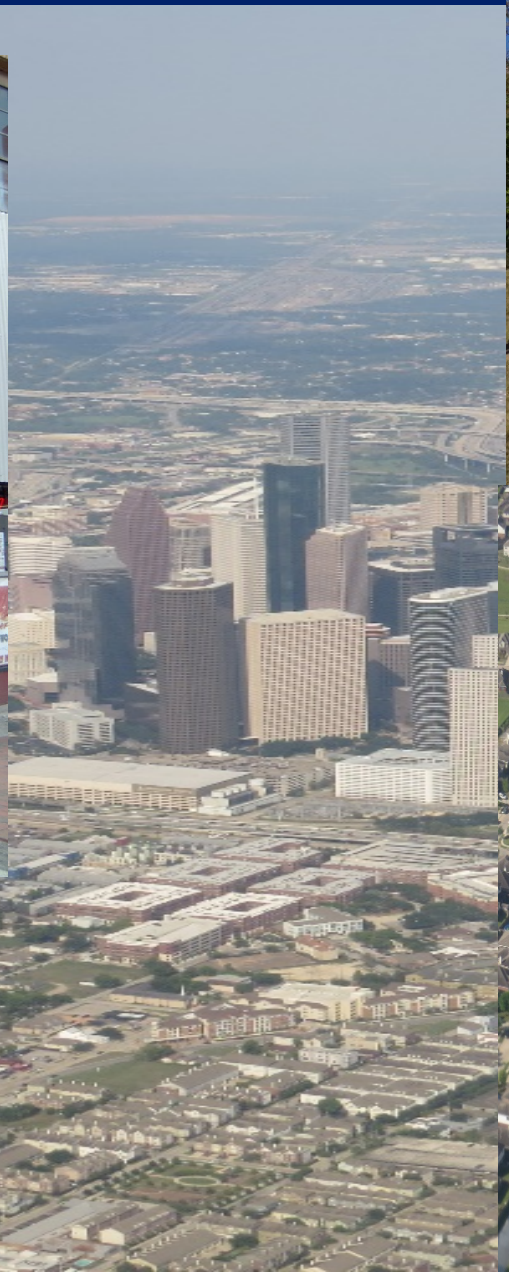
EVERY REGION HAS A REASON

GARY GRESS, Ph.D.

DEPT. OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

OKAGE COORDINATOR

LOOKING AT PLACES AND REGIONS:
DOING "GEO-DETECTIVE" WORK



HERE'S THE "SKINNY"

- First we'll be **thinking** about places and concentrating on their **uniqueness**
- Next, we'll be interpreting types of places and **determining** their "**purpose**" or essence, and finally…
- We'll be **applying** "spatial" skills to all places, issues and experiences

A Few "Geoisms"

- All places change (morphology-processes)
- All places are unique (activities, material artifacts, issues, cultures and histories)
- All places use space differently creating patterns, that may be mapped
- All places and spaces large and small are part of…

REGIONS

GETTING WARMED UP!

- ARRANGE YOUR CHIPS (any way you wish)
- DESCRIBE YOUR ARRANGEMENT (why did you arrange them that way?)
- What are the characteristics of a region?

CHARACTERISTICS OF REGIONS

- Some sort of uniformity or commonality
- Color sameness or pattern sameness
- Random?
- Definition: an area large or small with common characteristics

BASIC REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

REGIONS CAN BE BASED ON:

1. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES (POLITICAL)
2. LANDFORMS, NATURAL FEATURES (PHYSICAL)
3. GOODS AND SERVICES (ECONOMIC)
4. WHAT PEOPLE VALUE (CULTURAL)

Regions also may have formal boundaries, exhibit a functional purpose or become perceptual/conceived "vernacular" places or areas.

CIMARRON
TEXAS
BEAVER
HARPER
WOODS
ALFALFA
GRANT
KAY
WASHING-TON
NOWATA
CRAIG
OTTAWA
OSAGE
ROGERS
MAYES
DELAWARE
ELLIS
WOOD-WARD
MAJOR
GARFIELD
NOBLE
PAWNEE
PAYNE
TULSA
WAGONER
CHEROKEE
ADAIR
DEWEY
BLAINE
KING-FISHER
LOGAN
CREEK
ROGER MILLS
CUSTER
CANADIAN
OKLAHOMA
LINCOLN
OKMUL-GEE
MUSKO-GEE
SEQUOYAH
Oklahoma City
OKFUSKEE
McINTOSH
BECKHAM
WASHITA
CADDO
CLEVE-LAND
POTTA-WATOMIE
SEMINOLE
HUGHES
HASKELL
GRADY
McCLAIN
GREER
KIOWA
PITTSBURG
LATIMER
LE FLORE
HARMON
JACKSON
COMANCHE
GARVIN
PON-TOTOC
COAL
STEPHENS
MURRAY
TILLMAN
COTTON
JOHNS-TON
ATOKA
PUSHMATAHA
CARTER
JEFFERSON
McCURTAIN
LOVE
MARSH-ALL
BRYAN
CHOCTAW

Asian District
CLASSEN BL
2500
2600
NW 25TH ST
1200
1300

Types of Regions

- **Formal regions**
  - Exhibits uniformity in one or more physical or cultural features (eg. climate, physical feature, ethnic group, language, political unit)
- **Functional regions**
  - Defined by interactions among places (eg. trade, communication)
- **Vernacular regions**
  - Widespread common popular perception of a place/area that exists (eg. “no man’s land”)

