1.7
Regional Analysis

Objectives and Essential Learning

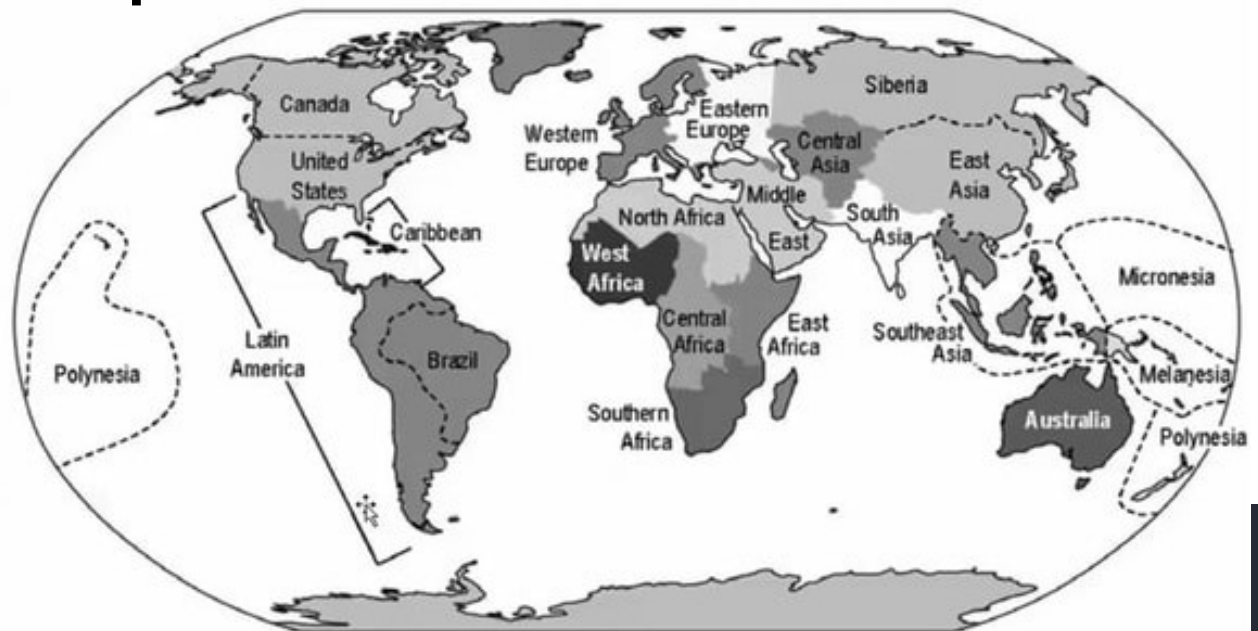## 1.7 Describe different ways that geographers define regions.

- 1.7.1 Regions are defined on the basis of one or more unifying characteristics or on patterns of activity.
- 1.7.2 Types of regions include formal, functional, and perceptual/vernacular.
- 1.7.3 Regional boundaries are transitional and often contested and overlapping.
- 1.7.4 Geographers apply regional analysis at local, national, and global scales.
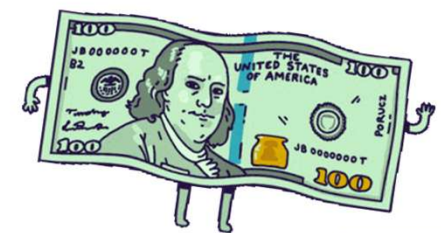
What is a regions?

Regions: A geographic area with common characteristics and patterns
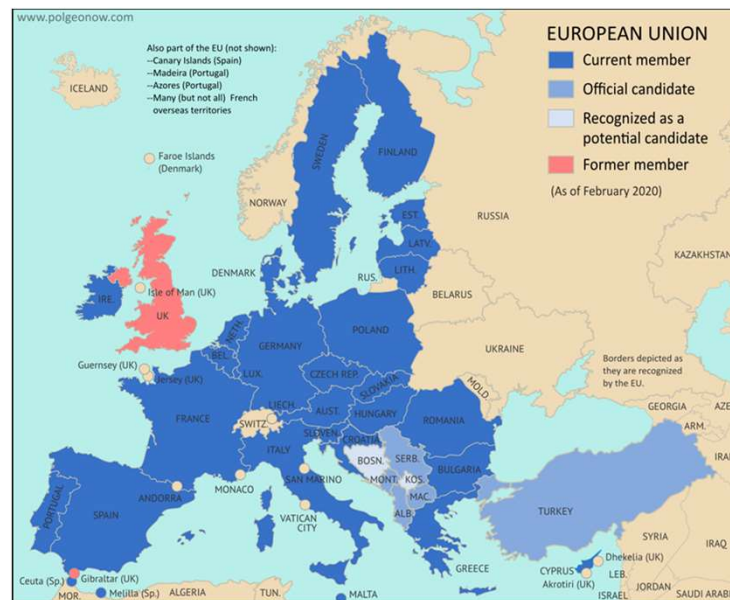
1. Formal
2. Functional
3. Perceptual/ Vernacular

