

World Geography Teacher Notes for the Georgia Standards of Excellence in Social Studies

The Teacher Notes were developed to help teachers understand the depth and breadth of the standards. In some cases, information provided in this document goes beyond the scope of the standards and can be used for background and enrichment information. Please remember that the goal of social studies is not to have students memorize laundry lists of facts, but rather to help them understand the world around them so they can analyze issues, solve problems, think critically, and become informed citizens. **Children's Literature:** A list of book titles aligned to the 6th-12th Grade Social Studies GSE may be found at the Georgia Council for the Social Studies website: <http://www.gcss.net/uploads/files/Childrens-Literature-Grades-6-to-12.pdf>

TEACHER NOTES **WORLD GEOGRAPHY**

Physical Geography

SSWG1. Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns.

This standard lays the groundwork for the World Geography course. It is extremely important to understand how the physical world has impacted settlement patterns. The physical world is a major factor in the decision-making process of settlers. Before the technological boom of the last 150 plus years, attempting to tame and control the physical environment was not possible on a large scale. The physical features and climate discussed in this standard have created obstacles and opportunities over time. Each of the elements within this standard are very similar except for the locations, landforms, and climate. For all the regions and physical features described, the fact is, the rougher the terrain and the drier the climate the more difficult it is to settle. The elements of this standard are best taught in coordination with the other standards to understand settlement patterns, culture, political geography, population issues, environmental challenges, and economic issues.

Resources:

Google Maps – Google Maps is vital to all geography classes. The features are great for every standard discussed here. <http://www.maps.google.com>

World Climate maps and charts – This website contains excellent maps and graphs which help explain climate all over the world. <http://www.climate-charts.com/index.html>

ArcGIS – esri: ArcGIS is a great source for hundreds of great maps which cover everything from physical features to thematic maps about the economy. <http://www.arcgis.com/home/gallery.html#c=esri&t=maps&o=modified>

USGS Spatial Data – Mineral Resources: This site from the U.S. government has many great maps examining mineral resources around the world. <http://mrddata.usgs.gov/>

National Renewable Energy Lab – Dynamic Maps: These are great maps for discussing the potential for renewable energy. <http://www.nrel.gov/gis/maps.html>

Global Energy Network Institute: This is another excellent site for examining renewable resources. <http://www.geni.org/globalenergy/library/renewable-energy-resources/globalmaps.shtml>

The NREL site has numerous GIS and Analysis tools for looking at renewable energy potential around the world. <http://www.nrel.gov/>

***See the embedded links and the end of each element for additional resources.**

SSWG1. Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns.

a. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of North America. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to, the Mississippi River System, the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains, and the Canadian Shield.

Note: students should use the information about the locations below to explain how the climate, location, and physical features impact settlement.

Mississippi River System – This vast river system’s water shed takes up almost half of the United States. It has been and continues to be vital for transport of goods, irrigation, drinking water, and electricity.



US Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/About/Mississippi-River-Commission-MRC/>

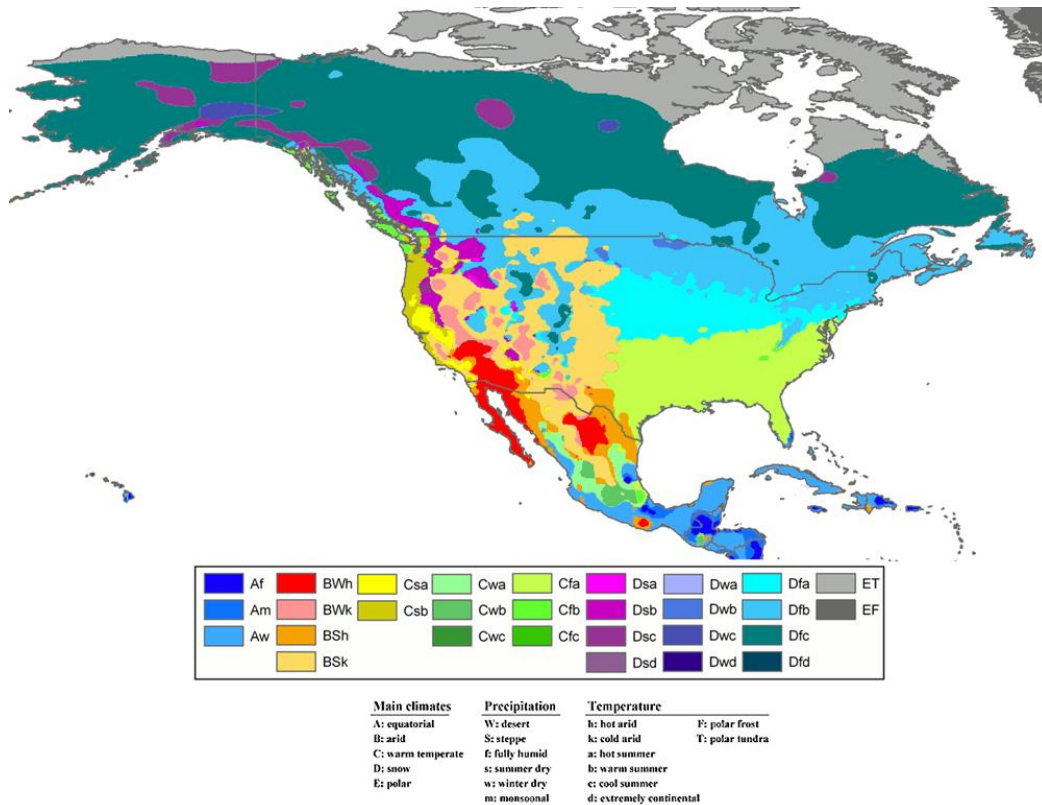
Settlement in the watershed was aided and hampered by the river system. Getting people, supplies, livestock, etc. across rivers without a bridge is no small task. The three major rivers of the system include the Ohio, Missouri, and Mississippi each having countless tributaries. The Arkansas and Red Rivers also feed the Mississippi. American Indians and European settlers all found the Mississippi River watershed to be life giving. The soil is rich and great for growing crops in the river valleys due to occasional flooding. Transportation of people and goods was made easier due to the connectedness of the river system.

Appalachian Mountains – As the first American frontier, the Appalachians were a formidable challenge for settlers attempting to cross and settle to the west. With several peaks at over 6,500 feet, the Appalachians were an intense challenge, although the region had already been settled by American Indians. The Cumberland Gap is a pass through the mountains which offered a much more attainable route to the west.

Rocky Mountains – The Rocky Mountain chain begins in New Mexico and extends north through western Canada into Alaska. This massive mountain chain divides the continents watersheds and is a clearly divides most of western North America from the eastern two-thirds.

Canadian Shield – Much of the eastern half of Canada is part of the Canadian Shield. This area is characterized by the large amounts of igneous and metamorphic rock throughout the landscape.

North American Climate – The climate of North America is as diverse as its physical features. Combining the physical features and climate of an area, it's much easier to explain settlement patterns. The harsher the natural environment, both climate and physical landscape, the more difficult it is to thrive or even survive.



SciJinks-NASA-NOAA: <http://scijinks.jpl.nasa.gov/weather-v-climate/>

SSWG1. Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns.

b. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Central and South America. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to the Andes Mountains, Amazon Basin, Atacama Desert, and the Pampas.

Note: students should use the information about the locations below to explain how the climate, location, and physical features impact settlement.

Andes Mountains – The Andes stretch the entire length of South America from the Southern tip of Chile to Colombia in the north. The highest peak, Aconcagua, reaches almost 23,000 feet. This range isolates the west coast of South America from the rest of the continent.



B. Trivette: Driving east from the Pacific Coast of Chile towards the Andes.

Amazon Basin – The Amazon basin is almost 2.7 million square miles which is just under the size of the entire contiguous 48 states in the United States. It includes all the rivers, streams, and creeks that eventually flow into the Amazon River. It is located in Brazil and in parts of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia. The amount of biodiversity this basin accounts for is almost unimaginable. Historically settlement was reserved to small populated communities who lived off the forest and rivers. With the advent of chainsaws and bulldozers, much of the Amazon Basin has been impacted by modern human development.

Atacama Desert – The Atacama is the driest desert that is not polar on earth. Rain may not fall for years. It is a plateau that sits to the west of the Andes and east of the Pacific. It is located primarily in Chile but also is inside parts of Bolivia, Peru, and Argentina.

Pampas – The Pampas is primarily located in Argentina but is partly located in Uruguay and Brazil. It is a vast plain dominated by grasslands. This region is vast covering close to 300,000 square miles. It is separated into a more arid region to the west and humid region with more precipitation in the east.

SSWG1. Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns.

c. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Europe. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to the Alps, Pyrenees, and Ural Mountains, and the Rhine, Danube, and Seine Rivers.

Note: students should use the information about the locations below to explain how the climate, location, and physical features impact settlement.

Alps – The Alps mountain range runs from Monaco in the west to Slovenia in the east. It can be found in parts of France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Austria. Mont Blanc on the border between Italy and France is the tallest peak in the mountain range at just under 16,000 feet.

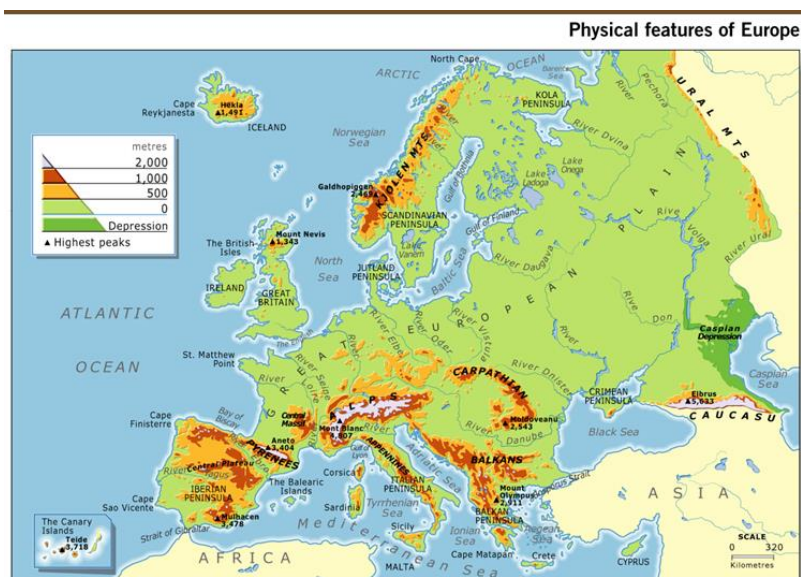
Pyrenees – The Pyrenees range forms a natural border between France and Spain. The micro-state of Andorra sits within the Pyrenees between France and Spain. At just over 11,000 feet the mountain called Aneto is the tallest in the chain.

Ural – The Ural mountain range runs north and south from northern Kazakhstan, through the heart of Russia, to the Arctic Ocean. The Urals effectively divide Europe from Asia.

Rhine – The Rhine River's source is in the Alps in Switzerland. The river runs north becoming the border between Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Germany, southwestern Germany and France, before being exclusively in Germany. The river becomes a delta within the Netherlands and finally dumps into the North Sea.

Danube – The Danube River has its origin in southern Germany. It flows primarily east through southern Germany, Austria, becomes the border between Slovakia and Hungary, through Hungary, becomes the border of Croatia and Serbia, through Serbia, becomes the border between Bulgaria and Romania, forms the border between Ukraine and Romania, before ending in the Black Sea.

Seine – the River Seine begins just east of Paris, France from the confluence of two other rivers. The Seine meanders northwestward through northern France before ending in the English Channel.



Sheftel Social Studies: <http://sheftel.weebly.com/unit-1---geography-of-europe.html>

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d. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Africa. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to the Nile River Valley, the Sahara, the Kalahari Desert, the Sahel, and the Congo River Basin.

Note: students should use the information about the locations below to explain how the climate, location, and physical features impact settlement.

Nile River Valley – The Nile River begins at the confluence of the White and Blue Nile Rivers. The River runs north for over 4,000 miles through Sudan and Egypt. It creates the Nile River Delta in northern Egypt. The water from the Nile eventually ends up in the Mediterranean Sea. This abundance of fresh water flowing through the Saharan Desert makes abundant life possible.



USGS Water Science School: <http://water.usgs.gov/edu/gallery/freshwater-nile.html>

Sahara Desert – The Sahara Desert dominates Northern Africa taking up an area of over 3.6 million square miles. This desert is similar in size to all of China. It is located in the following countries: Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Chad, Tunisia, Niger, Mali, Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, and Western Sahara. It is dominated by vast areas of dunes. The sand from the Sahara can sometimes end up in North and South America if weather patterns allow.

Kalahari Desert – This desert is located in Botswana, South Africa, and Namibia. The Kalahari is different than the Sahara because it is not as dry and supports a savannah ecosystem.

Congo River Basin – The Congo Basin is second in size, only behind the Amazon Basin. The Congo drains from the East African Rift to the Atlantic Ocean. The following link shows you a great map of the size and drainage area of the Congo River Basin: <http://arcg.is/2ckYIEQ> The Congo Basin includes all or parts of ten countries in Sub-Saharan Africa including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo, Cameroon, Tanzania, and Zambia. The Congo River itself is second to the Nile in length of all African rivers.

SSWG1. Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns.

e. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Central and Southwest Asia. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to the Zagros Mountains, Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.

Note: students should use the information about the locations below to explain how the climate, location, and physical features impact settlement.

Zagros Mountains – The Zagros Mountains run through Iran, Iraq, and Turkey. This is the largest mountain range in the region at just under 1000 miles long. The highest peaks are over 14,000 feet high.

Tigris and Euphrates Rivers – Known historically as the Fertile Crescent, these two waterways begin in Turkey and go through Syria and Iraq. They combine in southeastern Iraq to create the Shatt al-Arab before flowing into the Persian Gulf.

Persian Gulf – The Persian Gulf is connected to the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea by the Strait of Hormuz. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates all have shores on the Gulf. It is over 96,000 square miles, is 615 miles long, and is between 35 and 200 miles wide.

Caspian Sea – Classified as the largest lake in the world, it is inside a basin without any outlet. The Caspian Sea sits between Europe and Asia and is bordered by Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan.

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f. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of South Asia, Southeastern Asia, and Eastern Asia. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to the Himalayan Mountains and Tibetan Plateau, Gobi Desert, Ganges, Indus, Huang He, and Yangtze Rivers.