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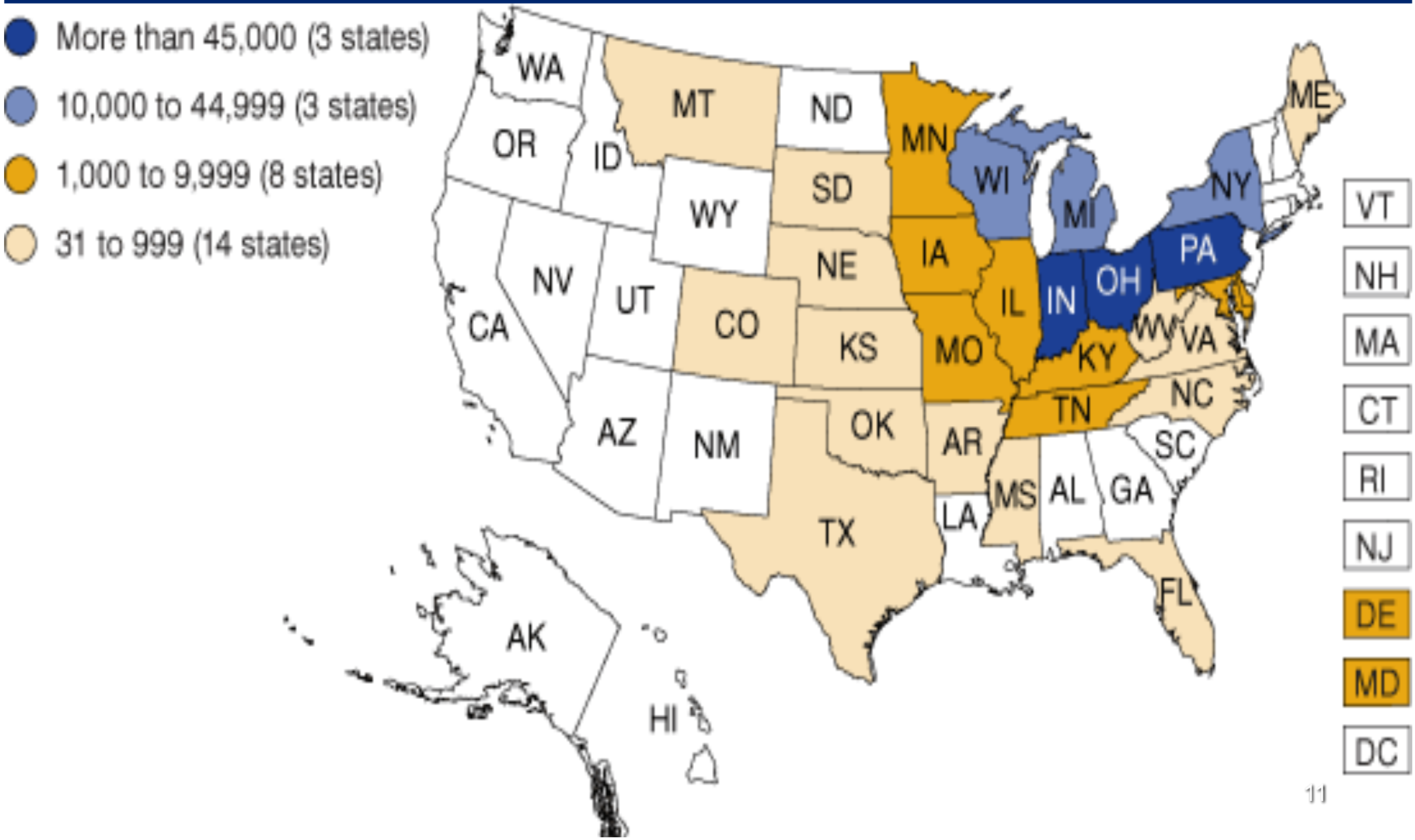
WHY A FORMAL REGION?
THIS MAP REPRESENTS WHAT?



FORMAL REGION

- Has uniformity, generally more defined boundaries
- Has driving physical, cultural, economic or political trait

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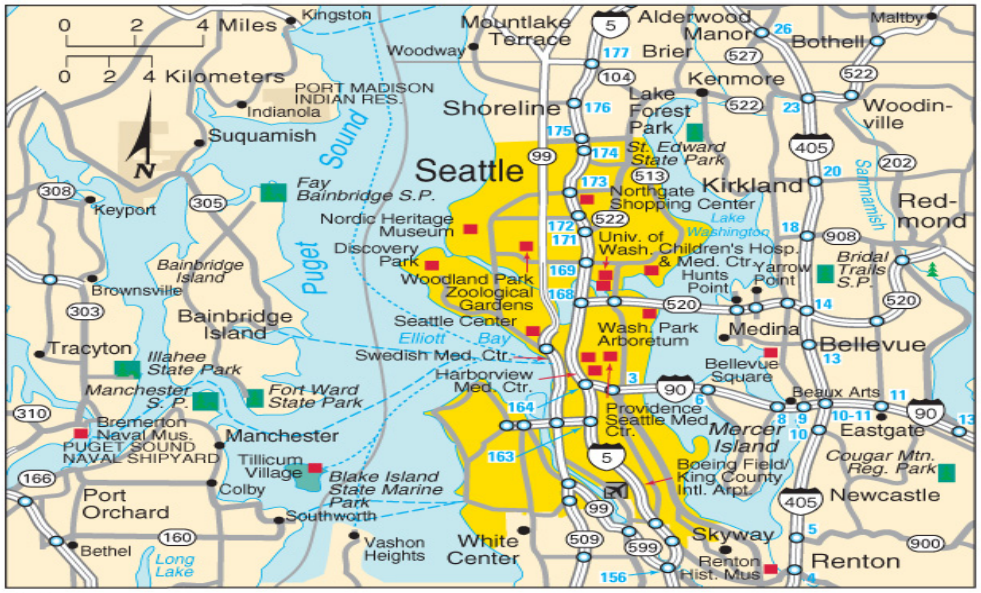
FUNCTIONAL REGION

