

Week 2b – Sept 14 Core Concepts

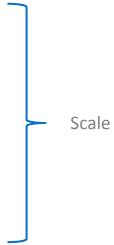


GEG1302: Spaces and Places of Human Activity
Prof. Sonia Wesche

Core Geographic Concepts

Describing the earth:

- Place
- **Space**
- **Location**
- Direction
- Distance
- Attributes
- **Region**



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Core Geographic Concepts

More about PLACE

- *Placelessness* refers to the loss of local and regional distinctiveness and formally separated cultures
- Linked with acculturation, commodification, homogenization
- E.g. uniformity of brand-name fast food outlets.



Core Geographic Concepts

- Topophilia
- Topophobia



Core Geographic Concepts

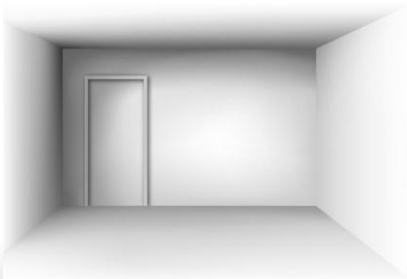
SPACE

- Implies areal extent of something, or areal relations among phenomena
- *Absolute space* (objective)
 - Can be measured
 - Important for map-making and spatial analysis
- *Relative space* (perceptual, changeable)



Core Geographic Concepts

SPACE: AN EXAMPLE



Core Geographic Concepts

SPACE:

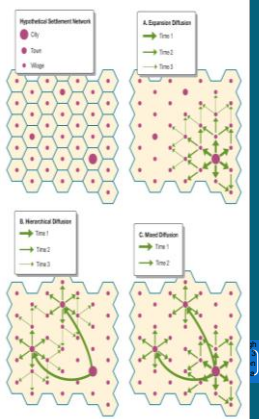
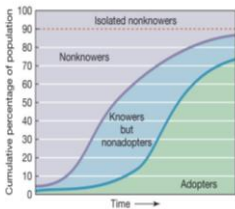


Relative space

Gated communities
(Spatial exclusion)

Spatial Diffusion

- The way that things spread through space and over time



Diffusion of Cholera from Gross Île (Quebec) and New York, 1832



Figure 1.8. Diffusion of Cholera in 1832 from Quebec to New York City. The map shows the St. Lawrence River and the Hudson River, with arrows indicating the spread of cholera from Quebec to New York City. The photograph shows a coastal town, likely New York.

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Location, Location, Location!!



myhomeagent.ca

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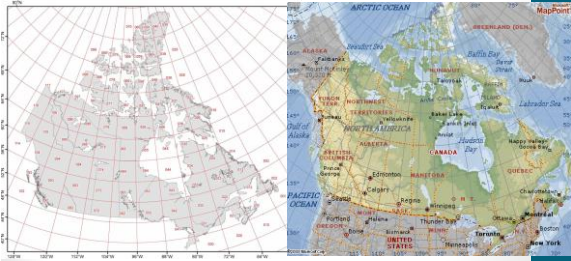
Location

- **Absolute:** identification of place by precise and accepted measurement system
 - Address
 - Latitude and Longitude

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Core Geographic Concepts

ABSOLUTE LOCATION: Latitude and Longitude (grid system)



Location

- **Relative:** position of a place in relation to other places
 - Expresses spatial interconnection and interdependence
 - May carry social and economic implications
 - "Close to ..."
 - "About 2 blocks from ..."

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Core Geographic Concepts

RELATIVE LOCATION

- Know the address for the Rideau Centre?
- We often think of it in relation to campus, home, or some other reference point.



Core Geographic Concepts

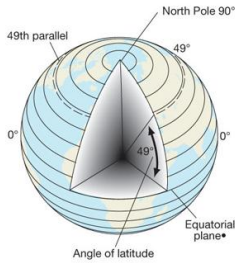
LOCATION IN CONTEXT: MONTREAL

- Montreal can be described in absolute terms as being located at Latitude 45°28' N / Longitude 73°45'W.
- We better understand its location when giving a reference point:
 - Near the Lachine Rapids on the St. Lawrence River
 - East of Ottawa



Latitude

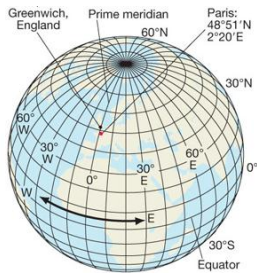
- Angular distance on the surface of the earth (degrees, minutes, seconds) North and South of equator



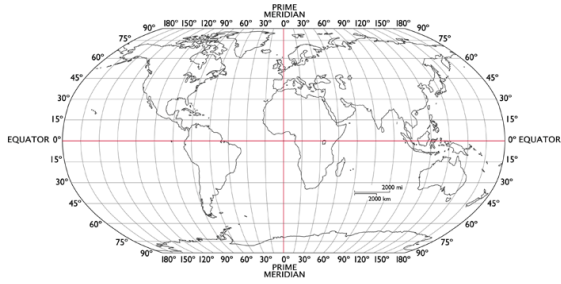
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Longitude

- Angular distance on the surface of the earth (degrees, minutes, seconds) East or West of prime meridian



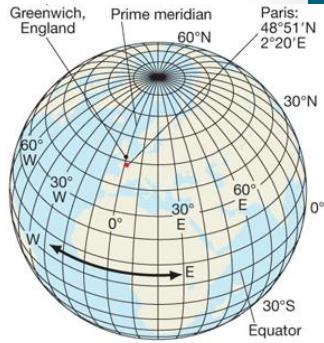
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About.com

Example

- uOttawa Campus ...
- Can you guess?