Note: students should use the information about the locations below to explain how the climate, location, and physical features impact settlement.

Himalayan Mountains and Tibetan Plateau – Containing the highest and most impenetrable mountains in the world, the Himalayas provide a border between the Indian sub-continent and Asia Proper. The Himalayas contain dozens of peaks over 20,000 feet with Mount Everest, at just over 29,000 feet, being the tallest mountain on earth. The Tibetan Plateau sits north of the Himalayas and extends well into western China. The plateau has numerous glaciers and is a reliable source of water in the region.

Gobi Desert – Located in the north of China and southern Mongolia, the Gobi is a high elevation desert with an area of around 500,000 square miles.

Ganges River – The Ganges begins in the Himalayas and flows southeast through northeast India before crossing into Bangladesh where it becomes a delta as it empties into the Bay of Bengal. The Ganges has a length of just over 1,500 miles.

Indus River – The Indus River has a length of around 2,000 miles. It begins in the Tibetan Plateau in China and flows west into northern India before turning south-southwest into Pakistan. The Indus flows the length of Pakistan before draining into the Arabian Sea.

Huang He River – Also known as the Yellow River, it begins in the Bayan Har Mountains in central China and flows primarily east into the Yellow Sea of China's east coast.

Yangtze River – The Yangtze begins in the Kunlun Mountains, southwest of the Huang He’s source, and flows almost 4,000 miles east into the East China Sea. It is the third longest river in the world behind the Amazon and the Nile.

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g. Identify and describe climates and locations of major physical features of Oceania, including Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica. Explain how these physical characteristics impact settlement patterns including, but not limited to the Great Dividing Range and Great Victoria Desert.

Note: students should use the information about the locations below to explain how the climate, location, and physical features impact settlement.

Great Dividing Range – Spanning for over 2,000 miles, the Great Dividing Range extends along the whole east coast of Australia. It happened to be the third longest mountain range in the world. Its peaks are not as striking as other world mountain ranges, with maximum heights to just over 7,000 feet. This mountain range effectively separates the populated east coast of Australia from the Outback, which covers the vast majority of the country.

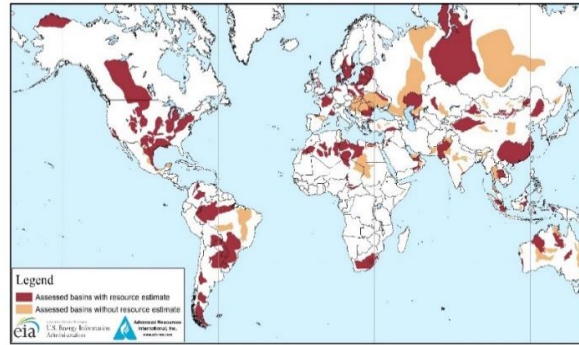
Great Victorian Desert – At about 135,000 square miles in size, the Great Victorian Desert is the largest in Australia. It is a barren area taking up much of south central and southwest Australia. The area is very sparsely populated.

Great Barrier Reef – This is the largest reef in the world at over 130,000 square miles in size. It spans 1,400 miles from north to south off Australia’s east coast. The diversity and abundance is much like the rainforests of the Congo River Basin and Amazon Basin except under the ocean.

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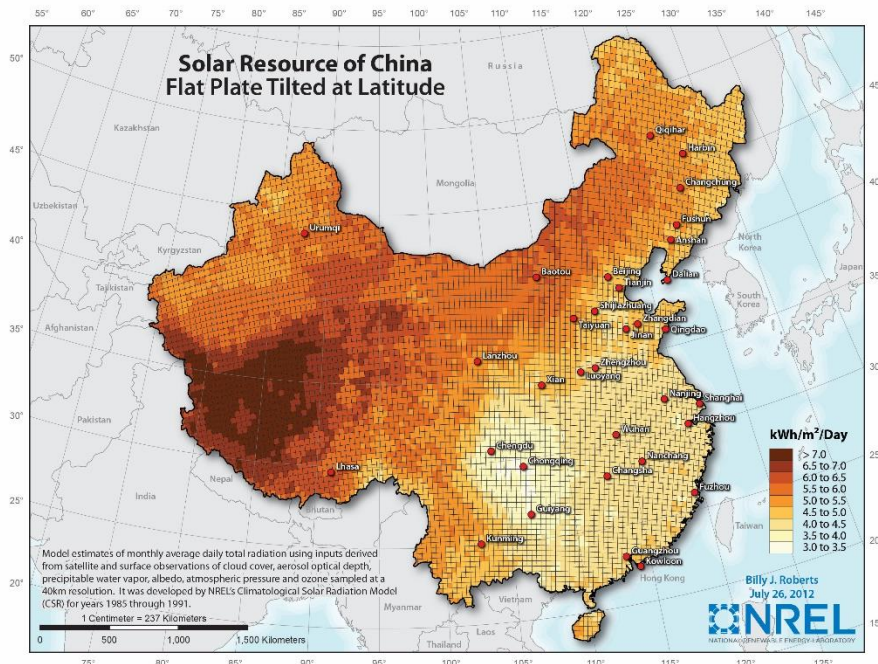
h. Describe the spatial distribution of natural resources, including, but not limited to fuel and energy, agricultural, and mineral sources. Predict how distribution of natural resources continues to impact global settlement patterns.

The spatial distribution of natural resources is a massive driver in settlement patterns. The world’s spatial distribution of natural resources are very specific to region. See the map below for an example.



U.S. Energy Information Administration: <https://www.eia.gov/analysis/studies/worldshalegas/>

The distribution, abundance, and accessibility of natural resources and the impact that has on the world may be the major issue in the future as population is expected to possibly double in the next 50 years. As more countries develop, they will have a greater need and want for energy, which will drain non-renewable fossil fuels and add exponentially to carbon emissions. With changing climates, areas long suitable for one crop may no longer be. Mineral deposits could become more and more scarce the more the people of the world demand. If energy resources, mineral deposits, and agriculture output all are stressed and become scarce, the remaining wilderness left on the earth will be threatened by natural resource exploration. Global settlement will be determined by how natural resources are managed. The key will be renewable energy and water conservation. The following map is from the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) showing the solar potential for China.



NREL Solar Potential: http://www.nrel.gov/gis/images/international_solar/china_solar_pv-01.jpg

Cultural Geography

SSWG2 Evaluate how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

The cultural geography standard examines and looks for an understanding as to why cultures developed the way they did. One can have a much broader understanding of the world with an understanding of cultural geography. This standard includes religion, language, ethnicity, race, and gender among other topics. Comparing, contrasting, and analyzing different cultures helps students understand people and places foreign to them.

Resources:

BBC – Religions of the World: This site gives a good overview of numerous religions found all over the world. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/>

Harvard – Ethnicities of the World Map: This particular interactive map has incredible amounts of information. The mother site contains other great resources for all standards in world geography. <http://worldmap.harvard.edu/maps/1894>

CIA World Fact book – Ethnicities by country: This part of the CIA World Fact book is a great source when examining groups within particular countries. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2075.html>

SSWG2 Evaluate how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

a. Examine how ethnic compositions of various groups has led to diversified cultural landscapes, including, but not limited to architecture, traditions, food, art, and music.

Ethnicity and Cultural Landscape - The term ethnicity is subjective and is based on each individual group. Ethnicity is **not** the same as race. It has nothing to do with physical characteristics. Ethnicity is based on cultural traits and customs such as language, religion, dress, etc. The term cultural Landscape refers to how humans have physically impacted the natural layout of the land by their actions. This includes buildings, road structures, agriculture, energy production, etc.

Architecture and Cities - Ethnic groups have increasingly commingled, especially in the past few centuries with the advent of more and efficient means of transportation and more recently with communication technology. The cultural landscape around the world shows distinct signs of this especially through the exploration of cities. Visiting and experiencing any cosmopolitan city in the world today allows one to see just how much influence different ethnicities have had. The use of Google Maps is a great tool to visually show the students the cultural landscapes. The best example city in the United States to discuss is New York City. It is home to approximately 8.5 million people just within the city limits comprising dozens of ethnicities. Each ethnicity has a unique cultural flavor which can be seen through architecture such as houses of worship. Within just a few blocks one can come across a Catholic cathedral, a mosque, and a Hindu temple. Other great examples of diverse religious architecture can be found in Seville, Spain and Istanbul, Turkey. Both of these are examples of how the

battle of cultures and conquest led to the present architectural hearts of the cities. In both places one can find both Christian and Muslim architectural traits within the same area and even inside the same structure. For a great spatial map of ethnic diversity in NYC see: [New York Times; “Then as Now — New York’s Shifting Ethnic Mosaic” by Ford Fessenden and Sam Roberts](#)

Traditions, Art, Music and Food - Within diverse cultural landscapes different cultural traits and customs will be apparent. One ethnicity’s customs such as religious occasions, holidays, festivals, and celebrations will occur simultaneously with others. These will include traits such as music, dance, and food for the occasions. By referencing the above map, one can draw inferences as to how and when these interactions may occur. Food is one example where cultural diffusion has had an extraordinary impact. Today, our globalized world allows us to eat foods from all over the world at any time we choose. It may not be completely authentic, but it is within the realm of the cultural norm. Works of art from cultures around the world can be found in museums in most large cities around the world. There are permanent collections and art sharing programs which are another means of sharing diverse cultures. Within our diverse cultural landscape, globalization has led to the rapid diffusion of Western pop music all over the world. Walking through a department store or riding in a cab in Europe or Asia, it is not uncommon to hear American top fifty music. Styles of music such as rap, have also spread and become part of pop culture even in very conservative places such as Iran.

SSWG2 Evaluate how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

b. Examine how language can be central to identity and a unifying or a divisive force (e.g., Bantu, French Canadians (Quebecois), and Basques)

One of the most unifying characteristics of a particular culture is language. Being able to verbally communicate is vital for human societies. Language can also be a point of contention if members of a society will not assimilate and adopt the language of the majority. Bantu is a family of languages spoken primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa. Although there is no certain exact number of Bantu languages, estimates put the number into the hundreds. Millions of people in Africa speak Bantu languages. The most common is Swahili. Swahili is spoken as a second language in many areas of East Africa which allows many from different ethnicities with different primary languages to communicate easily.

French-Canadians have used their version of French as a rallying cry for independence or at least semi-autonomy of the province of Quebec. A law passed in the 1970’s proclaimed French the official language of Quebec. The law allows and promotes French to be the language for everything official in Quebec. The easiest way to observe this is by driving in Quebec. The street and highway signs along with menus are primarily in French with English secondary.



Kids Britannica: <http://kids.britannica.com/elementary/art-87948/Street-signs-in-Quebec-are-in-French-and-English> Zomato: <https://www.zomato.com/gatineau-region/mcdonalds-7-gatineau/menu>

Quebec held a referendum on independence from Canada in 1995. It was defeated by one percent after the votes were counted. The culture of Quebec is inherently different than its neighboring provinces due to its language.

The Basque region with speakers of the language is located in northern Spain and extreme southwest France on the Bay of Biscay. This region contains one of the most unique languages in the world. The Basque language is not related to any other languages anywhere on earth. This alone has led the people who speak it to feel culturally unique and united. There is a movement, as there has long been, for independence from Spain. This has led to conflict with the federal government in Madrid, who against any secession ideas.

Another region in Spain with a similar issue as the Basques is Catalonia. It is located in the Northeast of Spain with its capital in Barcelona. The residents here generally speak Catalan before they speak Spanish. There is a fierce spirit of independence in Catalonia and a very large movement for a referendum to leave Spain and become independent. The language unifies the people of Catalonia, but so does their wealth. It is the richest region in Spain and many there don't want to pay the bills for the rest of the country. The image below shows an example of a pro-independence Catalan street protest in Barcelona from 2012.

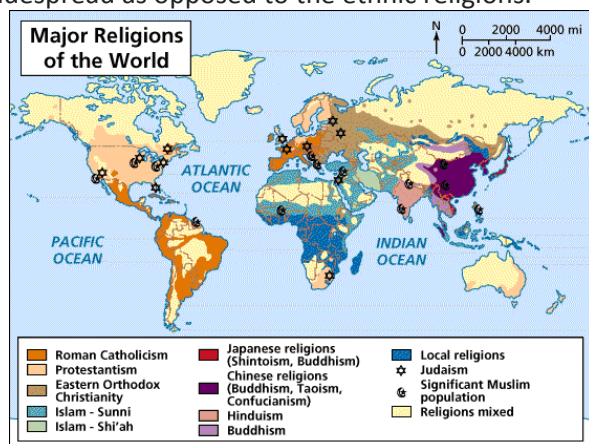


The Sunday Times: http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/world_news/Europe/article1131842.ece

SSWG2 Evaluate how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

c. Examine the effects of universalizing and ethnic religions on local populations, including, but not limited to Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism.

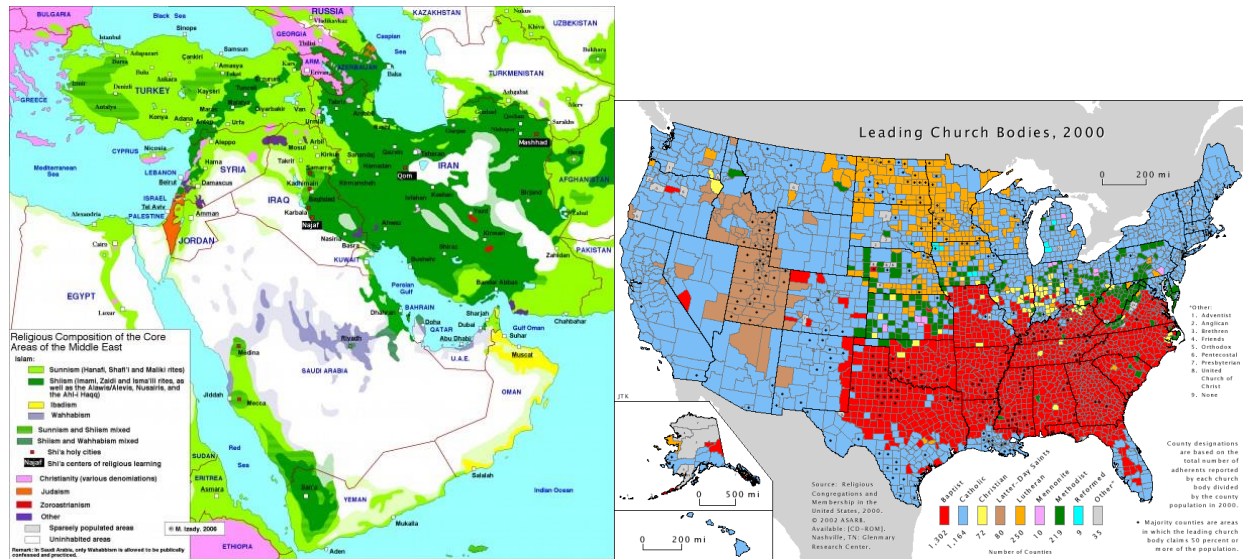
Universalizing religions are religions always seeking new converts and make up the largest religions in the world. These include Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism. Ethnic religions do not seek out more followers, but are generally more locally contained to a common group of people. Followers are born into the faith. Judaism and Hinduism are examples of ethnic religions. Ethnic religions are generally older religions than universalizing. By looking at the map below, it is easy to see how the universalizing religions are much more widespread as opposed to the ethnic religions.



University of Nebraska- Omaha: <http://maps.unomaha.edu/Peterson/geog1000/MapLinks/ReligionMaps.html>

Examining religions at a more local level allows one to have a much better understanding of how religions can lead to unification and conflict. When looking at religion make-up map of the Middle East, the constant conflict seen there makes more sense. The different religions and even different denominations within a single religion have their own cultural norms and expectations of their followers.

Looking at the religious make-up map of the United States one can draw conclusions about what places might be like based on religious expectations. Throughout the American South, especially the Southeast, Southern Baptist is the dominant denomination. The cultural norms produced by the Southern Baptist Church adds to the overall culture of the region. Even though Lutherans in the Upper Midwest and Southern Baptists in the Southeast fall under the umbrella of Protestant Christians, the cultural norms pushed by the church within each region are different. One major cultural issue where there is a divide is homosexual ministers and same-sex unions. The Lutheran Church is much more accepting of these positions than the other more conservative churches.



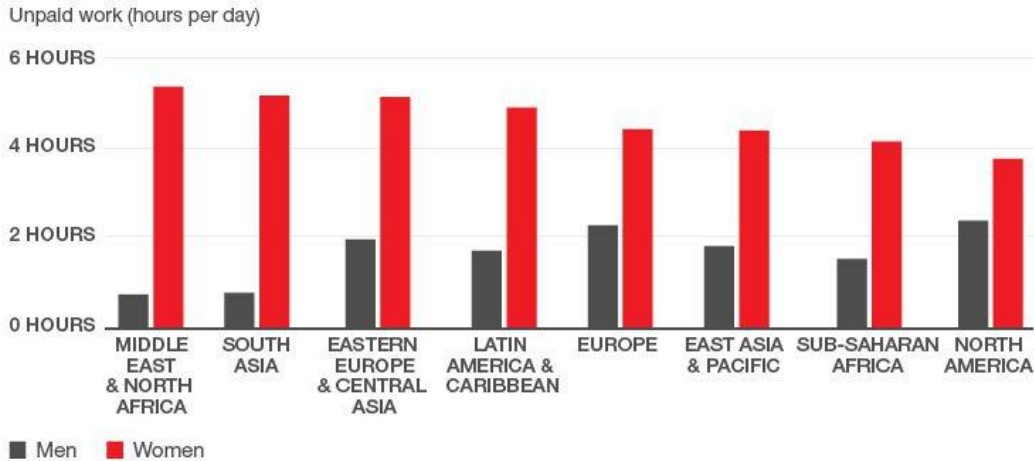
Ethnic religions unify people in smaller areas than a universalizing religion. Judaism in Israel is a great example of this. That ethnic religion is what holds that country together in a region where they are by far the minority and live with the constant threat of war based on an ethnic religion.

SSWG2 Evaluate how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

d. Examine the impact of cultural beliefs on gender roles and perceptions of race and ethnicity as they vary from one region to another (e.g., the caste system, apartheid, and legal rights for women).

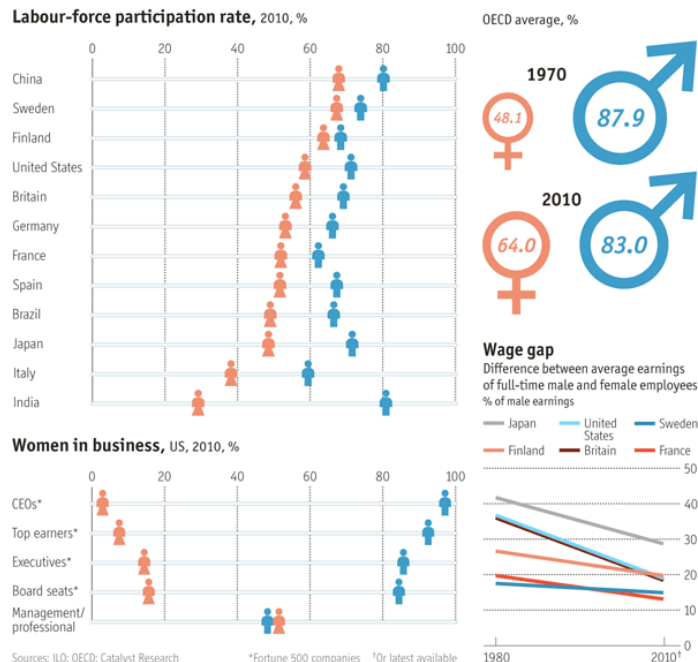
Cultural belief structures are the drivers behind assigning and continuing to perpetuate gender roles. In the developed world, such as Western Europe and the United States to an extent, women continue to make progress in education and overall contributions to the paid workforce. In other places such as the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa, women have made few strides. Women still lag behind men in pay and percent of the workforce in most regions around the world. Women also participate in much more unpaid work than men. This includes child care, housework, cooking, etc. The graph below is a great example of how different regions perceive the role of men and women based on unpaid work. It does not matter where in the world one is, women are still underpaid and underemployed and this goes back to cultural beliefs about gender roles. In regions where women are more empowered, the economies are stronger and the regions are overall more stable.

IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD, WOMEN SPEND MORE TIME ON UNPAID WORK THAN MEN DO



Source: OECD (2014), Gender, Institutions and Development Database

Fortune: “Women Do Twice As Much Unpaid Work As Men—Here's Why That's Not Okay” - <http://fortune.com/2016/02/23/melinda-gates-women-unpaid-work/>



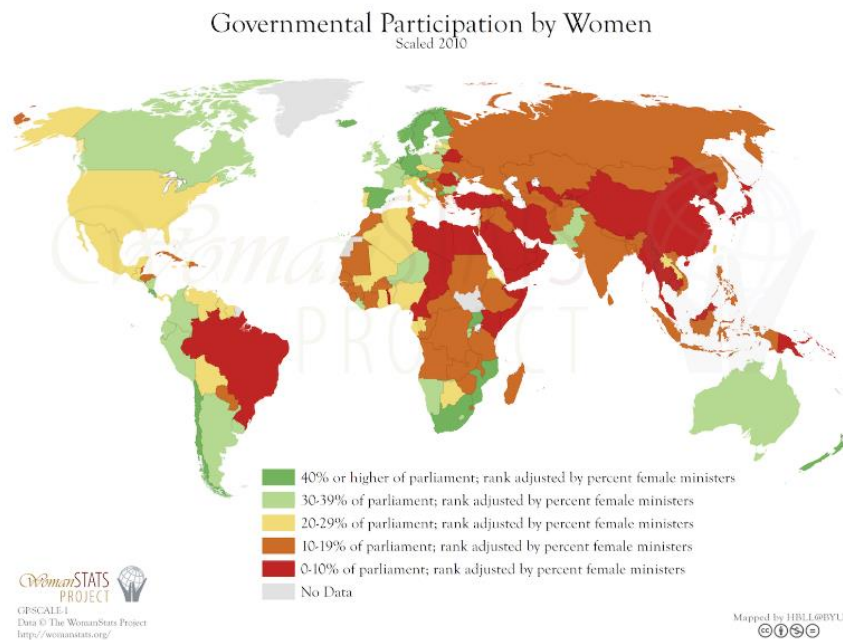
The Economist: “Still Struggling” - 11/25/11: <http://www.economist.com/blogs/dailychart/2011/11/working-women>

Caste System – This system of human hierarchy is primarily found in India and based on the Hindu religion. This system is justified by Hindu law and has been used for thousands of years. There are four levels or castes of people: The Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, and the lowest being the Shudra. The

lowest of the low on the caste system are known as the untouchables. Officially the caste system is illegal, but it is still widely used to determine social status.

Apartheid – This system of racial segregation was enforced by law in South Africa for just under 50 years, ending in 1994. The all white National Party won power and retained it during the extent of apartheid. This occurred in a country that has an overwhelmingly Black African population, with just over 8% being white. Apartheid banned black and white marriages, all people were officially classified by race, and the vast majority of land was reserved for whites. Non-white people were not allowed to live in the white sections of the country. These areas turned into slums with an awful standard of living. Also, public facilities were segregated and non-whites had to keep official documents for inspection in order to enter white areas.

Legal Rights for Women –The vast majority of regions of the world have seen women make gains when it comes to increasing rights. In the Middle East, where women’s rights are still dismal, the women of Saudi Arabia were given the right to vote in 2015. This is a country where women aren’t even allowed to drive cars. In the United States women have had the right to vote for less than 100 years. In northern India, even though the practice has been outlawed, young girls are often married off by their fathers as part of agreements and custom. For years, the one-child policy in China restricted women’s reproductive rights. A few other examples of limits to women’s rights include only counting as half a witness in Yemen, not allowed to own land in Lesotho, and not permitted to wear pants in Swaziland. The world is still overall dominated by men and policies made by men. In places where women have been empowered and been given a voice, governments and economies respond in a positive manner.



Government Participation by Women by the Women’s Stat Project: <http://www.womanstats.org/newmapspage.html>

SSWG2 Evaluate how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

e. Explain the processes of culture diffusion and convergence through the effects of various media norms, transnational corporations, and technological advancements in transportation infrastructure (e.g., Coca-Cola and American fast food Restaurants, Social Media networks, and universalized clothing choices).

Globalization is the word to use when discussing the rapid diffusion of culture around the world. It is much easier for brands, styles, and pop culture in general to be diffused today from its hearth. The access to traditional media like TV exposes the world to Western styles of dress, music, and food. Since the advent of social media, the speed in which culture is diffused has increased remarkably. Being able to pull up anything you want at any time on a phone has been a game changer and added to expanded globalization and cultural diffusion. With around 1.7 billion people on Facebook, 500 million on Instagram, and 313 million on Twitter, which is just a few of the untold thousands of social media platforms, information and cultural traits can be spread extremely easily.

Gains in transportation have also allowed a much greater ability for people to travel and be exposed to different ideas and products which they may bring home. Transnational companies see money to be made so they expand and adapt to different cultures and regions of the world. Fast food restaurants are a great example of this. These restaurants began in the United States and have since expanded worldwide. KFC is the largest restaurant chain in China. There are around 20,000 KFC locations there. The success had to do with novelty at first, but eventually KFC along with other fast food companies adapted their menus to the tastes of the locals. McDonald's is another example. The company is attempting to obtain a strong foothold in India. Since McDonald's is at heart a burger restaurant, it appears it would not succeed in India, since the majority of Indians are Hindu and don't eat beef. They've adapted their menu to fit the culture and tastes.



"Crafted specially for India, McAlloo Tikki continues to woo Indian hearts. A combination of a potato and peas patty with special Indian spices coated with breadcrumbs, served with sweet tomato mayo, fresh onions, tomatoes in a regular bun."

McDonald's India Site: <http://www.mcdonaldsindia.net/burgers/mcaloo-tikki.aspx>

Coca-Cola and Pepsi are also examples of products who through advertising, product placement, and adaptation to local culture have become corporate giants around the world. Traveling the world, it is easy to be witness to the increasing globalization and cultural diffusion of food, products, ideas, technology, clothing, etc.

Political Geography

SSWG3. Evaluate how cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of the earth's surface.

In order to understand why the world looks the way it does on a map, students must grasp the concept of political geography. States have been created and destroyed constantly throughout history, which has led to a constantly changing map. Examining why states are created and how boundaries are drawn is a major part of this standard. Political geography goes hand in hand with physical and cultural geography. In order to really understand the political map, one must have a grasp on the physical and cultural world.

Resources:

Time Maps: This site gives great visual and interactive timelines overlaid on a map. It's a really excellent way to see how the world has changed politically over time. <http://www.timemaps.com/history>

CIA World Fact book: This site is packed with great amounts of information about all countries of the world. It is a go to site for any research done on a particular country.
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

National Geographic Map Maker: This interactive sites lets individuals make and edit their own maps.
<http://mapmaker.nationalgeographic.org/>

US Census Bureau Maps: This site is excellent for being able to interactively look at demographics within the U.S. <http://www.census.gov/geography/interactive-maps.html>

SSWG3. Evaluate how cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of the earth's surface.

a. Explain why political boundaries are created and why they change (e.g., nation, state vs. nation-state; political vs. ethnic sovereignty; the unrecognized states of Palestine, Kosovo, and Taiwan).

The terms state, nation, and country are commonly used to describe the same thing. The following are the geographical meanings of each term.

Nation – a group with a shared culture inside a land area (EX. Cherokee Nation)

State – sovereign territory with distinct borders (EX. Canada)

Nation-state – land where a nation and state are within the same sovereign territory (EX. Japan is the best example in today's world)

Political sovereignty – absolute control of a state by a government

Ethnic Sovereignty – control for an ethnic group inside of a functioning political sovereign state

The modern beginnings of political borders came from the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. This treaty recognized the idea of the sovereign state. Political boundaries many times contain a single form of government, a common language, common religion, ethnicity, and common overall culture. This is not always the case though. Much depends on who draws the boundary lines. One striking example of the failure to draw effective political boundaries is how the Middle East is organized today. It was carved up by the French and British after World War I without much thought about religion, ethnicity, culture, etc. Many of the current issues in the Middle East, such as the pro-independence movement of the Kurds and the Shia versus Sunni sectarian violence in Iraq and Syria.

Boundaries are many times established based on physical features such as coast lines, rivers, or mountain ranges. These are logical barriers which make common sense. Political boundaries do change for a variety of reasons. Civil conflict can create many states within a former one, such as in the former Yugoslavia. War against a foreign adversary can cause a state to gain new territory, lose new territory, or even cease to exist any longer.