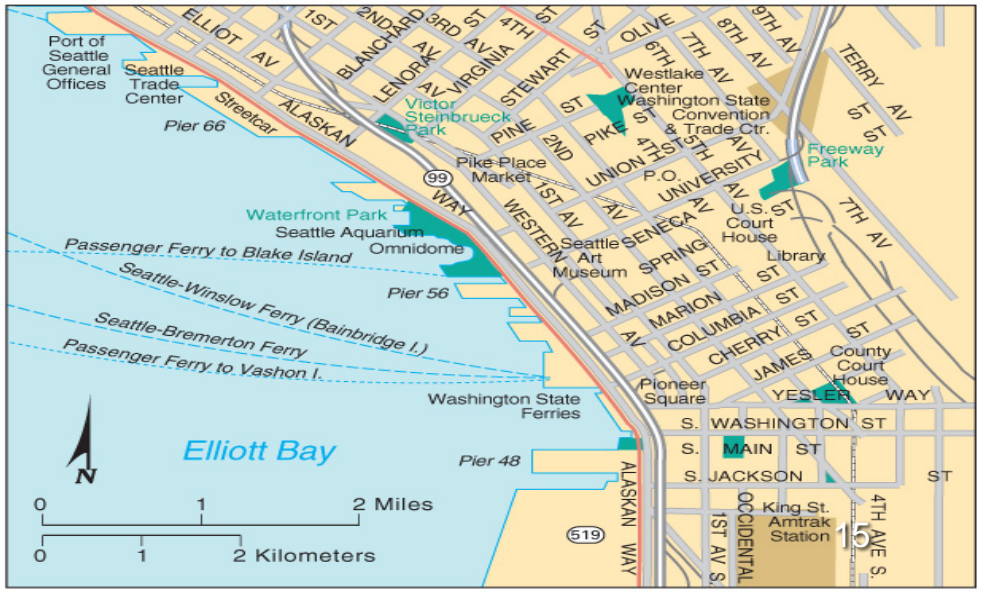
- Interactions
- Organized around a function
- "Nodal"
- Movement between points

Remember within larger political, physical, economic or cultural regions… there are "sub regions" that have formal , functional and perceptual characteristics…it depends on the scale.

(a)

(b)





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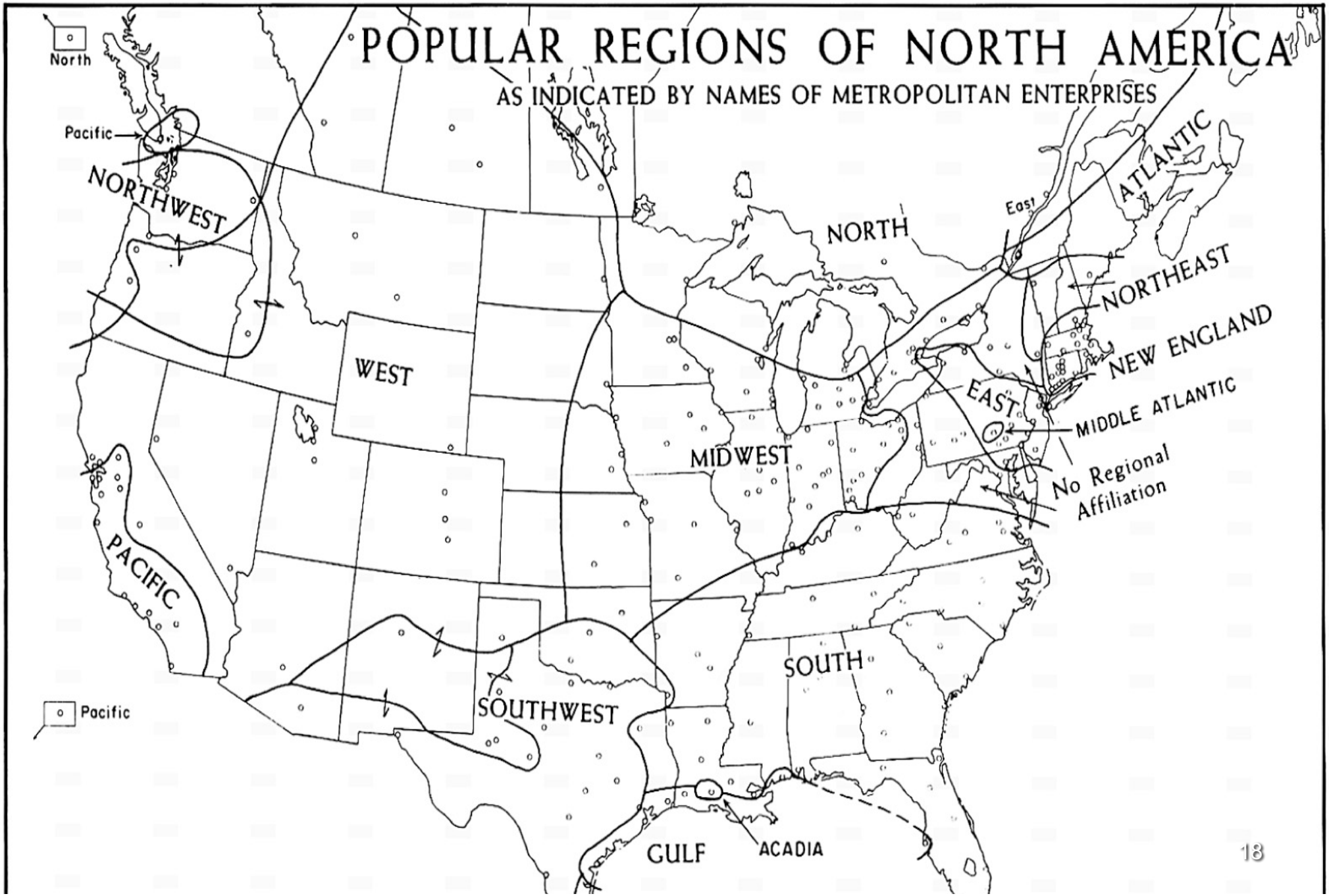
Vernacular or "Pop Cultural Regions"

