Basics of Geography



Questions to Consider

- What is Geography?
 - The study of
- Why do we study geography?
 - Examine how

affect Earth

- Examine
- How do we use geography every day?
 - ___
 - ___
 - ___

Globes and Maps

- Divided by grid lines to
 - (aka Parallels) measure North or
 South of the
 - (aka Meridians) measure East or
 West of the up to 180°
- All maps have some distortion...why?

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The Great Circle

- Shortest route on a map is not always the shortest route on the globe or Earth
- Shortest route is called a Great-Circle Route





Map Elements

Locate the following items on the map:

- -Map Title
- -Legend/ Key
- -Insert Maps
- -Compass Rose
- -Distance Scale



• Political:

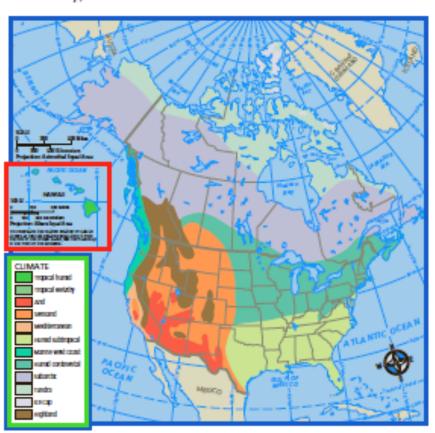


• Physical:



Climate

Climate Map, United States and Canada



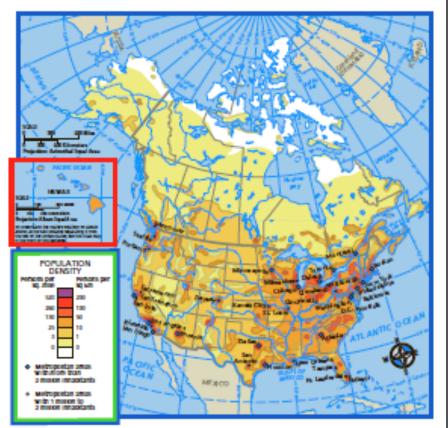
Precipitation

Precipitation Map, United States and Canada



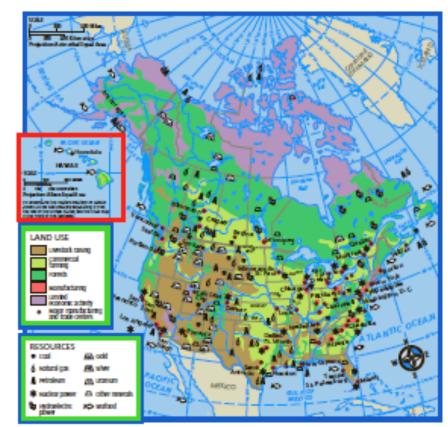
 Population and Population Density

Population Map, United States and Canada



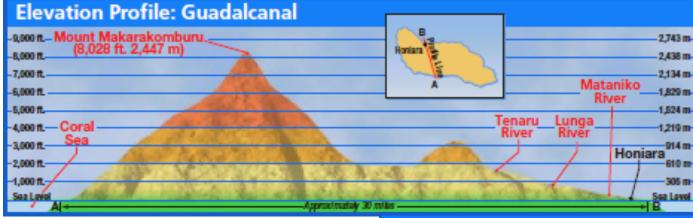
 Economic Activity and Resources

Land Use and Resources Map, United States and Canada



Elevation Profile: gives a side view of land

elevation



 Contour: uses lines to connect points of equal elevation; the closer the lines the steeper the land



Earth's Latitudes

- Tropics:
 - AKA: Low-latitude areas
 - areas between

Receives the most

in a year

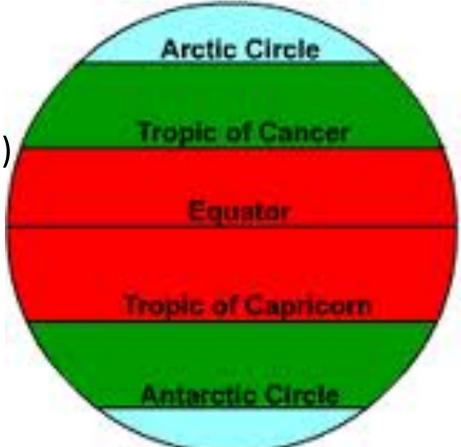
- Polar Regions:
 - High-latitude areas
 - Area north of the Arctic Circle (66 ½°-90° N) and south of the Antarctic Circle (66 ½°-90° S)
- between the Tropics and Polar Regions

Earth's Latitudes

=Polar Regions (high-latitudes)

=Mid-latitudes

=Tropics (low-latitudes)

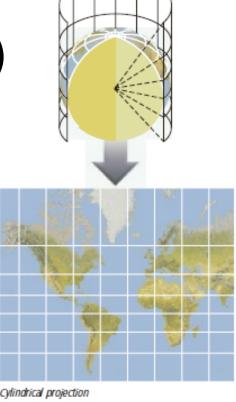


Map Projections

All projections are formed by

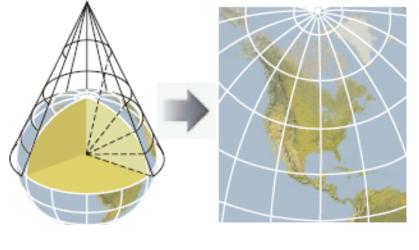
- Cylindrical (aka Mercator Projection)
 - Shows true
 - Inaccurate the poles

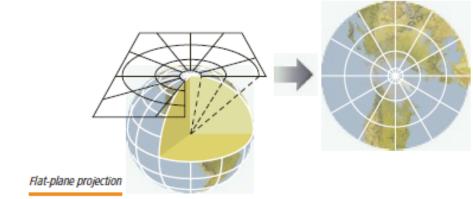
, especially around



Map Projections (con't)

- Conic
 - True and maintained only where cone touches globe
 - Works best for areas with
- Flat-plane
 - Maintains true
 - Distorts the





Branches of Geography

- 2 branches of geography
 - Human geography
 - Study the
 - Study of

we work and live

Focus on Earth's natural environment

5 Themes of Geography

- Location:
 - Relative:

general position in relation to something else

- ex:
- Absolute:

exact position on Earth

ex:

5 Themes (con't)

- Place: the of a location
 - Ex.: a pine tree forest
- Human-environmental interaction:

the way

interact with and affect each other

— Ex.:

5 Themes (con't)

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how people and things change locations and the effect of these changes

Ex.: geese migrating

Region:

the organization of Earth into geographic areas with

5 Themes (con't)

- Things that encourage movement:
 - Factors:
 - Something that encourages someone to

- Examples:
- Factors:
 - Something that encourage someone to

• Examples: