Thinking Geographically

AP Human Geography · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
reference maps	Road maps and world maps of countries are **reference maps**.
thematic maps	**Thematic maps** show one topic, such as rainfall or population.
map projections	All **map projections** change the shape or size of some places on a flat map.
geographic data /ˌdʒɪə'græfɪk 'deɪtə/	**Geographic data** include population numbers, rainfall and land use.
location /ləʊ'keɪʃn/	The city's **location** is on a large river.
place /pleɪs/	A **place** is a location that has its own meaning to people.
distance decay /'dɪstəns dɪ'keɪ/	**Distance decay** means people visit places less often the further away they are.
time-space compression /taɪm speɪs kəm'preʃn/	The internet causes **time-space compression**: a friend far away now feels close.
scale /skeɪl/	Study the problem at a local and a global **scale**.
region /'riːdʒn/	The Midwest is a farming **region** of the USA.
choropleth map	A **choropleth map** shades each area by a value, such as income.

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dot density map	A **dot density map** uses one dot for every 1,000 people. 1,000
graduated symbol map	On a **graduated symbol map**, bigger circles mean bigger cities.
isoline map	An **isoline map** joins places with the same value, such as height.
cartogram	A **cartogram** changes the size of each country to show its population.
Mercator projection /mɜː'keɪtə prə'dʒekʃn/	The **Mercator projection** makes Greenland look too big.
field observation	**Field observation** means going outside and recording what you see.
remote sensing /rɪ'məʊt 'sensɪŋ/	**Remote sensing** uses satellites to collect information about the Earth.
GPS /ˌdʒiː piː 'es/	**GPS** finds your exact location.
geographic information system (GIS)	A **geographic information system (GIS)** puts many layers of data onto one digital map.
absolute location /'æbsəluːt ləʊ'keɪʃn/	The **absolute location** of a place is its exact latitude and longitude.
relative location /'relətɪv ləʊ'keɪʃn/	The **relative location** of a place describes where it is compared with other places.
patterns /'pætnz/	Geographers look for **patterns**, such as cities along rivers.
clustered /'klʌstəd/	The houses are **clustered** together.

Word	Example
dispersed /dɪˈspɜːst/	The farms are **dispersed** across the land.
linear /ˈlɪnɪə/	The houses form a **linear** pattern along the road.
natural resources /ˈnætʃərəl rɪˈzɔːsɪz/	Water, forests and oil are **natural resources**. 、
sustainably /səˈsteɪnəbli/	Farmers can use land **sustainably** by not taking more than the soil can give.
environmental determinism /enˌvaɪrənˈmentl dɪˈtɜːmɪnɪzəm/	**Environmental determinism** is the old idea that climate decides how people live.
possibilism /ˈpɒsɪbɪlɪzəm/	**Possibilism** says the environment sets limits, but people still choose how to live.
scales of analysis	The **scales of analysis** are local, regional, national and global. 、 、
map scale	The **map scale** 1 : 50,000 means 1 cm on the map is 500 m on the ground. 1 : 50,000 1 cm 500 m。
formal region /ˈfɔːml ˈriːdʒn/	A **formal region** shares one feature, such as a language.
functional region /ˈfʌŋkʃənl ˈriːdʒn/	A **functional region** is centred on one point, such as the area a newspaper serves.
node /nəʊd/	Each **node** holds a value and a pointer.
perceptual region /pəˈseptʃuːəl ˈriːdʒn/	A **perceptual region** exists in people's minds, such as "the South". "the South"

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