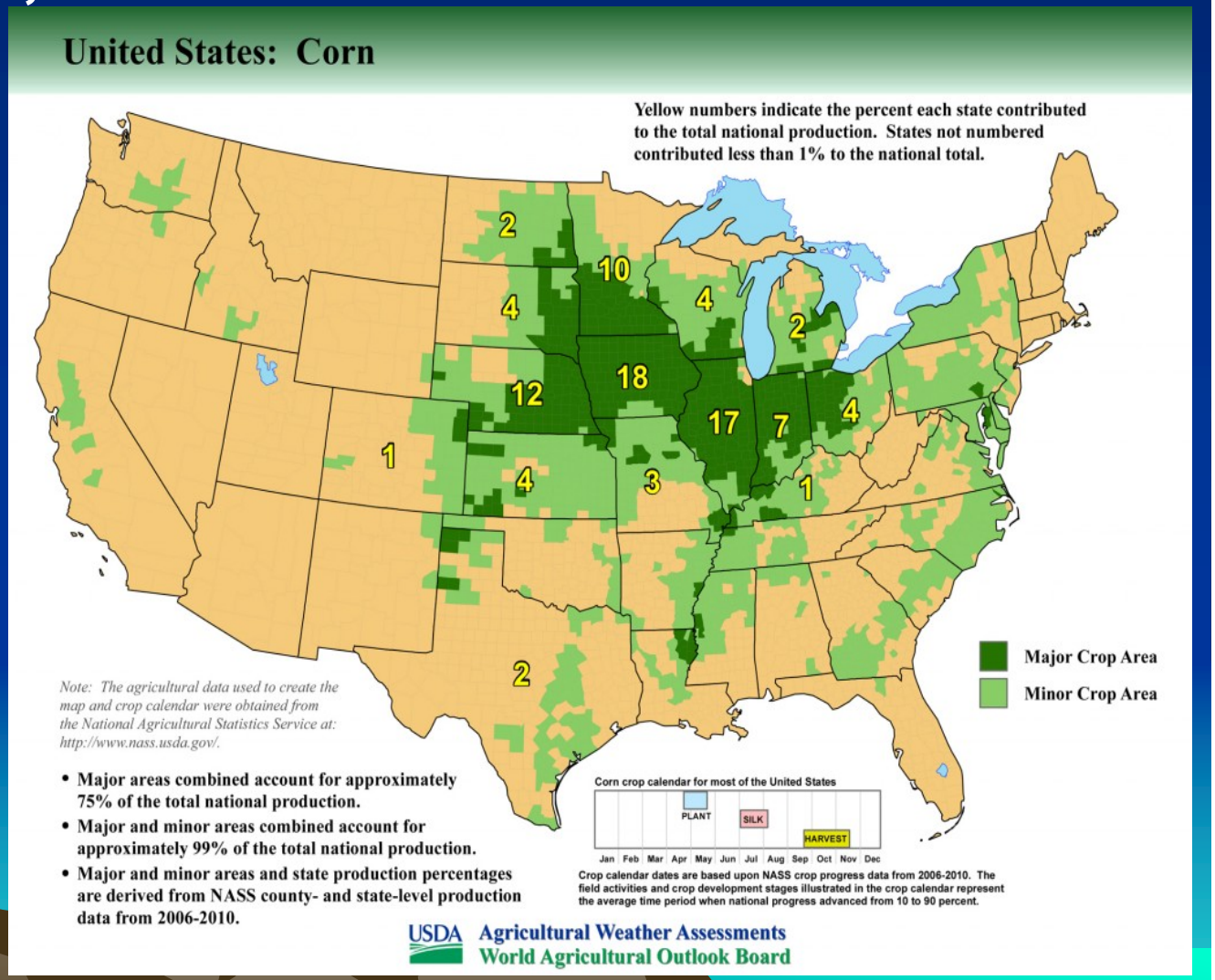
- Perceived collective cultural, economic, political and physical places
- General widespread acceptance
- Nicknames
- No sharp borders
- May be based on physical environmental features

