

Chapter One: Geography Matters

Key Concepts:

- Geography matters- know where you are
- Place matters- the feeling of being in a place
- Geographic tools- maps and news
- Spatial relationships- how point A and B interact
- Regional analysis- studying regions
- Geographical imagination- how we think about geography

Geography Matters:

- Increasing interdependence
- Instant global communications
- Rapidly changing international relationships
- Environmental degradation
- Places and regions

Places Matter:

- Geographic literacy
 - Lack of geographic understanding and knowledge among Americans
- Places are dynamic and complex
- Emotional and Cultural symbols
 - Graceland (Memphis)
- Ordinary places with special meaning
 - Childhood neighborhood
- Sites of innovation, change, conflict

Human Geography:

- Spatial organization of human activities
- Relationships between people and environments
- How and WHY relationships are important
- Geographers solve a variety of problems on scales from local to global
 - Marketing, GIS, international affairs

Geographical Tools and Methods:

- Observation → representation → analysis
- Qualitative and quantitative data
- Remote sensing
- Maps
 - Social products
 - Map scale – whole world? City? Determines the specifics
- GIS
 - Military to private sector

Map projections:

- Systematic rendering of the Earth's surface onto a flat surface
- Equidistant, conformal, azimuthal, equal-area
 - Distortion of distance, direction, shape, and area

Maps and GIS

- Cartogram

Spatial analysis

- Location
 - Fixed coordinates of latitude and longitude
 - GPS (Global Positioning System)
- Site and Situation
 - Physical attributes and relative location
- Cognitive images (mental map)
 - Based on perception and experience
- Distance
 - Absolute (longitude and latitude) or relative (I am next to this landmark)
 - Cognitive distance
 - Everything is related to everything else
 - Friction of distance
 - Distance-decay- the farther away from an event, the less impact that event has
- Space
 - Absolute or relative
 - Cognitive space
 - Topological space (connectivity)
- Accessibility
 - Opportunity for interaction proximity
 - Distance and connectivity
 - Airline hub cities are more accessible than other cities
- Spatial Interaction
 - Movement and flows of human activity
 - Places complement each other
 - Transferability
 - Spatial organization of activity is continuously changing
 - Time-space convergence-shorter times, farther distances, i.e. an email can be sent to china in a matter of seconds whereas a letter used to take days or weeks to reach a New York if you lived in California
 - Intervening opportunities (something that prevents the diffusion) determine the volume and pattern of movement and flows
- Spatial diffusion
 - The way things spread over space and time
 - Expansion diffusion-music spreads across the country
 - Hierarchical diffusion- the have and the have nots, some people have the opportunity to do or get some things while others are not able to have the same opportunities
- Regional analysis
 - Regionalization-how the region is defined
 - Functional regions
 - Regionalism sectionalism
 - Irredentism

- Landscape
 - Ordinary and symbolic
 - Many layers of meaning
- Sense of place-the feeling you get when you go there
 - Insiders and life world
 - Inter-subjectivity

Geographical imagination

- Allows us to understand geographic change
- Places and regions are cumulative

Future Geographies

- How the world is changing and creating new geographies

Remember:

- History is a big player in geography
- Large Scale- a close up of a city or area
- Small scale- map of the whole USA
- Thematic maps- maps that have a theme, such as population density, counties
- Latitude and longitude are like coordinates on a graph, latitude goes 0-90 and is equal to the y-axis. Longitude goes 0-180 and is equal to the x-axis
- Perception of place- what you think of a place without actually have gone to that place