SSWG3. Evaluate how cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of the earth's surface.

b. Explain how geography (size, shape, and relative location) can be an advantage or disadvantage to participation in global exchange (e.g., Chile, Indonesia, Russia, Canada, South Africa/Lesotho, Turkey, and Switzerland).

The overall success or lack thereof for a country can be partly determined by its geography. The larger the country the more access to ports, natural resources, larger and diverse population base, more regional influence, etc. They may be less dependent on other countries. A larger country also has to defend much longer borders against enemies. There are greater chances of civil unrest. Also, maintaining infrastructure in large country is costly. Smaller countries have a less of a chance of having good ports, they may even be landlocked. They are going to be limited in natural resources and usually have a smaller, less diverse population. Small countries are usually more dependent on their neighbors. On the other hand, they have smaller borders to defend, less infrastructure to maintain, and may be able to specialize in a few things to drive the economy.

The United States, Russia, and China have all benefitted and had challenges due to being large states. They all have great regional and world influence, militarily, politically, and economically. They have also been involved in costly conflicts due to this power. Small countries such as Swaziland are impacted due to their lack of size and are dependent on surrounding states. Switzerland, being a small neutral country, has specialized in banking and tourism. The average pay per year for a citizen in Switzerland is almost \$60,000 compared to the world average at around \$10,000.

The shape of a country can also have an impact of success. Chile, the longest country in the world, is known as an elongated state. Chile is 2,600 miles long but just over 100 miles wide. This odd shape has pro's and con's. Chile has incredible access to ports and riches of the Pacific Ocean, with coastline along the entire western part of the country. The distance from Santiago to areas in the north or south is a challenge for the country. A more compact state with the same square miles presents much better accessibility to all parts of the country.

Lesotho, being an enclave within South Africa, is presented with many challenges. It is totally reliant on South Africa and only South Africa to get its exports out and its imports in. Lesotho has no other options than to rely on the country they are surrounded by. Indonesia, being an archipelago with around 18,000 islands and over 300 ethnic groups, also has challenges. Keeping a country so vast, separated, spread out, and diverse unified is no easy task.



Ethnic Groups in Indonesia from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_groups_in_Indonesia

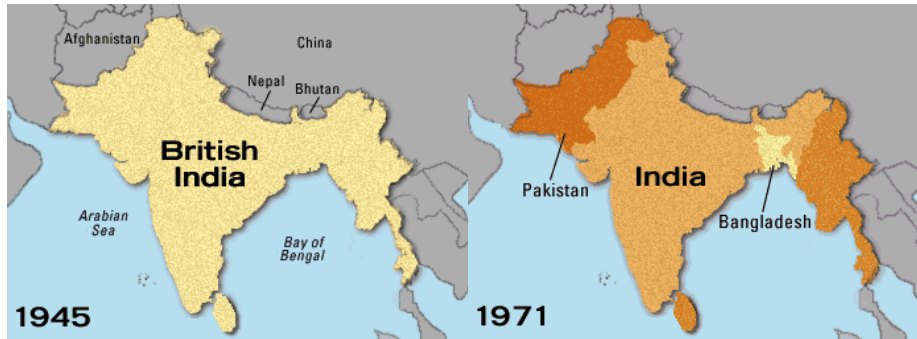
Turkey is in possibly the most unique position, with regards to relative location, in the world. It sits inside two continents with the only route in and out of the trade rich Black Sea, the Bosphorus Strait, dividing the Europe and Asia. The country sits at the crossroads of the Middle East and Europe, Christianity and Islam, and trade routes between the East and West. Turkey has had an amazing history of being the place where cultures have collided time and time again. It is continuing to be on the cusp of major world events with the current turmoil in the Middle East. Syria and Iraq both border Turkey to its south, which is the main reason Turkey is dealing with such a refugee crisis. With its geographic position, the people and government of Turkey, if they want to or not, has a lot of responsibility in attempting to keep as much stability in the region as possible. They are in a difficult, yet culturally rich position.

SSWG3. Evaluate how cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of the earth's surface.

c. Explain the causes of external and internal conflicts among cultural groups, including but not limited to ongoing border disputes and separatist movements (e.g., partition of India, post-colonial Africa, and independence movements of the Scots, Kurds, and Basques).

Ethnic and religious rivalries and disputes are a leading cause for both internal and external conflicts among cultural groups. Historical disputes many times reemerge during turbulent times or when one group feels disenfranchised. One example is the partition of India after World War II in 1947. The area that now contains India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh was part of the British Empire before the partition. The British were on their way out as independence was coming for the region. The idea was to create a primarily Muslim state of Pakistan and a mostly Hindu state of India. As the Muslims moved east from

India to Pakistani territory and Hindus moved west atrocities occurred. Genocide was committed on both sides resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths.

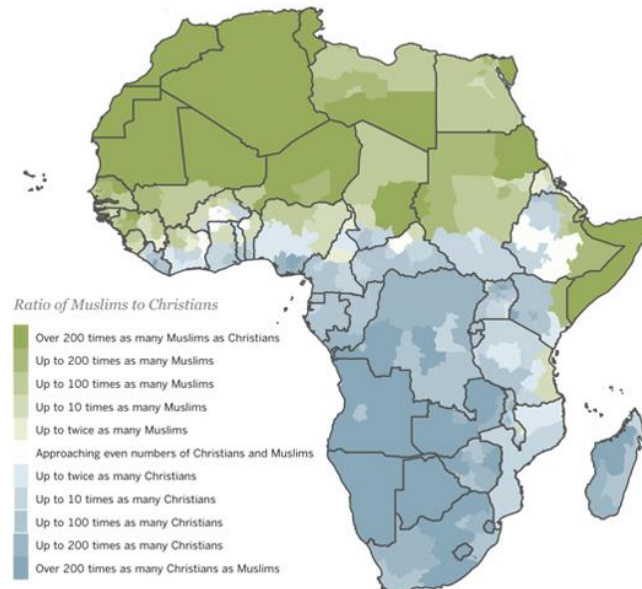


Emory University English Dept: <http://www.eablanchette.com/supportdocs/The%20Partition%20of%20India.htm>

Post-colonial Africa has had continuing conflict since most state gained independence after World War II. One of the major issues besides ethnic and religious differences are the borders which European powers drew during colonialism. Many of these borders do not make logical sense, incorporating rival ethnic groups and religions within the same borders. This leads to power struggles for control of the country and retribution soon follows by the side who feels they have lost power. Examples include the genocide in Rwanda during 1994, the genocide in Darfur, Sudan in the early 2000's, and the current civil conflict between the two main ethnic groups in South Sudan. Northern Africa is dominated by Islam and Sub-Saharan Africa is a mix of Christianity and tribal religions. The border between the two has seen continuous conflict based on religion.

Muslims and Christians in Africa

This map shows the ratio of Muslims to Christians in each country and province. The north is heavily Muslim, and the south is heavily Christian.

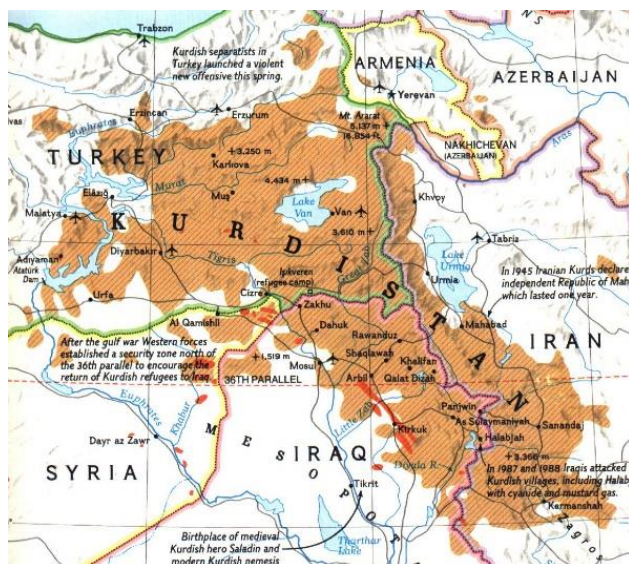


Sources: censuses, demographic and health surveys,
and the World Religion Database
Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, April 2010

Pew Research Center: <http://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/>

Other ongoing cultural conflicts have led some regions within sovereign states to form independence movements. The Scots recently held a referendum asking its citizens if they wanted to remain part of Great Britain. The people of Scotland feel slighted by England and feel they are not represented fairly in the British government. The vote was to remain a part of Britain for the time being, but secession talk may begin again with Britain leaving the European Union. The Basque people of northeastern Spain and southwest France are culturally unique due to their rare language and culture. There has been sporadic armed conflict against the Spanish and French since the 1950's. Because of their cultural resilience and shared past, the approximately 3,000,000 people in the Basque country overwhelmingly want their own sovereign state.

The Kurdish people have been in a difficult position ever since the British and French drew the borders of the Middle East after World War I. The Kurds desperately want their own sovereign state or at least autonomous regions in the countries in which they make up a large part of the population. They have been suppressed by Turkey, Iraq, Syria, and Iran over time. In Iraq the Kurds currently hold an autonomous region with local control. Turkey is not keen on this, as they see the Kurds wanting more territory. Currently the Kurdish militias are key allies and have had very good success in the fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. After the Syrian civil war ends and ISIS is defeated the Kurdish people may be in a position of power in the region. Time will tell if they gain full sovereignty.



Oriental Review: "Strategic scenarios surrounding prolonged Kurdish insurgency in Turkey (I)"

<http://orientalreview.org/2015/08/10/strategic-scenarios-surrounding-prolonged-kurdish-insurgency-in-turkey-i/>

SSWG3. Evaluate how cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of the earth's surface.

d. Explain how political, economic, and social networks and organizations of global power influence places, countries, and regions (e.g., United Nations, NAFTA, African Union, the European Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, 1961 Antarctica Treaty, Non-Governmental Organizations, and social media)

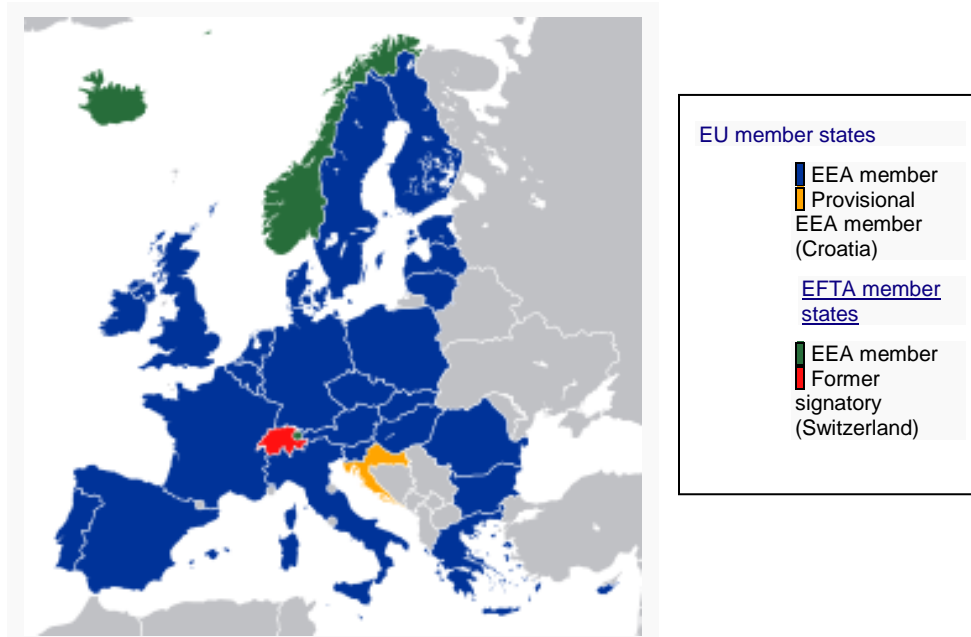
Global and regional groups and organizations play a major role in world affairs with regards to economics, politics, and defense. The following are some great examples.

United Nations – The UN is a group composed of over 190 countries from around the world. The goal of the UN is to provide an apparatus to keep peace and stability around the world. The UN attempts to provide diplomatic solutions to issues. They also provide humanitarian aid to states and people affected by war and natural disasters. The UN currently has peace keeping missions in many places around the world including, the Kashmir region of India and Pakistan, Haiti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, and Kosovo. The following link to the UN website gives updated information and the status of each mission: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/current.shtml>

NAFTA – The North American Free Trade Agreement is an economic treaty between the United States, Mexico, and Canada. It allows products produced in one country to be transported to, through, and sold in any of the treaty states without tariff. This agreement has helped the three member countries have an overall GDP worth approximately \$17 trillion USD per year. The intent of NAFTA continues to be making the region more competitive and diversified in the products and services it produces and sells. The following website has good basic data about NAFTA.
http://www.naftanow.org/facts/default_en.asp

African Union – The African Union is a group of 54 African states with a goal of basically promoting and working towards a better Africa. The AU uses the United Nations goals as an outline. It is involved in defense, peace keeping, education, politics, economic issues, women’s empowerment etc. The AU currently has a military force in Somalia as a peace keeping unit. The problems occurring on the continent of Africa are vast and there are no easy solutions. The African Union provides a great opportunity for the states of Africa to have a dialogue, solve common problems, provide aid for each other, and keep peace.

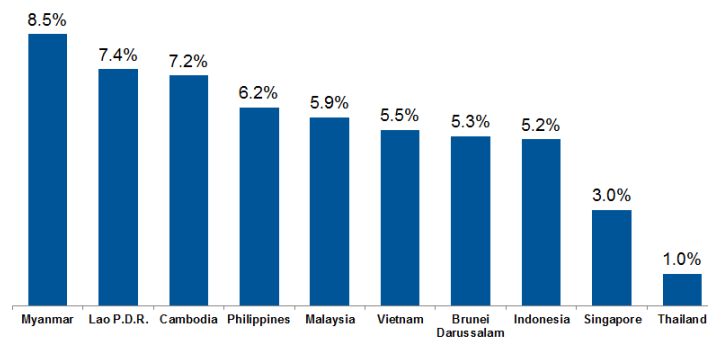
European Union – The European Union is an agreement between 28 European states to have a cohesive political and economic system. The agreement is meant to provide peace in the continent, grow the collective economy, and promote pro-democracy governments. The EU has a common currency, the Euro, open borders, and allows citizens of EU countries to work in other parts of the EU. All of this is intended to make economic growth easier and life simpler for the citizens of the EU. Travel as a tourist is also very convenient within the EU. Once you’re in you do not have to worry about border crossings or showing documents again until you exit the EU. In order to be considered as a member a country must be in good economic standing, have a good human rights record, and be politically stable. The European Union is part of the G-20, which makes it the only group of countries to be a member. It has a GDP of over \$16 trillion USD as of 2016. At this point in history the EU is on shaky ground because of a couple of factors. The flow of refugees from the Middle East, South Asia, and Northern Africa has strained relationships and threatened to close borders between EU member states. Also, Britain held a referendum and chose to leave the EU, which destabilizes the entire makeup of the group. The “Brexit” is still in the early stages as of 2016.



Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Economic_Area#/media/File:European_Economic_Area_members.svg

Association of Southeast Asian Nations – ASEAN is primarily an economic agreement between 10 states in Southeast Asia. Another goal is to promote peace and stability in the region. One major reason for unity between these nations is to compete with China economically in Asia. The combined GDP of ASEAN is over \$7 trillion USD. ASEAN has become very successful and competing and providing economic growth to its member states. There are also trade agreements between ASEAN and other major economies such as the United States, Japan, and South Korea.

**ASEAN Countries
2014 Forecast (Real GDP Growth %)**



Source: World Economic Outlook Database, October 2014. International Monetary Fund.
There is no assurance any forecast will be realized.

Emerging Equity – “ASEAN’s Ambitious Agenda”: <https://emergingequity.org/2014/12/18/aseans-ambitious-agenda/>

1961 Antarctica Treaty – This unique treaty was originally signed by 12 countries who were active in Antarctica. Dozens of others have also joined the agreement. It states that Antarctica can only be used for peaceful activities, it is for scientific exploration, and that all findings are to be made public for the world. There are several countries who claim parts of Antarctica, but all are signers of the treaty.

Non-Governmental Organizations – NGOs generally operate in poor and impoverished countries. They are unique because they are not part of any governmental system. They are completely independent and free to operate as they see fit. The idea is that it allows them to maximize their impact and not be tied to governmental bureaucracy. There are over 10 million NGOs and funding for them is increasing. Billions of dollars are spent each year by NGOs attempting to help individuals and entire countries in need. A few examples of NGOs include Heifer International, Danish Refugee Council, American Red Cross, and Habitat for Humanity. A great overview of the NGO world is on this website.
<https://www.ongood.ngo/portal/>

Population Geography

SSWG4. Assess the characteristics, spatial distribution, and migration of human populations on the earth's surface.

Population geography examines why people live where they do, what factors influence people to move, the difference in how states treat their citizens, population policies, refugee and migrant issues, etc. This standard also examines the use of maps when studying populations. Demographic data is analyzed as well in this standard.

Resources:

Population Reference Bureau world population data sheet: This great resource has extremely detailed demographic information for all countries of the world. http://www.prb.org/pdf15/2015-world-population-data-sheet_eng.pdf

Populationeducation.org is a site that thoroughly explains the demographic transition model in great detail. <https://www.populationeducation.org/content/what-demographic-transition-model>

Governing.com is a site with a wealth of statistical information from public records. It can be used for demographic, economic, migration, etc. analyses. <http://www.governing.com/gov-data>

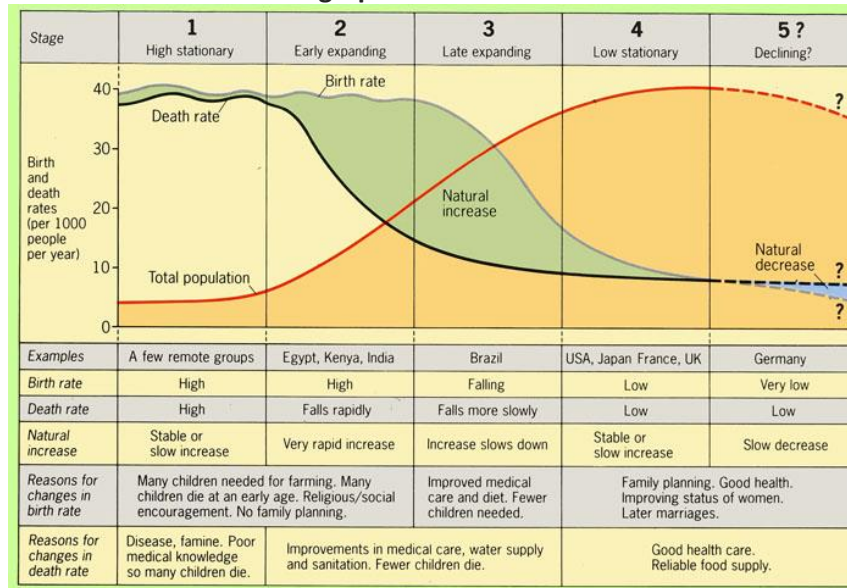
Gapminder is a terrific site with access to videos, interactive maps, and stories of people around the globe. Their "Money Street" feature allows students to get a great feel for how people live all over the world; the poor and rich. <https://www.gapminder.org/>

SSWG4. Assess the characteristics, spatial distribution, and migration of human populations on the earth's surface.

a. Assess demographic patterns of population using graphs, maps, and other models (e.g., Demographic Transition Model, population density maps, and global migration patterns).

A very effective way to have students analyze and assess demographics is by using graphs, maps, and charts. The demographic transition model uses five stages to explain how countries develop over time. In this model, birth rate and death rate are high in stage one. By the time countries get to stage three and four, the birth rate and death rates are dropping creating a more stable population. Most countries have followed and are following path of this model. The chart below gives a great explanation of why countries are in the stage they are and how they got there.

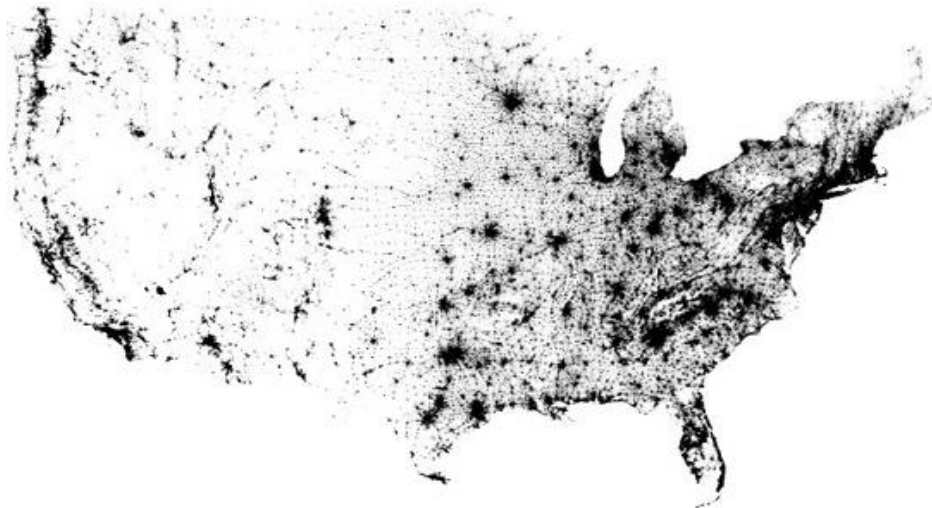
Demographic Transition Model



Geography Department of Lord Wandsworth College: <http://www.geographylwc.org.uk/A/AS/ASpopulation/DTM.htm>

There is an incredible amount of population maps available all over the web. To really grasp population density and what that really mean, maps are a must when teaching population. A few great examples of population density maps are below.

1 Dot Map of the United States: 1 dot =1 person



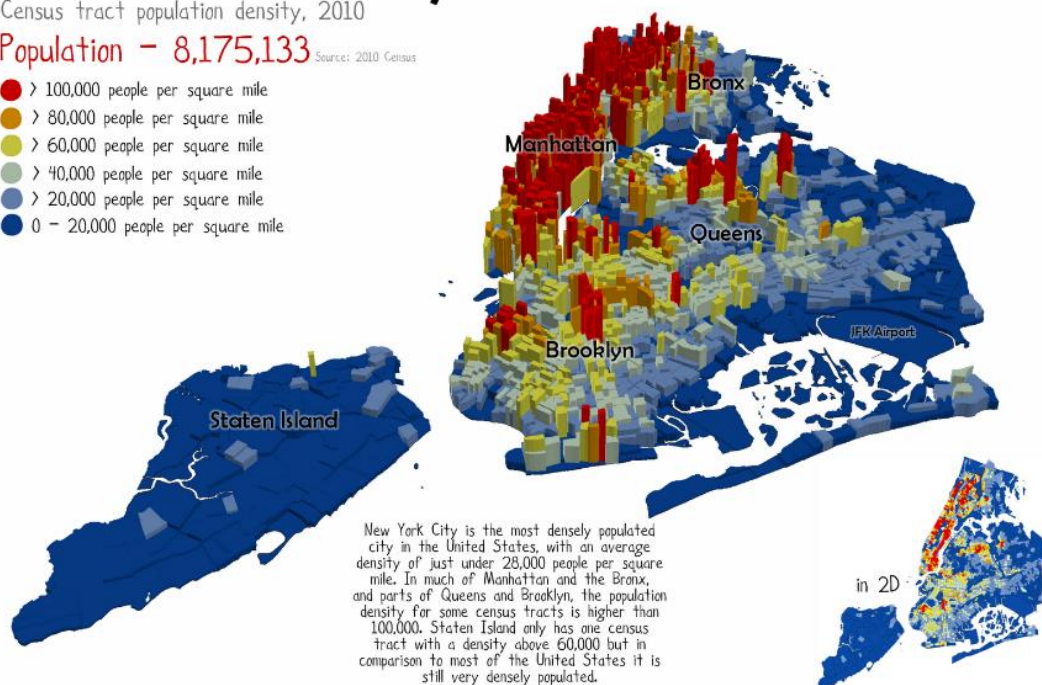
Mapping the Nation: <http://www.mappingthenation.com/blog/the-future-of-thematic-mapping/>

New York City^{in 3D}

Census tract population density, 2010

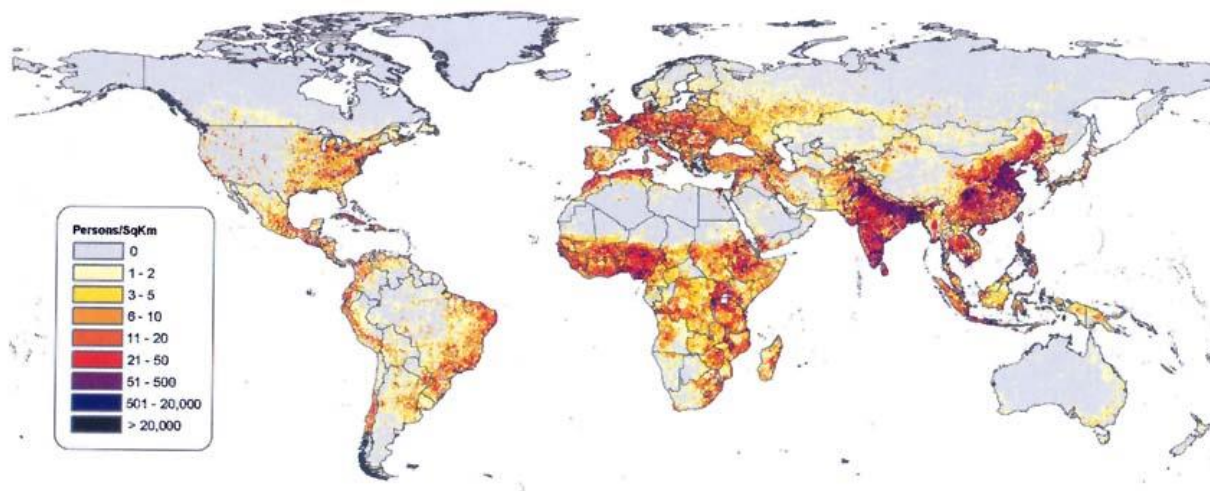
Population - 8,175,133 Source: 2010 Census

- > 100,000 people per square mile
- > 80,000 people per square mile
- > 60,000 people per square mile
- > 40,000 people per square mile
- > 20,000 people per square mile
- 0 - 20,000 people per square mile



Under the Radar: http://www.undertheradar.com/2012_01_01_archive.html

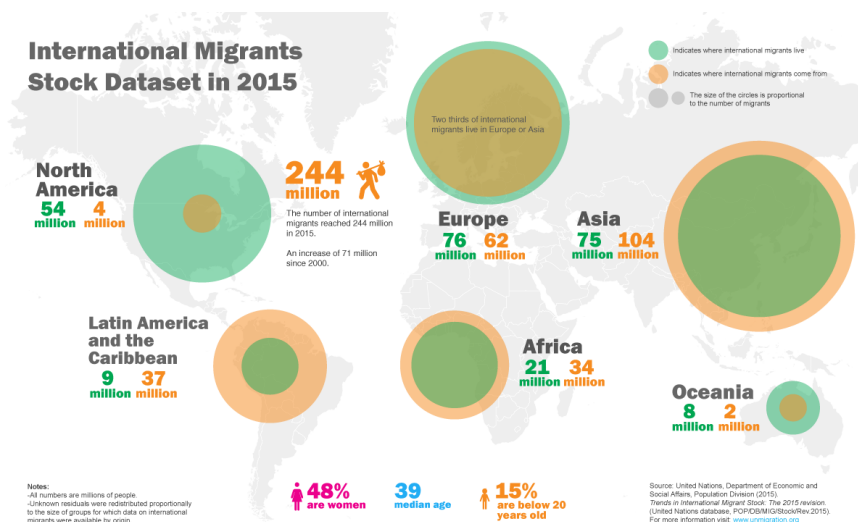
World Population Density



FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0310e/A0310E06.htm>

The following link contains an another effective interactive map dealing with U.S. population density and race: <http://demographics.coopercenter.org/DotMap/>.

Global migration patterns are another topic in geography which are much more understandable when using maps, graphs, and charts. With over 65 million refugees and millions more general migrants seeking better lives, this issue should be front and center of a geography class currently. The following data chart from the UN does a good job of describing current migration patterns by region.