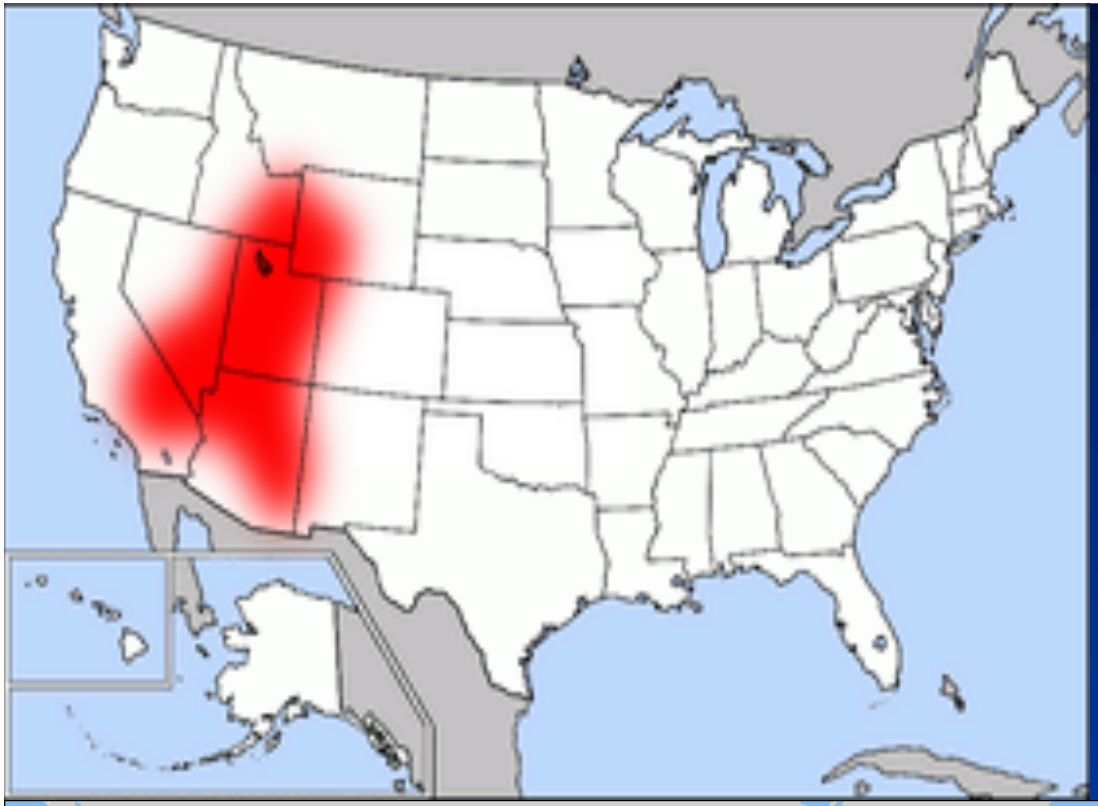
VERNACULAR, PERCEIVED, POPULAR

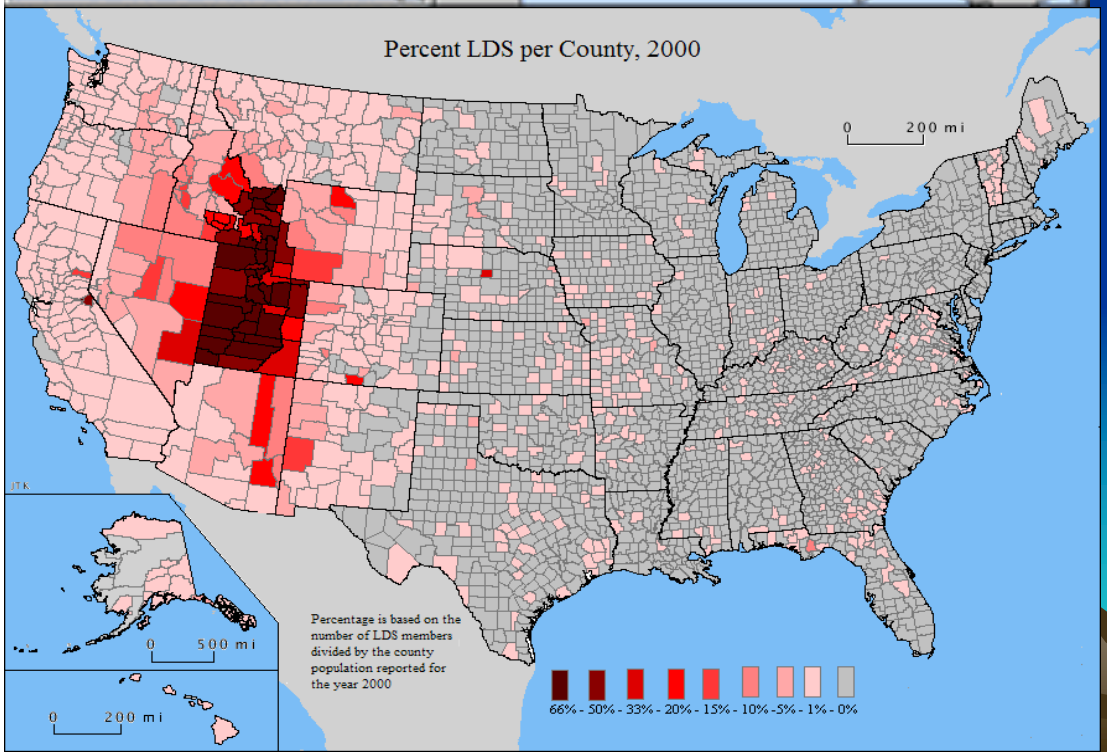


OTHER REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Core: the source, strongest defining representation
- Periphery: weaker but similar characteristics
- "Outliers": similar however distant







QUIZ TIME . . . DISCUSSION

- POLITICAL?
- PHYSICAL?
- ECONOMIC?
- CULTURAL?
- FORMAL?
- FUNCTIONAL?
- “POPULAR” OR VERNACULAR?