FORMAL REGION

Definition: A geographic area with common attributes, traditionally defined by economic, social, political, or environmental characterizes.
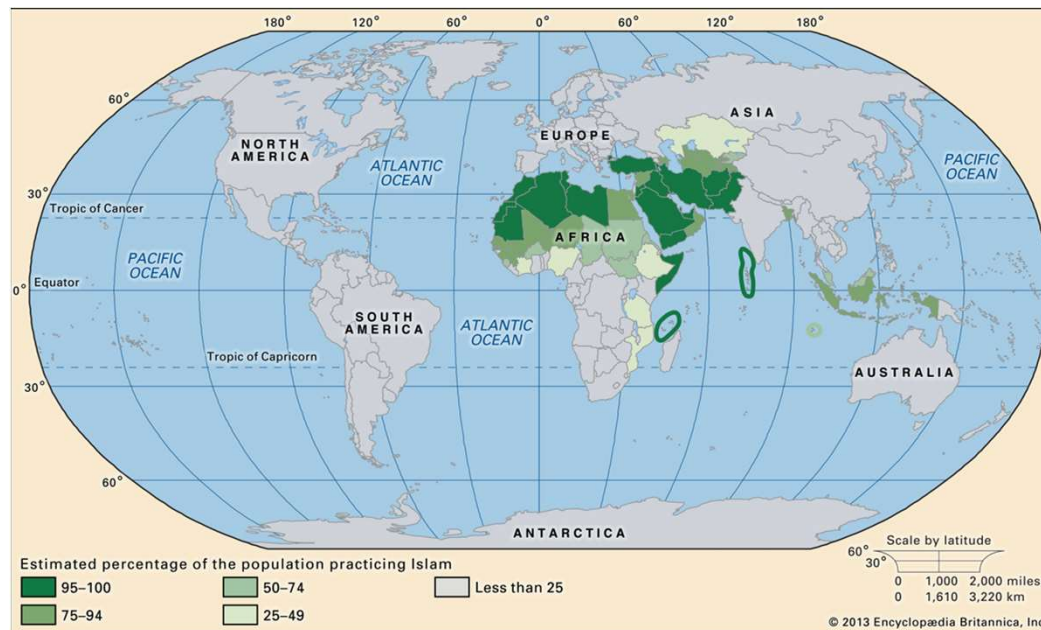
EXAMPLE: Economic Region

European Union (EU) Free Trade. Common currency (the Euro).

EXAMPLE: Social/Cultural Region

Islamic World: <u>Distribution</u> of Muslim followers is primarily <u>clustered</u> in SW and C Asia and N Africa.

Estimated percentage of the population practicing Islam

- 95–100
- 75–94
- 50–74
- 25–49
- Less than 25

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EXAMPLE: Political Region

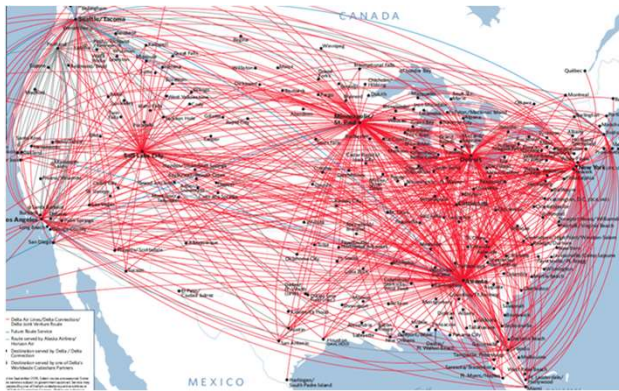**Europe. The states & capitals in Europe.**