Example

- uOttawa Campus ...
- How can we get co-ordinates?

- Lat: 45.424 N (North of the Equator)
- Long: 75.683 W (West of the Prime Meridian)

OR

- Lat: +45.424
- Long: -75.683

OR

- 45°25'26.4" latitude (degrees (°), minutes ('), and seconds ("))
- -75°40'58.8" longitude

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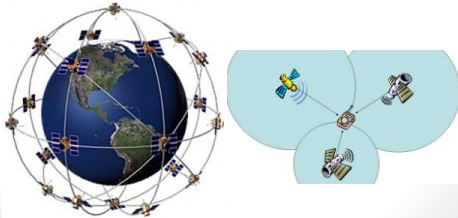
Who has a GPS on them?



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GPS – Global Positioning System How it Works

- Receivers
- 24 Satellites orbiting the earth
- Triangulation
- Applications?



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Geocaching

- <http://www.geocaching.com/>

Example – Haunted Ottawa #2:
http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=a406a9c2-9ebb-4194-9a57-e5c904386e9

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Core Geographic Concepts

DIRECTION

- Universal spatial concept



Absolute direction is based on cardinal points of north, south, east, and west.



Core Geographic Concepts



Relative directions are culturally based

- Eg. Up North/Down South reflect our habit of putting North at the top and South at the bottom.
- E.g. 'down south' in Ont. vs NWT



Core Geographic Concepts

DISTANCE

- *Absolute distance* refers to spatial separation between two points measured by a standard unit
- E.g. kilometres, meters, miles, feet, etc.



Core Geographic Concepts

DISTANCE

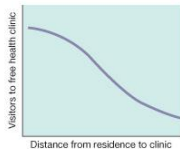
- *Relative distance* transforms linear measurements into other units that have meaning (e.g. time, cost)
- E.g. Mall is 10\$ cab ride away, 20 minute bus ride, one hour walk, 25 blocks.



Core Geographic Concepts

DISTANCE

- "First law" of geography: "Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things."
- *Friction of distance*
- The deterrent or inhibiting effect of distance on human activity



Core Geographic Concepts

PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ATTRIBUTES

- Geographers are concerned with identifying and analyzing **human-environment relationships**
- Often refer to:
 - **Natural landscapes** – places under control of natural forces for a period of time
 - **Cultural landscapes** – the visible expressions of human activity

Natural Landscape Cultural Landscape



Cultural landscapes change over time



Regions and their characteristics

- Geographers can't study the whole world at once
 - Need to subdivide into manageable chunks to study = Regionalization
- Many types of regions
 - Homogeneity of areal grouping of physical and/or human characteristics



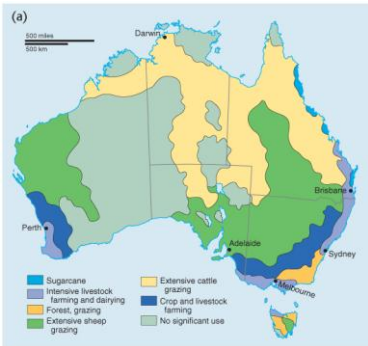
2 Types of Regions:

1. Formal/ uniform region:

- uniformity of physical and cultural features
- E.g.: province or homogeneous cultural regions



Example of a formal region



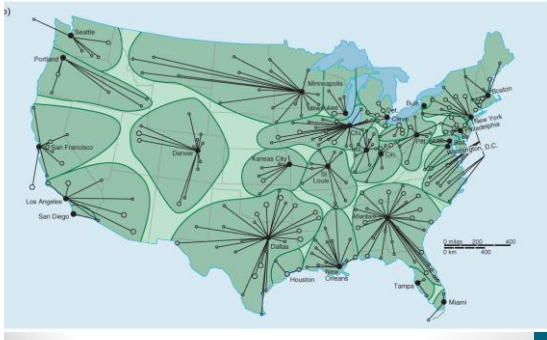
2 Types of Regions:

2. Functional/nodal region:

- a spatial system where parts are interdependent and a core and periphery can be distinguished.
- Key concept: **core & periphery / heartland & hinterland**



Example for a functional region



uOttawa campus

- How do these core concepts relate?



Summary

- Evolution of Geographic Thought
- Core Concepts in Human Geography
 - Scale
 - Place
 - Space
 - Location
 - Direction
 - Distance
 - Attributes
 - Region

Next class:

- Maps and Mapping
- Assignment 1 details – due date changed to Oct 2

Reading: Chapter 1 ctd
