

# Unit One Vocabulary

## Location

- **Absolute Location:** Position on Earth's surface using the coordinate system of longitude (that runs from North to South Pole) and latitude (that runs parallel to the equator).
- **Relative Location:** Position on Earth's surface relative to other features.

**Site:** The physical characteristics of place; what is found at the location and why it is significant

**Situation:** The location of a place relative to other places

## Region

- **Formal Region:** homogenous region in an area within which everyone shares in common one or more distinctive characteristics. The shared feature could be a cultural value or environmental climate.
- **Functional Region:** Area organized around a node or focal point. The characteristic chosen to define a functional region dominates at a central focus or node and diminished in importance outward. This region is tied to the central point by transportation of communication systems or by economic or functional associations.
- **Perceptual Region:** A place that people believe exists as a part of their cultural identity. Such regions emerge from people's informal sense of place rather than from scientific models developed through geographic thought.

**Environmental Perception:** a person's idea or image of a place; may often be inaccurate

**Cultural Trait:** A single element of normal practice in a culture.

**Culture Complex:** A combination of related cultural traits.

**Cultural Hearth:** The region from which innovative ideas originate.

**Cultural Diffusion:** The spread of a feature or trend from one place to another over time.

## Diffusion:

- **Relocation Diffusion:** The spread of an idea through physical movement of people from one place to another.
- **Migrant Diffusion:** Spread of an idea through people, in which the phenomena weakens or dies out at its previous source.
- **Expansion Diffusion:** The spread of a feature from one place to another in a snowballing process.
- **Hierarchical Diffusion:** The spread of an idea from persons or nodes of authority or power to other persons or places.
- **Contagious Diffusion:** The rapid, widespread diffusion of a characteristic throughout the population.
- **Stimulus Diffusion:** The spread of an underlying principle, even though a characteristic itself apparently fails to diffuse.

**Sequent Occupance:** The notion that successive societies leave their cultural imprints on a place, each contributing to the cumulative cultural landscape.

**Acculturation:** Process of adopting only certain customs that will be to their advantage.

**Transculturation:** A near equal exchange of cultural traits or customs.

**Assimilation:** Process of less dominant cultures losing their culture to a more dominant culture.

**Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** collection of computer hardware and software permitting spatial data to be collected, recorded, stored, retrieved, used, and displayed.

**Global Positioning System (GPS):** satellite-based system for determining the absolute location of places.

**Remote Sensing:** Method of collecting data or information through the use of instruments that are physically distant from the area or object of study.

### **Map Projections:**

- **Azimuthal:** directions from a central point are preserved; usually these projections also have radial symmetry.
- **Mercator:** Straight meridians and parallels that intersect at right angles, used for marine navigation.
- **Peters:** Equal-area cylindrical, areas of equal size on the globe are also equally sized on the map.
- **Robinson:** Distorts shape, area, scale, and distance in an attempt to balance the errors of projection properties.
- **Fuller:** Using the surface of a polyhedron, it is unfolded to net in many different ways and flattened to form a two-dimensional map which retains most of the globe's relative proportional integrity.

### **Types of Maps**

- **Dot:** One dot represents a certain number of phenomena.
- **Thematic:** Made to reflect a particular theme about a geographic area.
- **Choropleth:** Thematic map in which areas are shaded or patterned in proportion to the measurement of the statistical variable being displayed.
- **Reference:** Generalized map type designed to show general spatial properties of features.
- **Proportional Symbol:** Type of thematic map in which the areas of symbols are varied in proportion to the value of an attribute.
- **Cartogram:** Map in which some thematic mapping variable substituted for land area.

**Scale:** Representation of a real-world phenomenon at a certain level of reduction or generalization; represented as a fraction (large scale = large detail, small area but small scale = small detail, large area).

**Acronym for assessing the validity and reliability of any map:**

**T - Title**

**O - Orientation**

**D - Date**

**A - Author**

**L - Legend**

**S - Scale**

**I - Index**

**G - Grid**