

Regionalization Theory

- Who regionalizes?
- Why regionalize?
- Regions are a form of spatial generalization
- Borders are an issue
- Regions and scale
- Types of regions
- How does one regionalize?
 - choose variable(s)

Regionalization Theory

Who Regionalizes?

- businesses (marketing, statistics, etc.)
- federal government (50 offices use regions)
- people in everyday lives
- researchers in sciences and humanities
- geographers at bars

Regionalization Theory

Why Regionalize?

- Group areas with similar characteristics for some functional purpose
- For example, a sports team wants to know where its fan base is...
- Also, South Coast faces similar problems, so it is often considered a region.

Regionalization Theory

What are Regions?

- A form of spatial generalization
- “Earth areas that display significant elements of internal uniformity and external difference from surrounding territory”*
- “one of the most logical and satisfactory ways of organizing geographical information”

* Fellman, Getis, and Getis (2007)

Regionalization Theory

The Border Problem

- Where does one region stop and another start?
 - Southern California, for example
- Usually (falsely) depicted as fine line
 - Sometimes not false

* Fellman, Getis, and Getis (2007)



Regions and Scale

- Regions at one scale often not valid at another scale
- Homogeneity can often be scale dependent
 - California is a region when compared to the country, but not when we look a little closer
- Hierarchy of regions can be designed

Types of Regions

- Uniform regions
 - Same characteristics throughout (homogeneous)
- Nodal / Functional Regions
 - Organization of activity around a central place

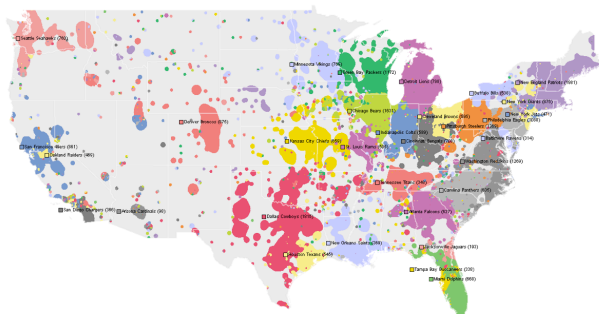
Regionalizing

- Pick variable(s), start generalizing
- Food production, sports teams, political boundaries, functional units, political preferences, the list goes on...

* Fellman, Getis, and Getis (2007)



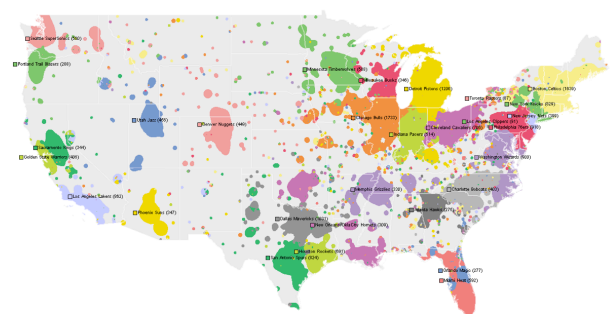
Source: nationalatlas.gov



The CommonCensus NFL Fan Map

Shows areas where NFL team fans are predominant; based on 24245 votes from www.commoncensus.org
Fan areas labeled and colored; gray = insufficient votes; numbers in parentheses indicate number of votes
Note: this map is highly inaccurate and expected to change and fill in greatly with more votes

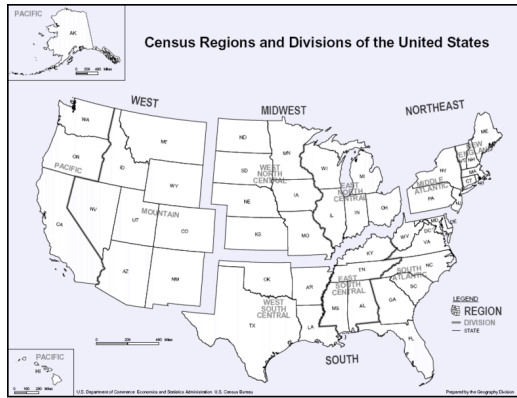
Source: commoncensus.org



The CommonCensus NBA Fan Map

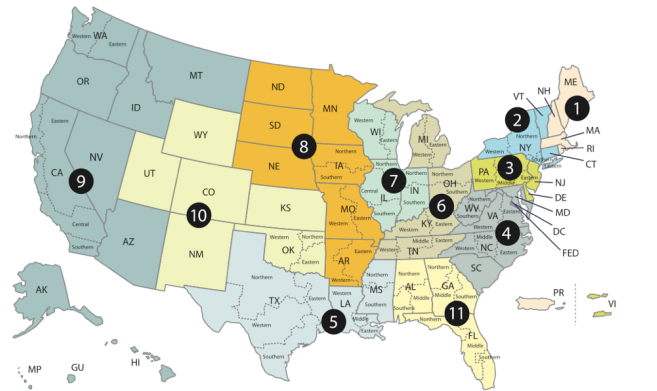
Shows areas where NBA team fans are predominant; based on 18397 votes from www.commoncensus.org
Fan areas labeled and colored; gray = insufficient votes; numbers in parentheses indicate number of votes
Note: this map is highly inaccurate and expected to change and fill in greatly with more votes

Source: commoncensus.org

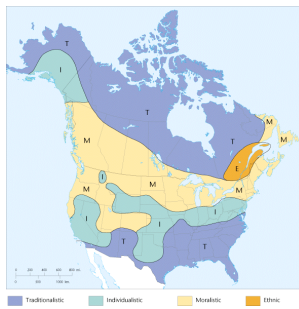


Source: U.S. Census

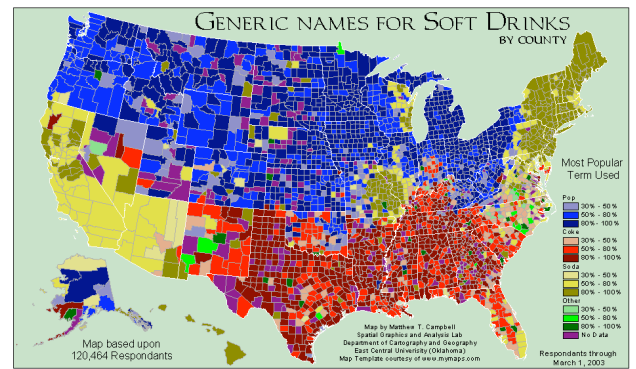
Geographic Boundaries of United States Courts of Appeals and United States District Courts



Political Regions



Source: <http://www.vulpo.edu/geomatics/geo200/policies/leaves.af>

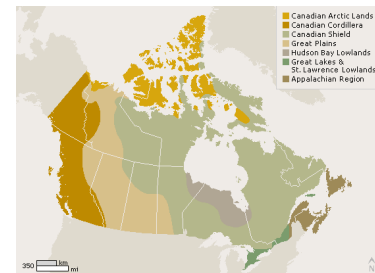


Source: popssoda.com



Source: Environment Canada

Physiographic Regions of Canada



Source: Microsoft Encarta

United Nations Statistical Regions



Source: United Nations, wikipedia.org

IEEE Regions



Source: ieee.org

The Book's Regions

- What variable(s)?
 - “basic features of homogeneity inherent in various parts of North America at present”
 - focus on socioeconomic characteristics, but physical environment, history plays big factor in those
- very general way to regionalize
 - good when function = geography edu.