<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/>

The Global Migration Data Analysis Centre puts together extensive and detailed migration fact sheets. The following is the fact sheet from 2015: <http://iomgmdac.org/global-trends-factsheet/>. There are useful maps, graphs, and charts contained within. Also, the European Union's Migration Policy Center, which is at the forefront of the current migrant crisis in Europe, has an excellent interactive timeline of maps showing migration flows and the numbers of migrants into Europe from 1999 to the present. It is contained in this site: <http://www.migrationpolicycentre.eu/migrant-crisis/>.

SSWG4. Assess the characteristics, spatial distribution, and migration of human populations on the earth's surface.

b. Analyze population issues in reference to pro and anti-natal policies of different countries and their effects on population characteristics (e.g., China's natalist policy, maternity/paternity leave policies, and child subsidies).

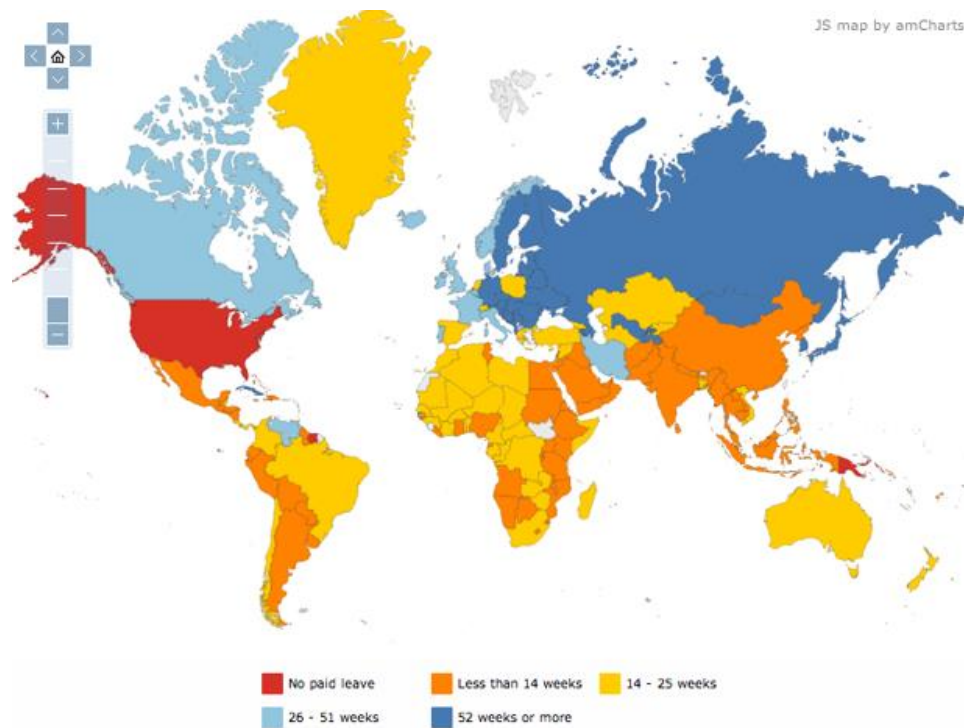
Governments around the world have attempted to impact population growth trends with public policy. Some countries, such as China, have attempted to limit population growth by limiting the number of children a woman is allowed to have. This anti-natal plan was put into law in 1979 and called the One-Child Policy. Recently this policy was abandoned. Prior to the One-Child Policy, China had a pro-natal policy, where having children was encouraged and contraception outlawed. China is a good case study for population policy. When population increases exponentially, resources are strained and the stability of states can be at risk. When the opposite occurs, such as with the One-Child Policy, the consequences can be very negative. Huge numbers of abortions, abandonments, and sterilizations occurred in China during this period. Also, many more females were aborted than males leading to a very unbalanced ratio between the sexes. There are nearly 30 million more men than women in China. That is almost the population of all of Canada.

In some parts of the world today, populations are declining. Many governments there are promising incentives such as tax breaks, gifts, or money for having children. Russia had a “Day of Conception” in 2015, where workers were given time off from work. In Singapore, cruises and resort stays are offered. In Germany and Russia, cash is paid to couples who have children.

The two maps below are great for investigating maternity and paternity leave policies. The first map is very clear the U.S. is last with regards to paid leave compared to the rest of the world. Progressive leave policies for parents has continued to increase worldwide. In some countries, such as Russia, this provides more incentive to have children. As discussed previously, Russia has a pro-natal policy and is trying to stabilize its population decline. Other countries have come to terms with the fact that giving new parents paid time off is beneficial for the country as a whole. This will keep more female workers in the workforce if they are supported after they give birth. Also, by giving men paid time off as well, a supportive family structure can hopefully be built.

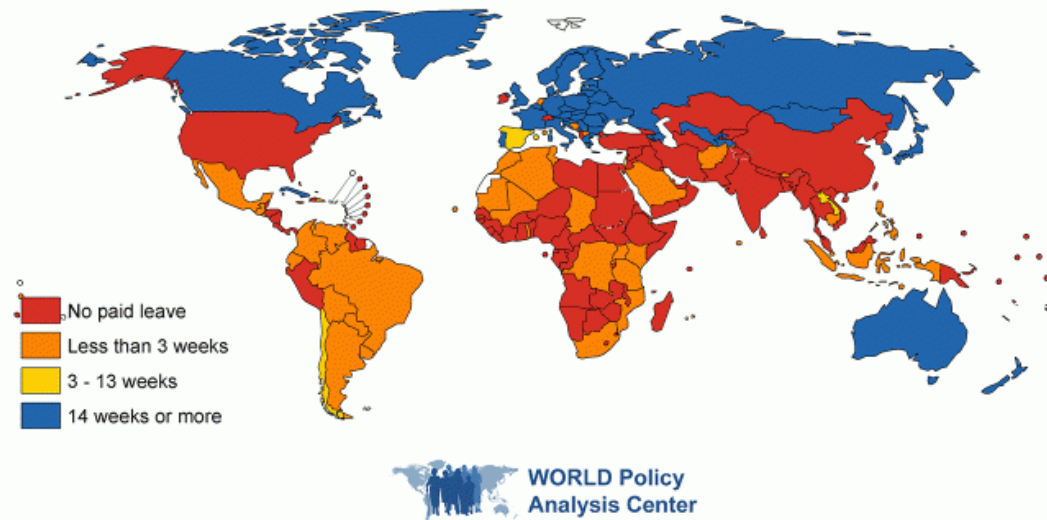
A Map of Maternity Leave Policies Around the World

The U.S. is one of only a handful of countries that does not require some form of paid time off for new mothers.



The Atlantic: <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/06/good-job-america-a-map-of-maternity-leave-policies-around-the-world/373117/>

Is paid leave available for fathers of infants?



UCLA School of Public Health: <http://ph.ucla.edu/news/press-release/2015/jun/equality-cards-celebrating-fathers>

Countries such as Sweden are committed to helping its citizens balance family and work. There are systems in place to provide flexible working hours, paid maternity and paternity leave, subsidized high quality childcare, and payouts per child per month.

SSWG4. Assess the characteristics, spatial distribution, and migration of human populations on the earth's surface.

c. Explain how push and pull factors contribute to human migration patterns and evaluate the impact of migration on the use of resources and provision of services (e.g., guest workers, refugees, and evacuees).

Push Factor – reasons people leave their homes and migrate (ex. civil war)

Pull Factor – reasons people leave their homes and migrate to a new location (ex. job opportunity)

Guest Worker – person with allowance to work in a country different than home temporarily

Refugee – person who is forced to leave home because of dire threats to well-being. Most will never return home.

Evacuee – person who temporarily leaves home due to an imminent threat

As a general rule, people don't look to migrate when things are good. Push factors such as war, famine, poverty, and persecution can motivate people to leave their homes in search of safety, food, shelter, a job, or asylum. Pull factors work in the opposite way. People may be motivated to migrate to a new area due to better opportunities or family/ethnic connections. If job opportunities will lead to a stable income and better life, many people are willing to migrate to attain that. Another major pull factor is if one's family or people of the same ethnic background are already established in another place, it is easier to make the move because of the support system already in place.

Accepting people from other countries has pros and cons. According to the UN, it is the duty of its members to take in refugees and provide aid and assistance to them. This does take a toll on these countries, especially those which border the troubled state. The greatest example today is the refugee crisis in Syria. Europe, especially Germany, has taken in close to one million refugees. The real burden is on the bordering countries of Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. These three countries have taken in the vast majority of refugees from the war. The numbers are estimated to be over four million. This is where NGOs can make a huge positive impact and help host countries. Resources and services become strained and the citizen population can begin to suffer due to the influx of refugees. In Europe, the refugee crisis from the Middle East has split citizens into pro and anti-refugee and has turned into a major political issue for all EU member countries.

Guest worker programs, such as those in Europe and the United States, allow workers to come into their countries for a limited amount of time to perform low-skilled labor. Many of these jobs include seasonal agriculture work. The purpose of allowing these people to work is for economic reasons. The workers are usually paid low wages and have few benefits. Also, it is very difficult to find people in the local population to do the work for low pay and benefits.

SSWG4. Assess the characteristics, spatial distribution, and migration of human populations on the earth's surface.

d. Compare the response of different groups and governments to migration, including national migration policies and differing responses by local communities (e.g., quotas, amnesty, resettlement programs, and official language laws).

Through history migrants have been treated differently by people and governments based on many factors. These can include negative political or economic circumstances in the accepting country, race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, or religion of the migrants. A quota system in the United States was included in the Immigration Act of 1924. It set strict limits on who could enter the country. Northern and Western Europeans were preferred and given preferential treatment over those from other parts of Europe, Asia, Africa, and other locations. This was clear discrimination at the national level.

The current immigration situation in the United States is very complex. There are over 10 million undocumented immigrants inside the United States as of the beginning of 2016. There are different views on how to deal with this issue. One side would like to round-up these people and deport them back to their home countries. That is a simplistic view, which would be impossible to undertake without complicating many other issues. Many of the immigrants have children who are U.S. citizens. One argument is that it's not right to separate children from their parents, even if the parents are undocumented. Many of the undocumented workers in the United States work labor intensive jobs such as agricultural jobs, construction, and meat packing. These are typically low paying and backbreaking jobs. Some argue that if these people don't work these jobs, who will. A consensus on the issue is the threat of drugs and violence coming into the country. The term amnesty comes up as one solution to the issue. The basic steps include securing the border, vetting and documenting all undocumented people in the country, deporting criminals, and giving the other people a path to citizenship. This is extremely controversial in the United States, but has been proposed by both Republicans and Democrats at different times over the past 40 years.

Current migrant situations are great case studies for comparing countries and groups response to migrants. The flow of migrants from the Middle East and North Africa has brought this issue to the forefront in Europe and the United States. Moderate and liberal political parties in Europe have been much more open to accepting migrants. The far right wing parties have been the voice of opposition, and have gained more popularity recently. Germany has taken in close to one million migrants since 2015, which is by far the most of any member of the EU. This policy has threatened the power of the ruling party in Germany today due to resistance from those opposed to accepting migrants. The following link gives a very good overview of the situation in Europe: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911>. Today, many countries do offer resettlement programs for refugees including the United States, Australia, and the EU. The process is time consuming because of the amount of vetting required. It may take over a year for a government to decide the fate of an individual or a family.

Japan is a country with an extremely homogeneous population. They have a rapidly declining population and immigration is an option for stabilizing the fall. At this time, the Japanese are extremely against allowing migrants into their country. The perceived threat to their culture is a driving force behind not allowing immigration.

Environmental Geography

SSWG5 Analyze human interactions with the world's environments.

Environmental geography is focused on how people and the natural environment interact. This standard examines the impact humans have had on the planet, development and the land, agriculture, use of natural resources, water issues, etc. Also, the impact nature has on humans is examined by looking at natural disasters and the destruction they bring. Sustainability of resources is covered within this standard as well.

Resources:

UNESCO Water Security: This UNESCO page is an excellent resource for examining the global water problem with a special focus on the developing world. <http://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security>

NASA Global Climate Change: This is a great resource for looking at facts and data about our changing climate provided by NASA. <http://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>

USGS Land Cover Institute: This interactive site allows users to analyze land use and examine multiple environmental issues. <http://landcover.usgs.gov/landcoverdata.php>

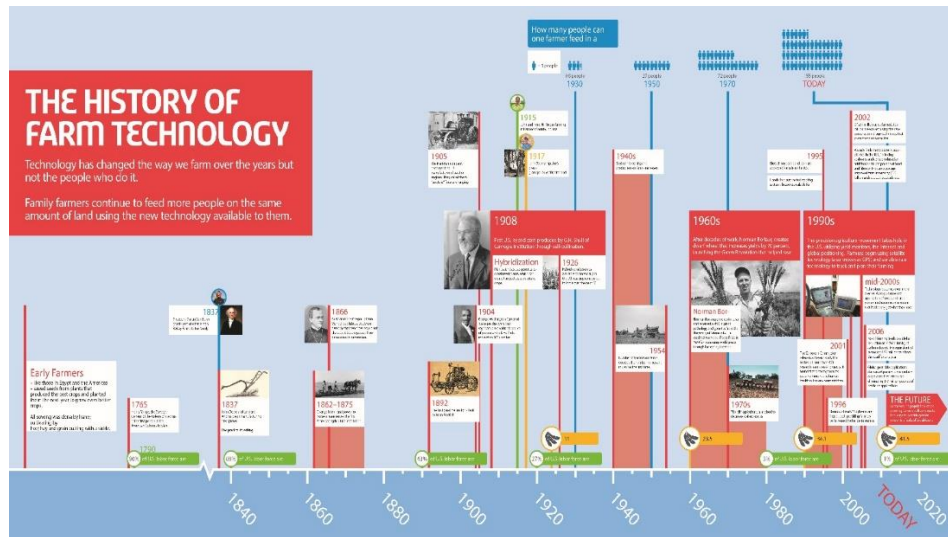
SSWG5 Analyze human interactions with the world's environments.

a. Describe how and why agricultural techniques and technology have changed over time (e.g., irrigation, crop rotation, green revolution, and GMO's).

Before agriculture, people were basic hunters and gatherers. Their survival depended on continuously looking for food. Everything was based on finding the next meal. This resulted in low populations and low life expectancies. The first agricultural revolution began in the Fertile Crescent which sits in between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. This is where most believe seed crop production began. While all the labor was done by humans or beasts of burden, having reliable food sources allowed people to settle in one location, increase their population, increase their lifespan, and have time for innovation.