Connections with *The FIVE Themes* and *GFL Elements/Standards*

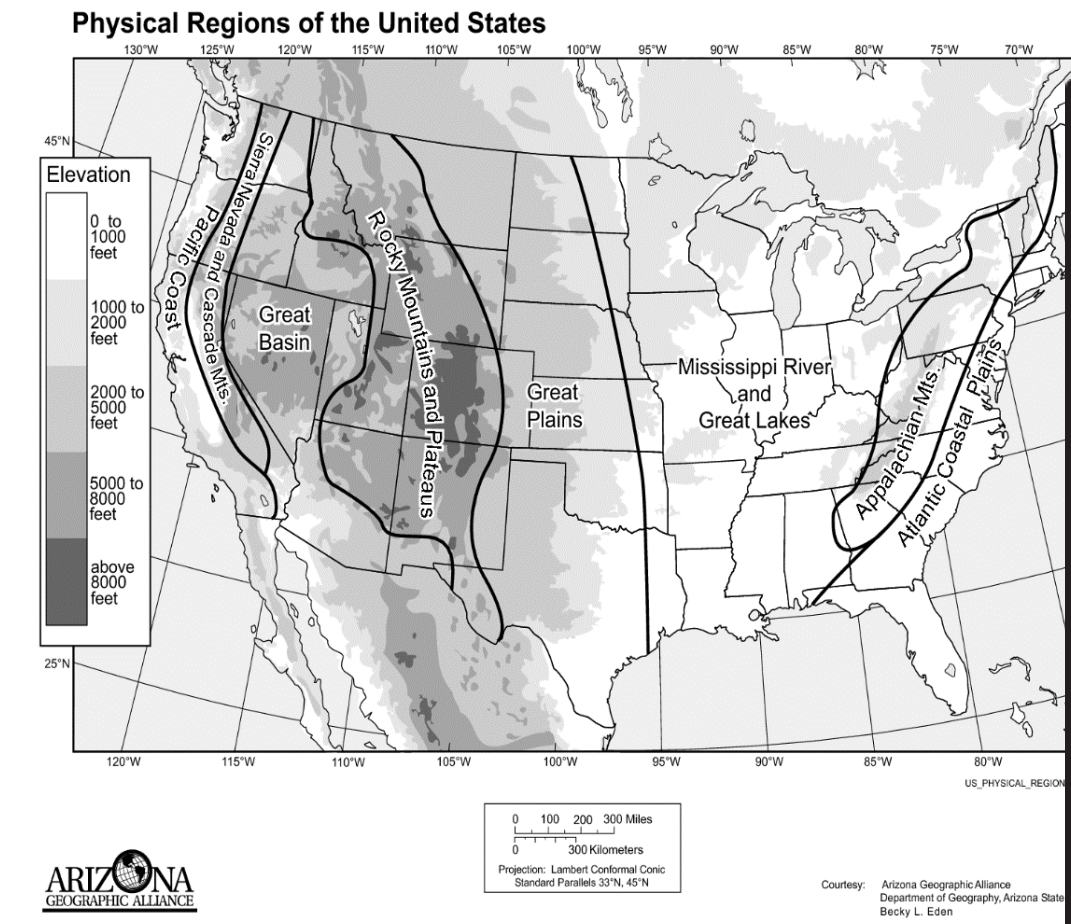
Every region…

- Has a **location**
- Has physical and human **place** traits
- Exhibits **human** and **environmental interactions**
- Has common similarities (a **region**)

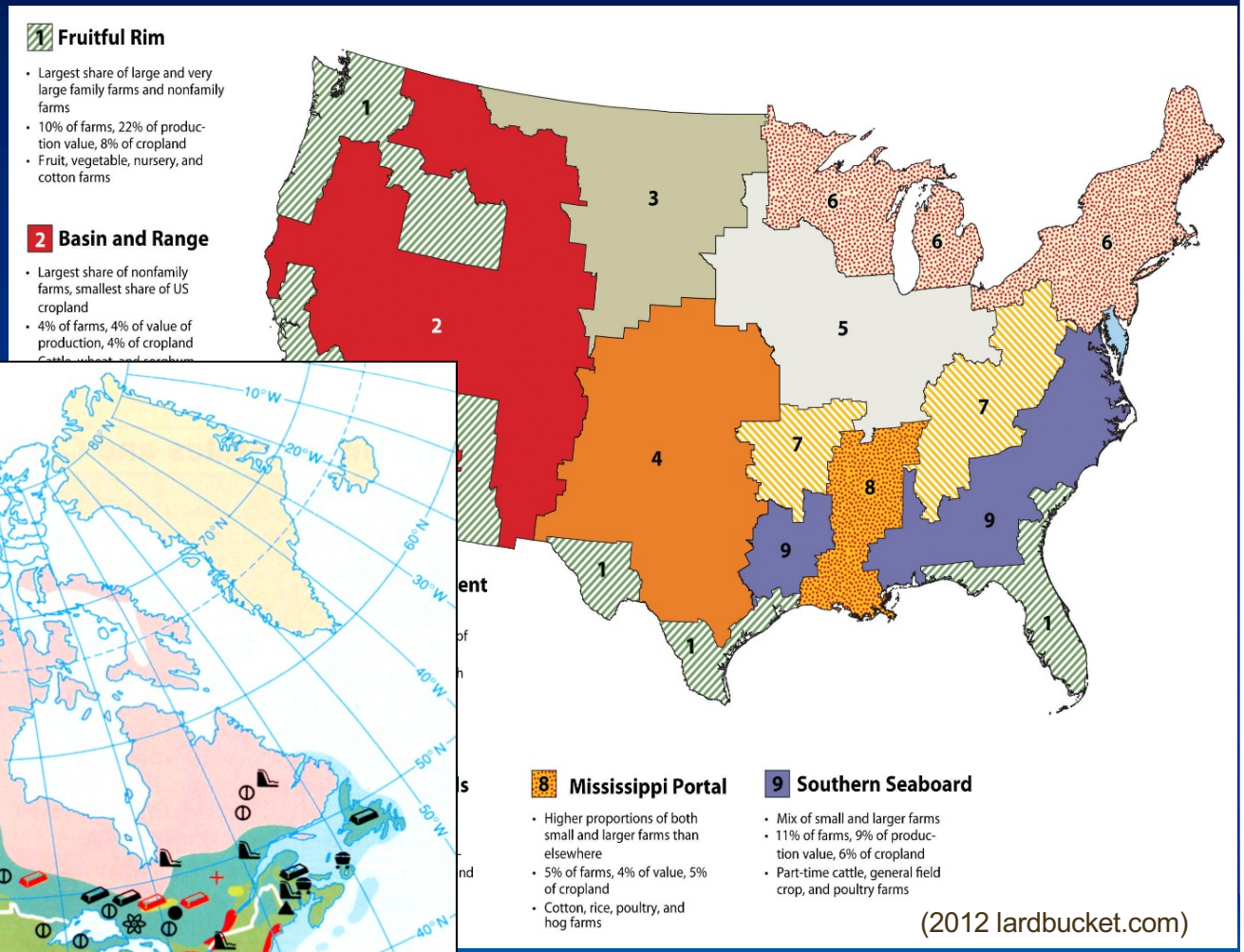
Every region…

- Exhibits **physical systems** via interactions and processes
- Experiences the **environment** being modified by **society** (humans)
- Displays **human systems** and all human activities.
- Has **places** that display common characteristics, creating **regions**

