
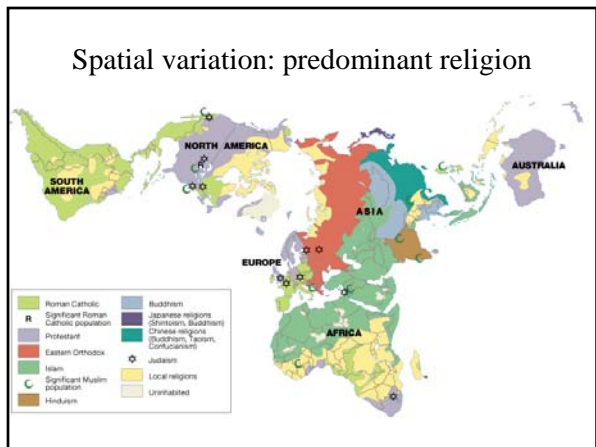
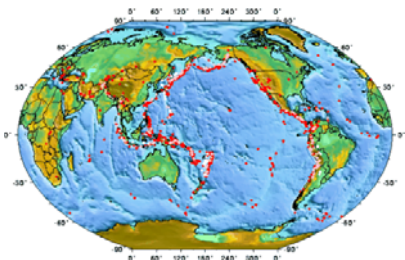
 What is geography? 

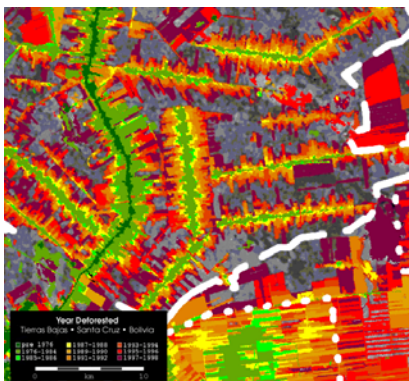
- The study of spatial variation
- How – and why – things differ from place to place on the surface of the earth
- The study of how observable spatial patterns evolved through time



Why spatial variation exists: earthquakes



Changes over time: deforestation



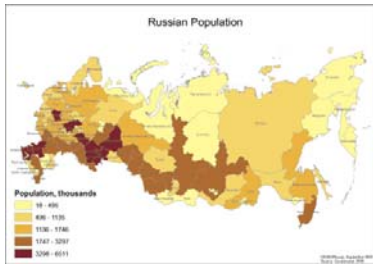


What is geography?

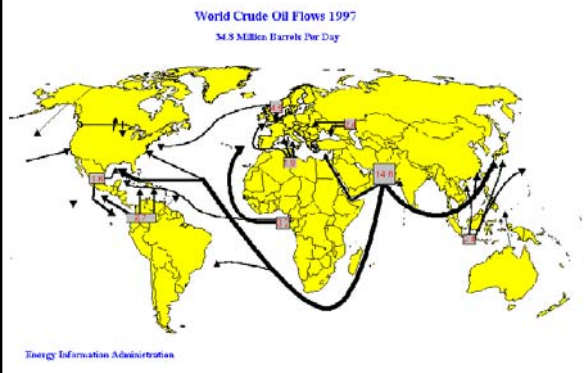


- Geography is a *spatial* science
- *Spatial behavior* of people
- *Spatial relationships* between places
- *Spatial processes* that create or maintain those behaviors and relationships

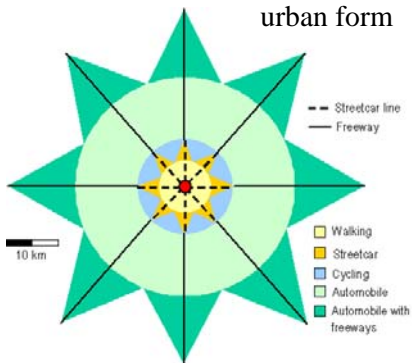
Spatial behavior of people: population



Spatial relationships between places: trade



Spatial processes: commuting and urban form



Five fundamental themes of geography

- 1) Location: the meaning of relative and absolute position on the earth's surface
- Sample terms: Latitude and longitude, site and situation, direction, distance, scale
 - Skills: Map reading, identification
 - Questions: Where is ____? Where is ____ relative to where I am?

Five fundamental themes of geography

- 2) Place: the distinctive and distinguishing physical and human characteristics of locales
- Sample terms: Physical and cultural landscapes, sense of place
 - Skills: Description, compare and contrast
 - Questions: What does ____ look like? Why? How is it different from ____?

Five fundamental themes of geography

- 3) Relationships within places: the development and consequences of human-environment relationships
- Sample terms: Ecosystems, natural resources, environmental pollution
 - Skills: Evaluation, analysis
 - Questions: What human-environment relationships are occurring? How do they affect the place and its inhabitants?

Five fundamental themes of geography

- 4) Movement: patterns and change in human spatial interaction on the earth
 - Sample terms: Migration, diffusion, globalization
 - Skills: Explanation, prediction
 - Questions: How has this spatial pattern developed? Will it continue to change? What does it mean for the places involved?

Five fundamental themes of geography

- 5) Regions: how they form and change
 - Sample terms: Formal vs. functional regions
 - Skills: Synthesis, application
 - Questions: How has this spatial pattern developed? Will it continue to change? What does it mean for the places involved?
