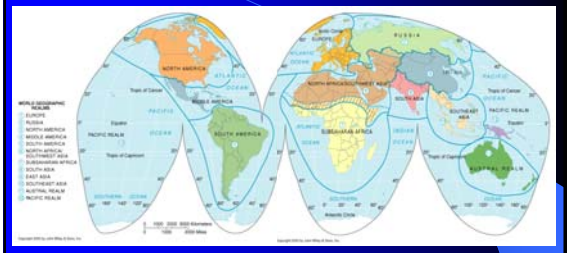
- Represent the most comprehensive and encompassing definition of the great clusters of humankind in the world today

H is for Humankind

"I smell humankind," said the oni.

www.op97.k12.il.us/instruct/.ttcyber/funnyeng.html

WORLD GEOGRAPHIC REALMS



- Geographic realms change over time.
- Where geographic realms meet, *transition zones*, not sharp boundaries, mark their contacts.

TRANSITION ZONES

- An area of *spatial change* where peripheries of two adjacent realms or regions join
- Marked by a gradual shift (rather than a sharp break) in the characteristics that distinguish neighboring realms

REGIONS

- Areas of the earth's surface marked by certain properties
- Scientific devices that enable us to make spatial generalizations
- Based on criteria we establish
- Criteria can be:
  - Human (cultural) properties
  - Physical (natural) characteristics
  - or Both

REGIONS

- All regions have:
  - Area
  - Boundaries
  - Location

FORMAL REGION

- Marked by a certain degree of homogeneity in one or more phenomena
- Also called a *uniform* region or *homogeneous* region

Examples:
Corn Belt
Megalopolis

FUNCTIONAL REGION

- A region marked less by its sameness than its dynamic internal structure

•A spatial system focused on a central core

•A region formed by a set of places and their functional integration

•Also called a "nodal" region

Example:
Los Angeles Metropolitan Area

HINTERLAND

- Literally means "*country behind*"
- A term that applies to a surrounding area served by an urban center
- Urban center is the focus of goods and services produced in the hinterland, and is the latter's dominant focal point as well

CULTURE

- Definition: Shared patterns of learned behavior
- Components:
  - Beliefs
  - Institutions
  - Technology

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

- A wide-ranging and comprehensive field that studies spatial aspects of human cultures

- Major components focus on:
  - Cultural Landscapes
  - Culture Hearths
  - Cultural Diffusion
  - Cultural Environments
  - Culture Regions

Not mutually exclusive - constantly interacting with each other

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

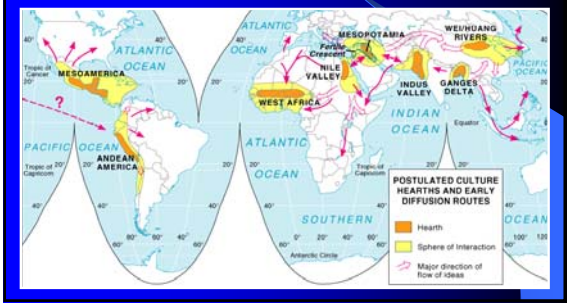
- The composite of human imprints on the earth's surface.
- Carl Sauer's definition:

"the forms superimposed on the physical landscape by the activities of man"

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

CULTURE HEARTH

- The source areas from which radiated ideas, innovations, and ideologies that change the world beyond



SEQUENT OCCUPANCE

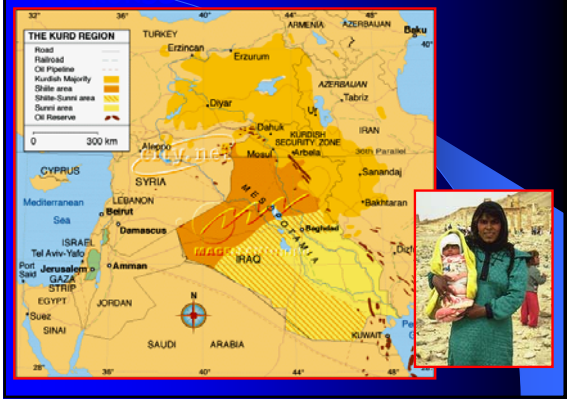
CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY: BETHLEHEM

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

- A subfield within the human branch of geography
- The study of the interaction of geographical area and political process
- The spatial analysis of political phenomena and processes

Must a nation be a place?

- Some examples of stateless nations: the Cherokee Nation, the Kurds, the Palestinians



STATE

- A politically organized territory
- Administered by a sovereign government
- Recognized by a significant portion of the international community.

A state must also contain:

- a permanent resident population
- an organized economy
- a functioning internal circulation system

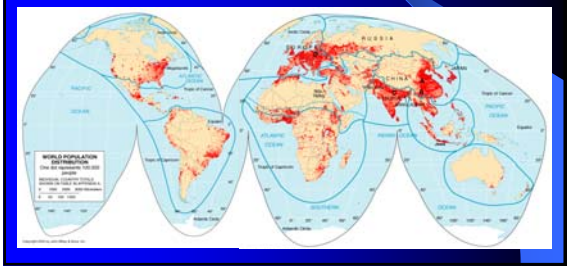
NATION - STATE

- A country whose population possesses a substantial degree of cultural homogeneity and unity.