PHYSICAL REGIONS



ECONOMIC REGIONS



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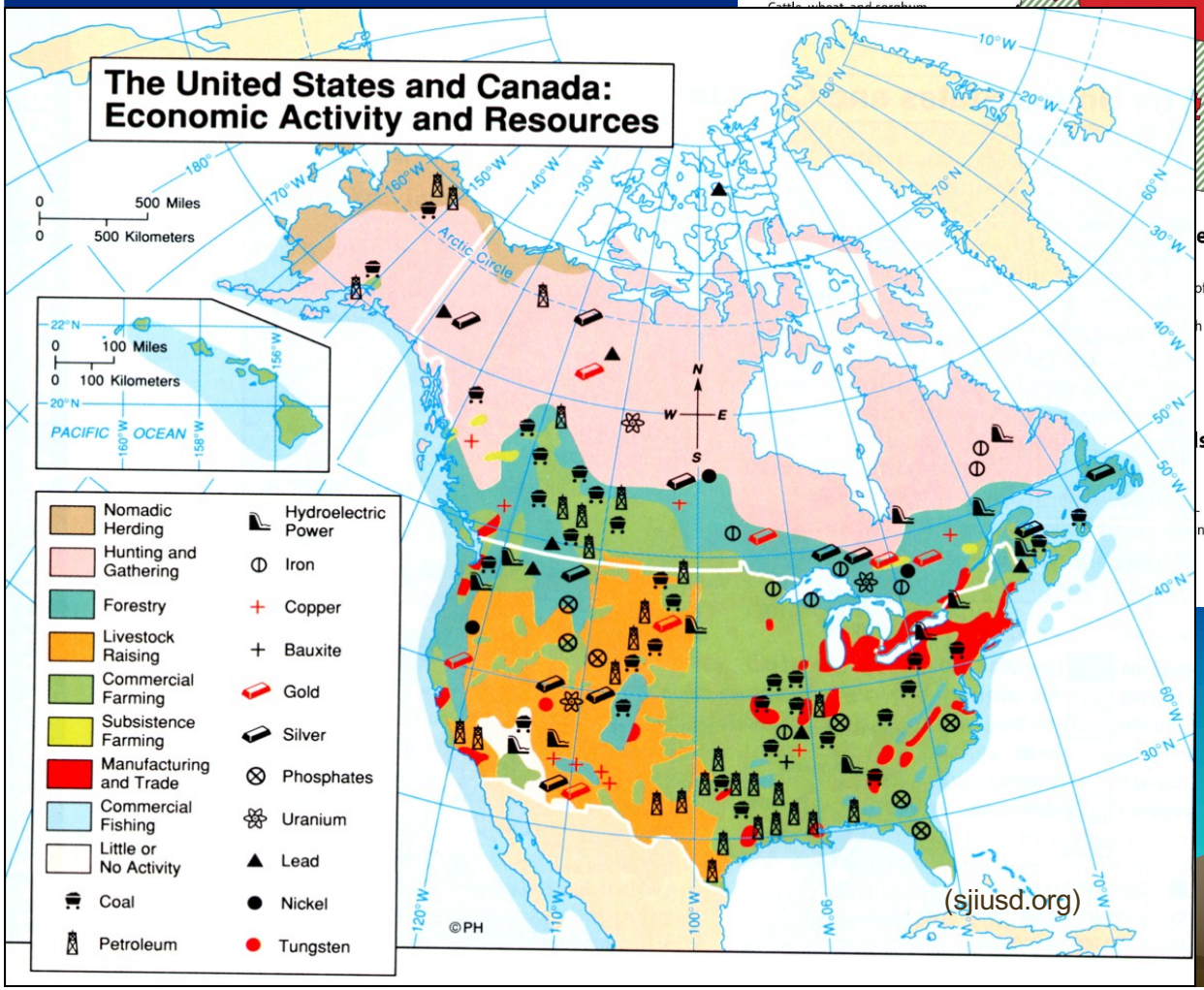