EXAMPLE: Environmental

The Sahara Desert: Desert region which separates N Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.
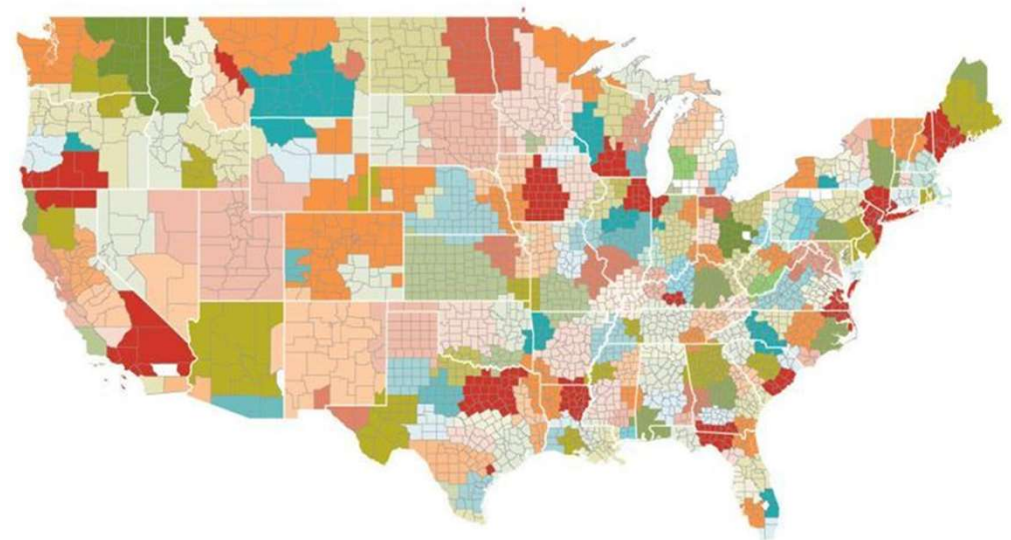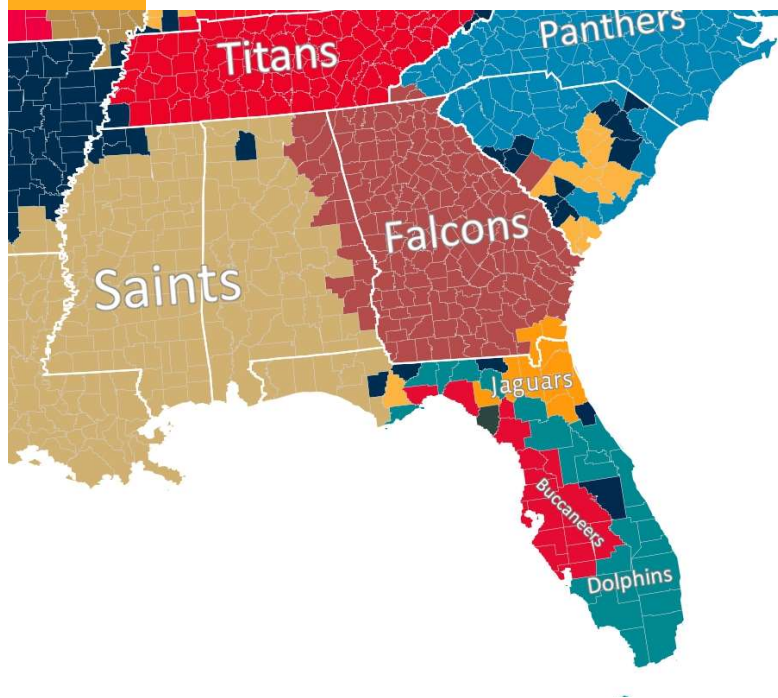
FUNCTIONAL REGION

Definition: organized around a central node (focal point) and the relationship is typically based around economics, travel or communication.

EXAMPLE: A functional region

Delivery zones, NFL teams, newspaper service

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Functional Region: Television Markets - organized around a node of focal point – broadcast signal (note the outlines of the states and counties are formal regions)

PERCEPTUAL REGION

A geographic area that has no perfect definition, it only exists because of people's beliefs, feelings, and attitudes towards a region

- Sense of place & cultural identity.

EXAMPLE: Perceptual Region

The South? Red neck, dumb, slow, etc.