

GEOG 220
17 October 2016

“Castaway”: A Class exercise with
some participation marks

(designed as an introduction to
Topophilia & chapters 5 & 6)

“Castaway”

- You are accidentally marooned in a remote location. Think about the following:
 - 1. Draw a picture of the house you would build to live in (we imagine that you have all of the materials you will need)
 - 2. Draw a picture of a religious site you would construct (if you felt that you needed to)
 - 3. Write down the name of the food you would miss most
 - 4. What song would you use on either happy or sad occasions?
 - 5. What place in Montreal would you miss most?
 - 6 Write down the name of the restaurant that would be the very first one you would go to after you are rescued (and why?)
 - 7 What else would you miss?
 - 8 What would you like about your new environment?

The classroom is divided

- The classroom is divided into 4 different environments as shown on the next slide...



HOT
DRY

HOT
WET

"desert"

"jungle"

COLD
DRY

COLD
WET

"prairies"

"British Columbia
Coast"

Over to you ...

- Now take 10-15 minutes to answer the questions
- You can do this individually, or in groups
- And note:
 - Your comments and ideas are for discussion today AND to earn some participation marks (so yes – please be sure to hand in your answers on a sheet of paper at the end of the class)
- And here are the questions again

“Castaway”

- 1. Draw a picture of the **house** you would build to live in (we imagine that you have all of the materials you will need)
- 2. Draw a picture of a **religious site** you would construct (if you felt that you needed to)
- 3. Write down the name of the **food** you would miss most
- 4. What **song** would you use on either happy or sad occasions?
- 5. What place in **Montreal** would you miss most?
 - Write down the name of the **restaurant** that would be the very first one you would go to after you are rescued (and why?)
- 6 **What else** would you miss?
- 7 What would you **like** about your new environment?

Topophilia and love of “place”

Read in textbook

- Read Chapter 5: pages 166-176 – the section is called ‘culture as a geographical process’
- On “topophilia” see Ch 6, p 214
- On “place marketing” – see Ch 6 -- subsection on “Place marketing in Niagara Falls Ontario” (p 246)

Topophilia: “love of place”

- Topophilia = defined as “love of place”
 - (Ch 6, p 214)
- Recall that “place is space filled with meaning” (Yi-Fu Tuan).

Topophilia – an individual love

- Yi-Fu Tuan argues that we develop our affection for place for 4 reasons:
 - 1. Home: our love of “home” is very powerful
 - 2. Memory: place is a way of concretizing memory; a way of capturing time
 - 3. Sacred: places have a deep spiritual meaning for many people
 - 4. Imagination: physical places become the anchor for the mind’s creations

A group's love of place?

- Yi-Fu Tuan recognized that it was difficult to generalize from each person's unique experiences of "place".
- But he did suggest that we can generalize if we look at how each culture creates its own "place" or "region"
- Which takes us to Vidal de la Blache on *genre de vie*, and Carl Sauer on the "cultural landscape" (recall – from Ch 1).

Groups

- These two geographers argue that each culture uniquely shapes, and is shaped by its physical environment, and produces its own unique cultural landscape that reflects and interacts with the physical environment and the culture in question.
 - Recall Vidal de la Blache's metaphor of the snail and its shell to describe this process

A Note: “Sauer’s cultural landscape”

- The diagram in the book (page 171, fig 5.5) is not the easiest way of showing Sauer’s basic point
 - The text of the caption for the diagram is the best way to follow the idea.
 - Essentially, a “*cultural landscape*” would be the result of the activities of a particular *culture* working over *time* to reshape the existing *natural landscape*

An example:

- A nice example would be to think of today's Caribbean – there we have two basic natural landscapes – one based on volcanoes (lava), the other on coral (limestone)
- And a whole set of different cultural landscapes as the Europeans colonize the islands – Spanish, French, Dutch, English – each with different laws, language, food habits which create visibly different cultural landscapes
- And that is Sauer's basic point – just as we can see a physical landscape, so we can see a cultural landscape:
-- and that, by the way, bring us to the origin of the world “landscape” (from the Dutch “landskip”) – an area of land “improved” through human efforts.

Group

- Cultural geographers examine the features of the cultural landscape that make each cultural region unique and are typical of that region i.e:
 - Folk (“vernacular”) architecture
 - Folk music
 - “ethnic” or “regional” cuisine
 - Regional accents and dialects

“Ordinary” vs “Spectacular” landscapes

- Spectacular

- All of us are attracted, in our contemplation of “place”, to the spectacular – mountains, lakes, landscape gardens,
- Geographers who have worked on this issue show that our sense of the spectacular is a created *aesthetic*, which changes over time and is culturally-based. {we will look at this in a later class}
- Example: Dennis Cosgrove.

“Ordinary” vs “Spectacular” landscapes

- Ordinary

- Most geographers would say we study the everyday world of people, the ordinary landscape, the “vernacular”

- “vernacular” means “native” or “from the land of one’s birth” – derived from the Latin word *vernaculus*, “a slave born in his/her owner’s house”)

- Examples: Terry Jordan, Wilbur Zelinsky. Much of their work deals with issues such as folk housing and we can look at some of this as an example.

Place marketing

- Knowing a little about the love of place also helps us understand how place is used in selling things
 - “place marketing” (On “place marketing” – see Ch 6, subsection on “Place marketing in Niagara Falls Ontario” (p 246))
- Can you think of examples where ideas of place are being used to sell you something?