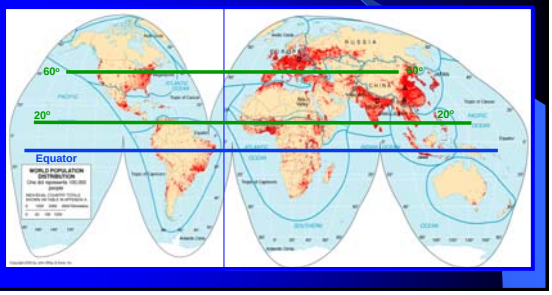
Classic Example of a Nation-State: Japan

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

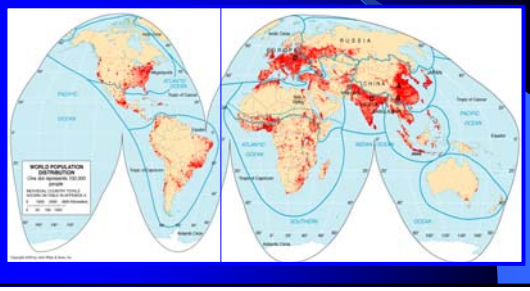
- 4 major clusters
  1) East Asia
  2) South Asia
  3) Europe
  4) Northeastern US



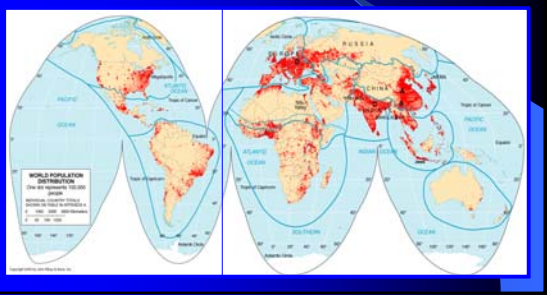
- 90% of the population lives north of the equator.
- 2/3s live in mid-latitudes between 20º and 60º latitude.



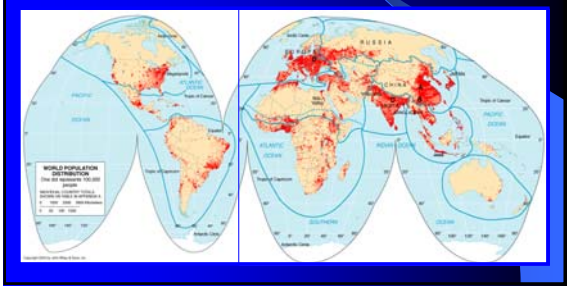
- >50% of the population lives on 5% of the land.
- 2/3s live on 10% of the land.
- Almost 90% live on 20% of the Earth's land surface.



- 60% of people live below 200 meters (650 feet) in elevation.
- 80% live below 500 meters (1,650 feet).

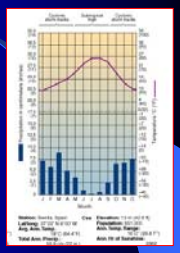


- 2/3 of population lives within 500 kilometers (300 miles) of an ocean.
- Most inhabit alluvial lowlands and river valleys.



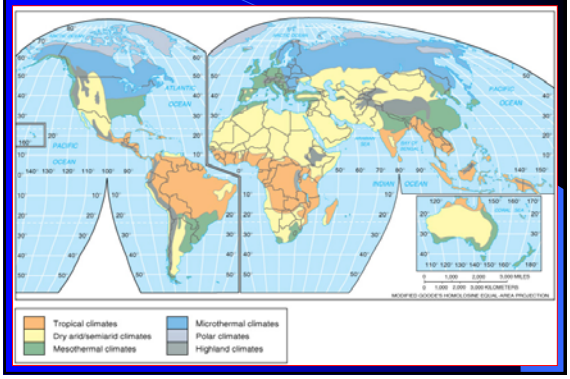
We Should Never Forget The Natural Environment

PLATE TECTONICS



CLIMATE

Generalized Climate Regions



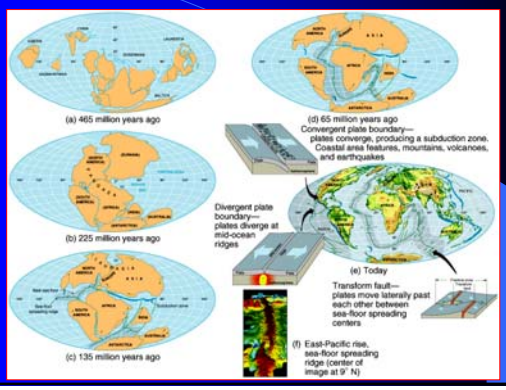
Köppen Classification Criteria

- Average monthly temperatures
- Average monthly precipitation

Classifications

- Tropical Climates (A)
- Dry Arid and Semiarid Climates (B)
- Mesothermal Climates (C)
- Microthermal Climates (D)
- Polar Climates (E)

Continents Adrift



What Were Some of the Early Ideas about Continental Drift?

- **1915:** Alfred Wegener wrote of a single supercontinent named Pangaea, meaning "all land"
- He portrayed the breakup of Pangaea and the movement of continents to their present position
- Similarity of Rock Sequences and Mountain Ranges
- Glacial Evidence

What Were Some of the Early Ideas about Continental Drift?

- Fossil Evidence
- Paleomagnetism
- Continental Fit