The advent of irrigation led farmers to increase yields and grow food even during dry periods. This also allowed populations to have an even more reliable supply of food, since growing was not as dependent on precipitation. Mechanized crop production also aided in greater harvests and size of farms. Crop rotation is another innovation which again, led to increased yields. By planting different crops each growing season in a field helps the soil from becoming depleted of nutrients. GMOs (genetically modified organism) have revolutionized crop production around the world. Scientist alter the genetics of crops to create disease, drought, and pest resistant varieties that can be grown in more locations and produce greater yields. Overall, new technologies and innovation within the agriculture field through the years has created a world where food supply should not be an issue, even though some places around the globe still experience famine.

The Green Revolution which took place between the 1920's and 1960's led to great increases in crop yields, especially in the developing world. The introduction of pesticides, new fertilizers, and irrigation technology aided countries like India and Mexico grow substantially more food to help sustain their growing population. This led to less concern about famine, increased life expectancy, and increased overall health of the populations. When the food supply is stable populations are able to be productive workers which leads to increased economic activity and a better overall economy.



U.S. Soybean Export Council: <http://ussec.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/GB3.1-Timeline-FINAL-WORKING-01.jpg>

SSWG5 Analyze human interactions with the world's environments.

b. Analyze the impact of water insecurity around the world (e.g., drought, desertification, water rights, and depletion of the Aral Sea).

The ultimate key to survival is water. Around the world, the issue of having enough water continues to increase due to wasteful water use and a rising population. Access to clean drinking water is also a problem in the developing world and even in some of the developed world. A major issue that keeps development from occurring in Sub Saharan Africa is access to clean water. Women and girls will walk miles a day to collect water for the family. This practice disenfranchises these females because there is no time to become educated, learn a trade, or work and make money.

Prolonged droughts and desertification have led to even more issues with access to reliable water sources. Desertification has increased, especially in the regions surrounding the Sahara Desert. Much of this is the result of the increase in drought, deforestation in some areas, poor farming and herding methods which deplete native vegetation and allow the top soil to blow away. This area also has an increasing population which complicates the water situation even further.

People's rights to use water differs from place to place. In the United States, there are several water rights battles occurring between the U.S. and Mexico and between states. The United States and Mexico have water agreements dealing with the Colorado River and Rio Grande. At times, the two openly dispute how each uses the water and access during drought. For over a decade Georgia and Florida have been at odds over Georgia's use of water from the Chattahoochee River. This river along with the Flint River create the Apalachicola River which dumps into Apalachicola Bay. Florida accuses Georgia of using too much water, especially in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Florida insists its lucrative oyster industry in Apalachicola Bay is threatened due to the lack of fresh water making it into the bay. Oysters need brackish water to survive.

The Aral Sea is a clear example of a man-made ecological disaster. The Soviet Union diverted the two main rivers which feed the sea and used them to irrigate the surrounding arid land. This led to the Aral

Sea shrinking and becoming more saline. The once vibrant fishing industry ceased to exist and communities around the sea struggle to survive. The image below shows the Aral Sea in the 1960's and today.



News.Com.Au: <http://www.news.com.au/technology/environment/nasa-images-reveal-aral-sea-is-shrinking-before-our-eyes/news-story/fd5e2bc767b4330ada9760ded07e1d6b>

The following link is a great resource for analyzing water issues in the Great Plains region of the United States and other places around the world:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/environment/2015/12/10/pumped-beyond-limits-many-us-aquifers-decline/76570380/>

SSWG5 Analyze human interactions with the world's environments.

c. Analyze the economic, political and environmental impacts associated with industrialization and natural resource management around the world (e.g., fracking, strip mining, building of dams and reservoirs, deforestation, sustainable development, and renewable vs. nonrenewable resources).

Industrialization has created great benefits and has led to problems. Economically, industrialized states roared past others which set them up for political and economic success. On the flip side, this progress has been to the detriment of the natural world. The need for more and more energy has led to the depletion of natural resources, global warming, and major pollution issues. There is not one common policy regarding natural resource management around the world, so some countries are much more responsible in using them than others. Countries in the midst of developing tend to be less concerned with these environmental issues wanting to catch up to the developed world. This leads to a more haphazard and damaging approach to natural resource use.

As the world moves into the future nonrenewable resources will be scarcer and renewable resources will be an economic and political driver. The countries who develop and lead in renewable energies are poised to be the economic leaders of the future. Being able to have a renewable, abundant, and reliable source of energy without depending on other states also leads to less conflict.

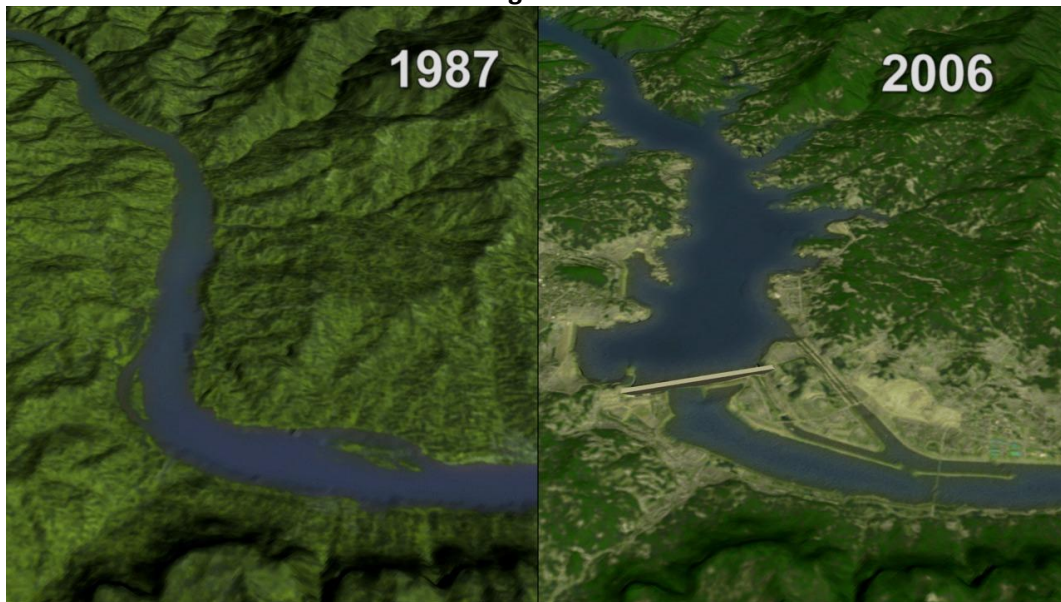
Some examples of development projects and means of getting natural resources are efficient at reaping in benefits but harmful to the natural world. Some of these examples which have led to major environmental problems include:

Fracking – The process of fracking leads to the increased chance of contaminated ground water due to the chemicals used to extract the oil. There are also many examples which point to fracking causing to an increase risk in earthquakes.

Strip mining – This type of mining destroys everything around the mine. All vegetation, top soil, wildlife habitat, etc. are stripped away. This leads to many problems for the areas these mines exist including polluted streams and rivers due to erosion and excessive runoff.

Dam building – The dam building process alters the flow of waterways, permanently changes the natural environment and wildlife habitat of the entire watershed, and can force people to relocate due to the flooding of towns and villages upstream. The upstream locations become lakes, and downstream areas have lesser amounts of flowing water.

Yangtze River Dam in China



From NASA: <https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/3433>

Deforestation – This issue deprives the earth of oxygen, leads to desertification, destruction of wildlife habitat, and polluted waterways due to runoff.

SSWG5 Analyze human interactions with the world's environments.

d. Analyze international and varied local governmental responses to natural disasters in countries around the world (e.g., hurricanes, earthquakes, and tsunamis).

Natural disasters can change the future for countries. Major disasters put a strain on, many times, limited resources, especially in impoverished areas. A perfect example of how natural disasters can disproportionately affect poor countries is the recent story of Haiti. Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, was rocked by a massive earthquake in 2010 which completely devastated the country. Still reeling and attempting to fully recover from that disaster, Haiti was hit by Hurricane Matthew in October of 2016. Haiti is not equipped to handle these events so it relies on humanitarian aid from the rest of the world. But even international aid does not fix the internal problems and actually

made things worse after UN troops from Nepal, helping to rebuild after the earthquake, were linked to a cholera outbreak that is still raging throughout Haiti today.

Japan, being an industrialized and developed country, was in need of international aid after a three-fold disaster in 2011. A large earthquake devastated parts of Japan and caused a nuclear meltdown at a nuclear power plant. The quake also triggered a massive tsunami which added to the death and devastation. Thailand and surrounding countries were also hit by massive tsunamis in 2004 after an undersea earthquake off Indonesia.

The United States is not immune to massive natural disasters. Two clear instances of massive destruction both came from hurricanes. In the New Orleans area Hurricane Katrina completely changed a city. The response from all levels of government was sharply criticized. Citizens were moved all over the South due to the destruction. Many of those who were evacuated never returned. Parts of New Orleans are ghost towns today. The population of New Orleans was cut in half due to the storm, though today the population is about 80% of what it was prior to the storm. The New York City area was terribly affected by Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The largest metropolitan area in the United States was hammered by the storm. Over \$60 billion in damage was incurred. Many low-lying coastal neighborhoods around the city were abandoned and are now being left to nature.

SSWG5 Analyze human interactions with the world's environments.

e. Evaluate how global trade systems impact environmental sustainability in both importing and exporting countries (e.g., plantation farming in Africa and Central/South America, overfishing of global waterways, and international lumber trade).

The insatiable want for new products and food has led to a crisis of sustainability. With a growing middle class around the world, more people have the money to buy things they have never had access to before. This along with the ease of buying things online and globalization has put great stress on our natural world. Wealth leads to increased demand for more “stuff.” Wealth can also lead to innovative solutions. The following are three areas of concern:

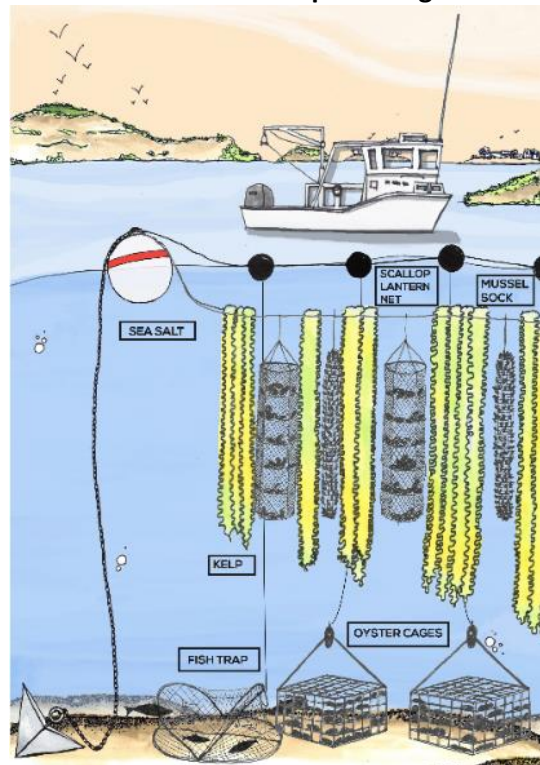
Plantation Farming – This type of farming, especially in tropical regions of West Africa, Central America, and South America, forces the farmers to clear native vegetation to plant commercial plants. This is especially true for bananas, coffee, and cocoa. The increased demand for these products leads to more deforestation. There are some progressive ideas where the commercial plants are planted along with the native plants, thus limiting the impact the natural environment.



Kids Britannica: <http://kids.britannica.com/elementary/art-89749/Many-coffee-plants-grow-on-a-plantation-or-large-farm>

Overfishing – Fisheries all over the world have taken drastic hits over the past 50 years. According to the UN, around 70% of the fish in the world are in crisis or worse. This is mainly due to overfishing. There are sustainable practices such as fish farming and some fishermen are experimenting with new, innovative ways to harvest sea life in a sustainable and profitable way.

Sustainable Kelp Farming



Green Wave: <http://greenwave.org/3d-ocean-farming/>

International Lumber Trade – The demand for lumber, especially hardwoods from tropical rainforests, has led to extensive deforestation in the tropical regions of Central Africa, the Amazon Basin, and Southeast Asia. There are other type of trees such as poplar, which are fast growing, sustainable, and work well as lumber. An alternative to timber is bamboo which is incredibly fast growing and very sustainable.

Economic Geography

SSWG6 Examine the spatial distribution of major economic systems and analyze the role geography plays in economic development.

Economic geography examines how the economies of the world interact with each other and why the economies of individual countries differ so much. Economic data, globalization, trade, demographic data, economic development, etc. are all topics explored within this standard.

Resources:

Population Reference Bureau: The following link, which is also posted previously in the notes, allows for a deep analyses of the correlation between economic development and demographics.

<http://www.prb.org/Publications/Datasheets/2016/2016-world-population-data-sheet.aspx>

UN Sustainability Goals 2030: This site from the UN goes into great detail about all the sustainability goals presented recently. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

World Bank Urbanization: This site provided by the World Bank, has numerous charts and graphs for examining the trend of urbanization around the globe.