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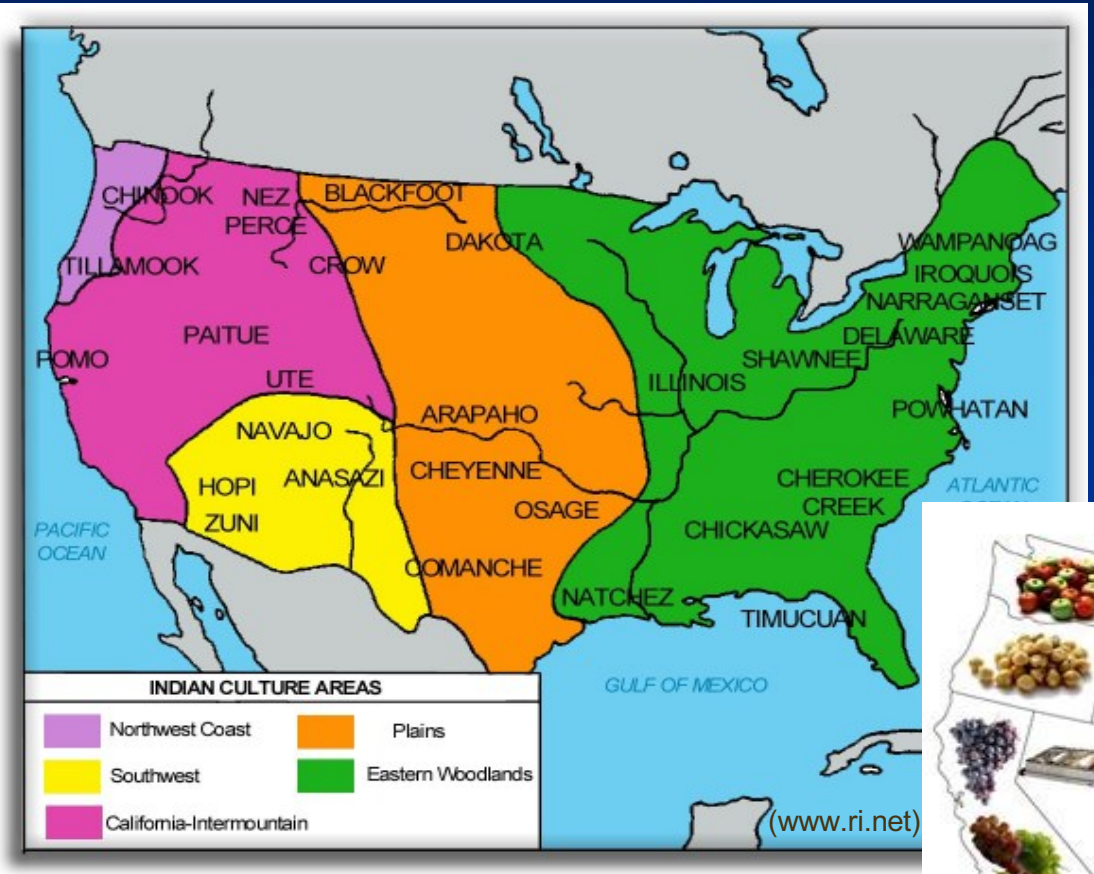
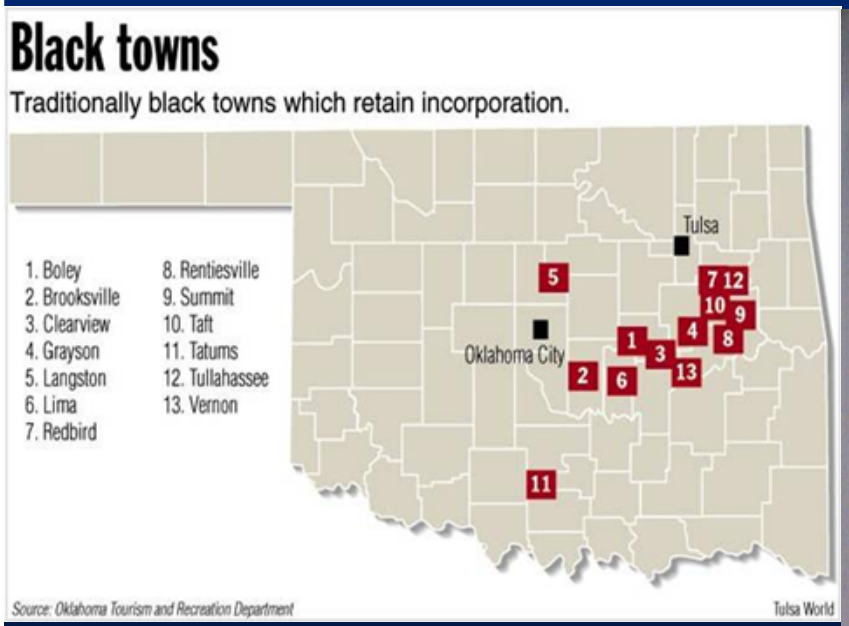
CULTURAL REGIONS

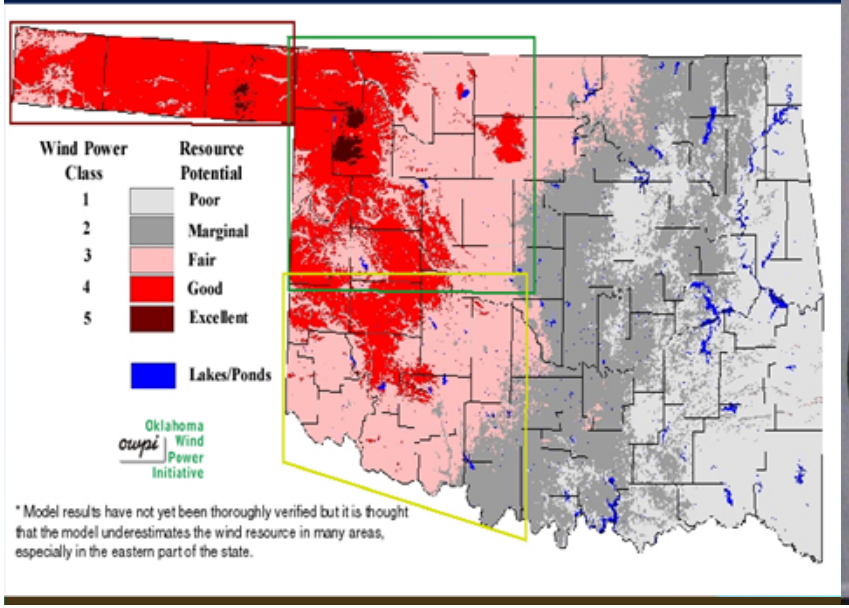


(www.ri.net)

(Icanhas.cheezburger.com)

REGIONS HELP PUT PLACES, EVENTS AND ISSUES IN CONTEXT





“GO AND
SNIFF IT OUT!”

PHOTO and SLIDE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Slide #2: all Gress personal photo's; top left, Nashville, Tenn (Main St.); center (Dallas, TX.); bottom right (Houston); Top right (El Cerito, NM.); left bottom (Cut and Shoot, TX.)
- Slide #6: Gress, San Salvador (slum)
- Slide #8: Top left www.censusfinder.com; top right Gress, Asian Dist., OKC; bottom left, Gress gypsum plant, Southard, OK; bottom right, Gress, "Little Sahara" Okla.
- Slide 11: Amish map, www.incontext.Indiana.edu
- Slide 14: Gress, Metro map Wash. D.C.
- Slide 15:
- Slide 17: Redneck perceptual map, incrediblethings.com
- Slide 18: "pop regions" Intro to Geog, pg.10 2011, Dahlman, et al.
- Slide 20: "Lime jello" Map, en.wipedia.org and LDS map, rootedcosmopolitan.wordpress.com
- Slide 25: Gress, Route 66 photo (taken at Clinton, museum)

“Environment sustains us as creatures; landscape displays us as culture; landscape is defined by our vision as interpreted by our minds” – D. W. Meinig

Contact

GARY GRESS, Ph.D.

OKAGE COORDINATOR

and

DEPT. OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Telephone:

405-325-5832

Email:

ggress@ou.edu