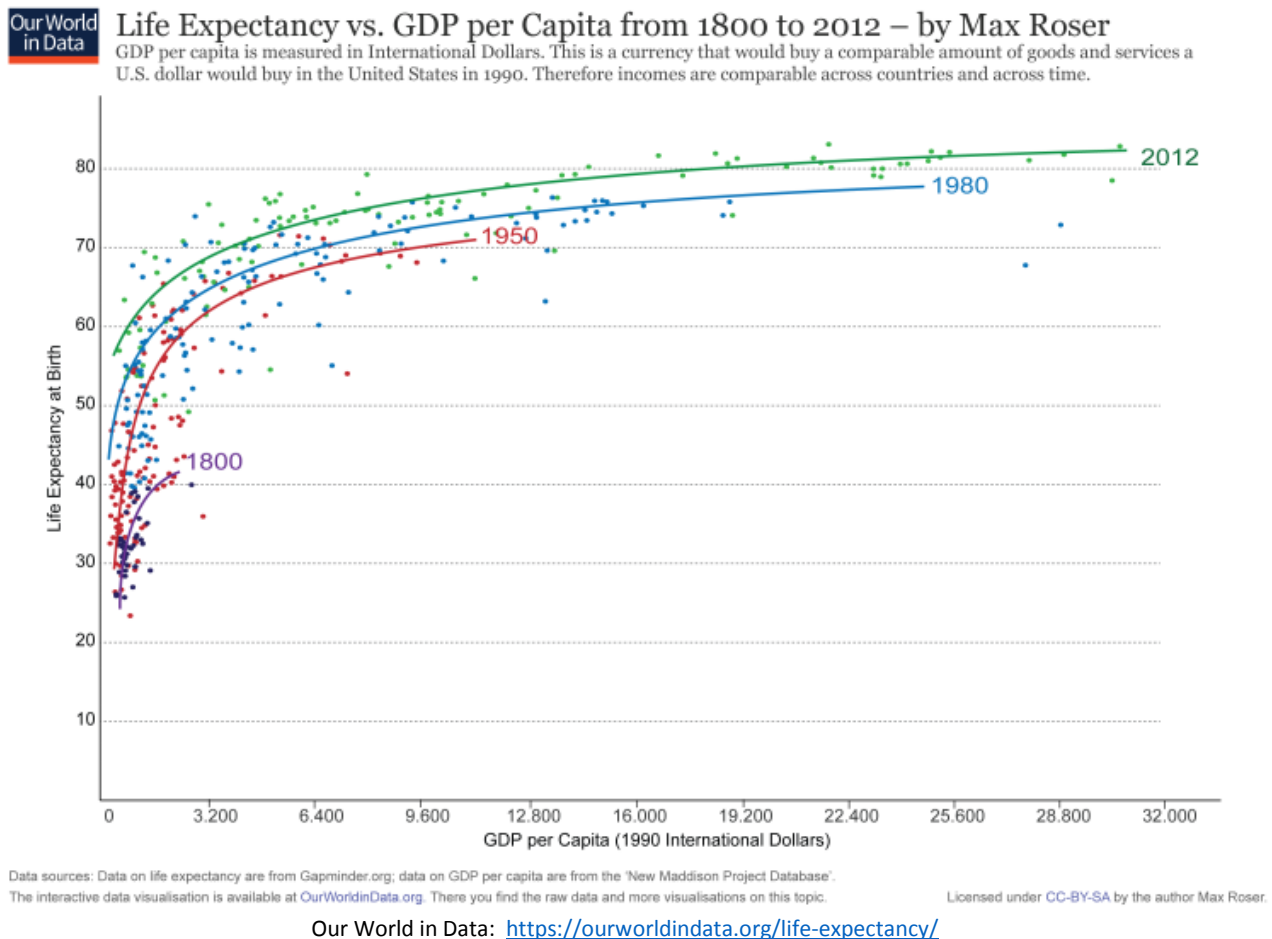
<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.URB.MCTY.TL.ZS>

Governing.com Gentrification: This site provides numerous interactive maps examining gentrification in many major cities in the U.S. <http://www.governing.com/gov-data/washington-dc-gentrification-maps-demographic-data.html>

SSWG6 Examine the spatial distribution of major economic systems and analyze the role geography plays in economic development.

a. Compare the levels of economic development of countries in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita and key demographic and social indicators (e.g., literacy rate, life expectancy, gender, access to healthcare, and UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030).

The GDP per capita rates are directly linked to demographic and social indicators. The correlation between rich countries and high levels of literacy, life expectancy, healthcare, etc. is confirmed when examining demographic data. The opposite is true for poorer countries. The chart below shows the correlation between GDP per capita and life expectancy.



The UN has set its Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. They are far reaching, but very impactful goals if they are reached. They include: ending poverty, gender equality, zero hunger, affordable and clean energy, etc. These are truly goals that can only be reached by an entire global effort. The following link goes into detail about the 17 goals the UN has set.

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

SSWG6 Examine the spatial distribution of major economic systems and analyze the role geography plays in economic development.

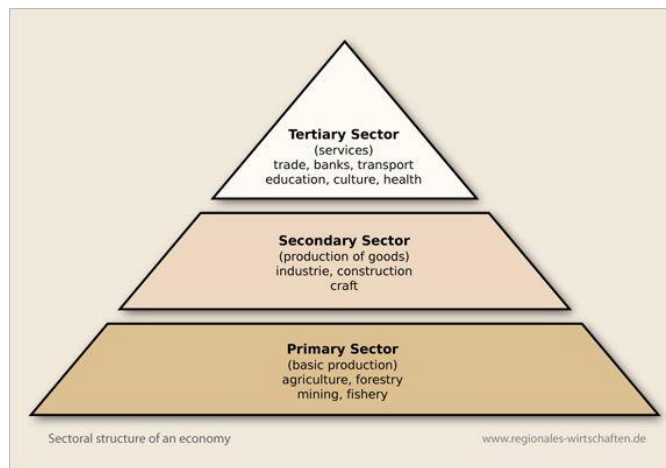
b. Explain the relationship between levels of development and economic activity in terms of primary, secondary, and tertiary activities (e.g., resource extraction, manufacturing, and services).

The more developed a country the greater scale of economic activity it will be involved in. The following levels of economic activity help to clarify this idea:

Primary Economic Activity – basic, necessary activities such as agriculture, fishing, and mining

Secondary Economic Activity – taking yields from primary activities and making something such as homes, canned foods, steel, and cars

Tertiary Economic Activity – part of the service sector connecting the manufacturers with the customers such as banks, medical services, shops, and education



Regionalentwicklung: <http://www.regionalentwicklung.de/regionales-wirtschaften/uebersetzungen-translation/regional-economy-systems-as-complement-to-globalisation/>

A country's sector is determined by the level of economic activity and wealth. Thus countries such as Somalia, with a GDP per capita of around \$400 USD, are mostly in the primary sector. Wealthy and developed countries such as Norway, with a GDP per capita of over \$65,000 USD are mostly in the tertiary level. Developing countries such as China will find themselves primarily in the secondary level pushing towards the tertiary. All countries will have parts of their economic breakdown in all three levels, but the more developed a country, the more dependent they will be on the higher levels.

SSWG6 Examine the spatial distribution of major economic systems and analyze the role geography plays in economic development.

c. Describe the factors that influence the location and spatial distribution of economic activities, including the factors of site and situation (e.g., river systems, transportation hubs, research triangles, deep seaports).

The spatial distribution of economic activities is determined by a number of factors. A good way to analyze this is by first understanding site and situation.

Site – the physical land area where a settlement is established...including physical features and climate conditions

Situation – the factors within and surrounding the site which impact the economic activities and development...including connectedness to other successful settlements and proximity to natural resources

For example, greater economic activity is likely to occur presently in areas with the following characteristics: good transportation infrastructure, highly educated workforce, stable and progressive local government, and communities with high quality of life. High quality of life includes good schools, recreational opportunities, good climate, entertainment opportunities, etc. In the tertiary level of economic activity, the service industry, businesses look for sites with those characteristics. An example of a region where the economic activity is in the tertiary level and the characteristics match is the Research Triangle in North Carolina. Durham, Raleigh, and Chapel Hill are the three major hubs within the region. There are prestigious universities which produce a highly-educated workforce, local governments who support innovation and new ideas, an overall high quality of life, and reliable transportation infrastructure.

Historically for primary and secondary levels of economic activity sites on navigable river systems and on natural sea harbors spurred economic activity due to the ability to trade easier than those settlements without water access. Eventually sites along railroads will be hubs for economic development. Today to fulfill demand, the interconnection of deep water ports, rail lines, and good highway systems determine where new economic activity will be created.

SSWG6 Examine the spatial distribution of major economic systems and analyze the role geography plays in economic development.

d. Describe and explain causes and consequences of the worldwide trend towards urbanization in terms of development (e.g., changing employment patterns, urban sprawl, squatter settlements, and gentrification).

There has been a great trend since the mid 1800's of migration into urban areas. By 2050 it's predicted that 70 percent of the human population will live in urban areas. This leads to economic opportunity and challenges. People have primarily moved to cities attempting to find work. There are now well over 300 cities worldwide with more than one million people. This has led to massive urban sprawl, which causes many challenges. Urban sprawl can lead to good, arable land being developed, cause massive traffic issues, and lead to squatter settlements on the outskirts of major cities. The following link provides interactive graphs and charts dealing with the world's large urban areas.

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.URB.MCTY.TL.ZS>.

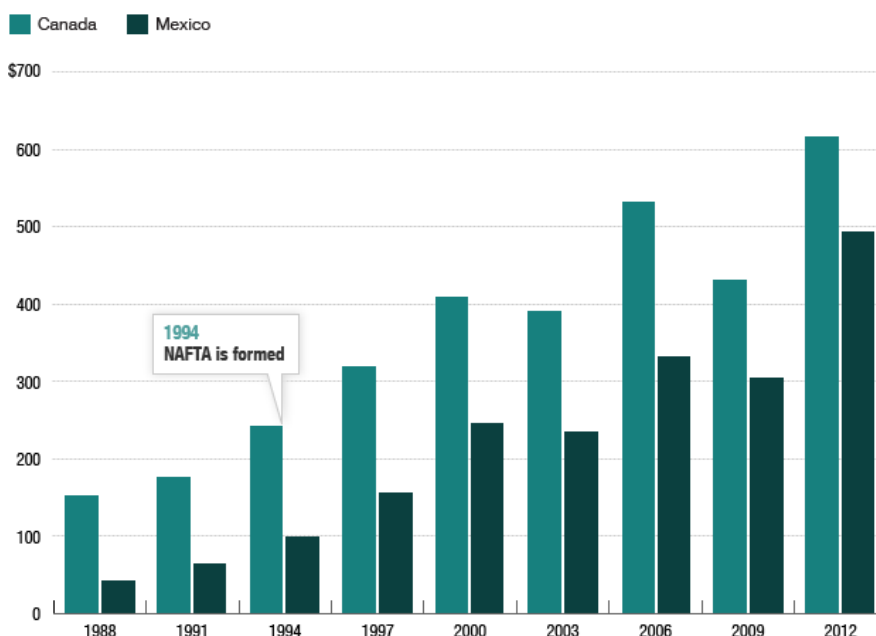
In some developed countries, the opposite of urban sprawl is occurring. Gentrification, the restoration and regrowth of run down areas of a city, is becoming a major issue for many large cities in the world, such as Washington D.C. and New York City. Gentrification has pros and cons associated with it. Having wealth enter poor areas leads to revitalization, new investment, and an increasing tax base. On the other hand, it drives up property values which makes housing unaffordable for many longtime residents. Many young professionals are choosing to live inside city centers instead of commuting long distances to work. This is leading to an increase in gentrification. The following link has interactive maps analyzing gentrification over time for over three dozen cities. <http://www.governing.com/gov-data/washington-dc-gentrification-maps-demographic-data.html>

SSWG6 Examine the spatial distribution of major economic systems and analyze the role geography plays in economic development.

e. Analyze the impact of trade across international borders and its impact on government relationships among countries (e.g., legal trade: NAFTA, EU, and OPEC; illegal trade: human trafficking, drug trade, and counterfeiting/black market goods).

Legal trade and globalization have interconnected the world more so than any other time in history. Trade pacts such as NAFTA, have made trade much easier, and created and taken jobs from the countries associated (United States, Mexico, and Canada). The EU has one currency and open borders which makes trade and travel extremely easy within the borders. These pacts have seen a great reduction in tariffs which allow countries to trade very quickly without many barriers.

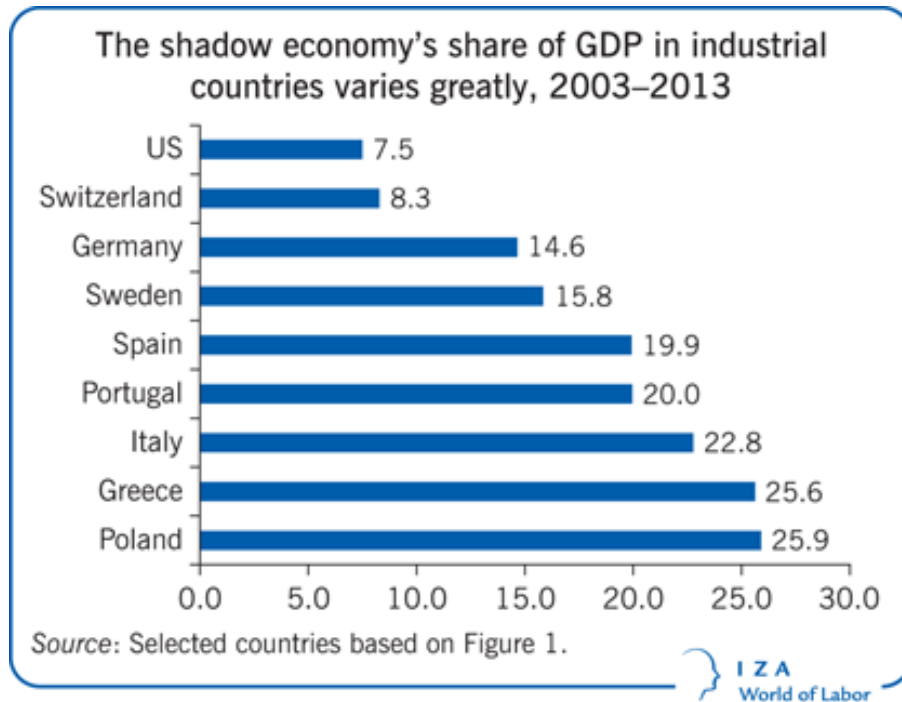
U.S. Trade With NAFTA Countries, In Billions



NPR: <http://www.npr.org/2013/12/08/249079453/economists-toast-20-years-of-nafta-critics-sit-out-the-party>

OPEC (The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) has great power to set crude oil production limits in order to regulate the global supply. This, when the OPEC countries are cooperating, can keep prices for petroleum products relatively high and benefit the OPEC member states' economies. The fourteen member countries are located primarily in the Middle East and North Africa but also include Nigeria, Angola, Gabon, Venezuela, and Indonesia.

Illegal trade also known as shadow or underground economies, flourish throughout the world if laws and regulations are not enforced consistently. Illegal drug trafficking, human trafficking, employment of undocumented day laborers, buying or selling counterfeit products, the illegal animal trade, etc. are all parts of this illegal economy. Though this shadow economy is based on illegal activity, it provides a huge economic boon to the overall economy, which makes enforcement less appealing for some states.



World of Labor: <http://wol.iza.org/articles/shadow-economy-in-industrial-countries/long>

Confiscated counterfeit goods from New York City



CBS New York: <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/tag/counterfeit-goods/>