

# Regions

# Geographic Regions

- Represent great clusters of humankind or physical characteristics
- Change over time
- May differ based on point of view
- Vary in size
- Separated from other regions by transition zones (see next slide).



# Transition Zones

- Location: Edge of a region
- An area of *spatial change* where peripheries of two adjacent regions join
- Marked by a gradual shift (rather than a sharp break) in the characteristics that distinguish neighboring regions
- Area of mixed characteristics; possible tension (cultural groups)



# What Defines a Region?

Regions are based on Spatial Criteria.

- Location, location, location
- Common characteristics
  - *Physical (Natural)*
    - *Climate, landforms, vegetation, river...*
  - *Human (Cultural)*
    - *Language, political, religion, ethnicity, disease...*



# Types of Regions

Formal Region

Functional Region

Perceptual Region



## FORMAL REGIONS

- ❏ Geographers draw formal regions on the basis of one or more measurable, shared traits that distinguish them from the surrounding area.
- ❏ These traits can range from such characteristics of the local population as language, income, or religion to such physical characteristics as elevation or climate.
- ❏ Many physical features, such as valleys, are easy to map as formal regions using naturally occurring boundaries.



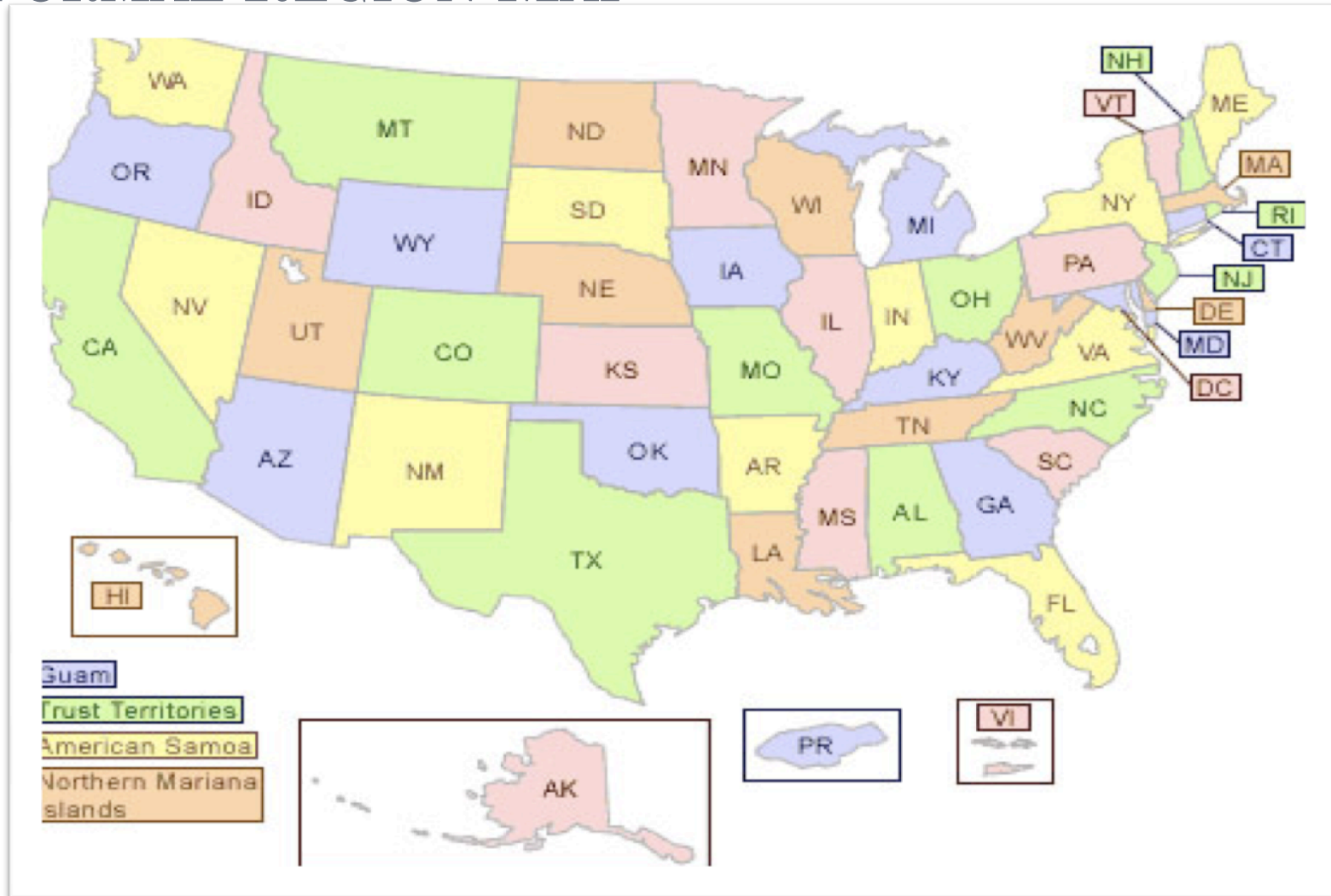
## EXAMPLES OF FORMAL REGIONS

- ☒ States- Texas, Florida, South Carolina, etc
- ☒ Countries- US, Mexico, Canada, etc
- ☒ Cities- Austin, Dallas, Houston, etc
- ☒ The area of town where the wealthiest people live.
- ☒ The Sahara Desert of Africa.
- ☒ U.S. city where more than 50% of residents speak Spanish.

**\*\* All Formal Regions are based on MEASURABLE data!!**



# FORMAL REGION MAP

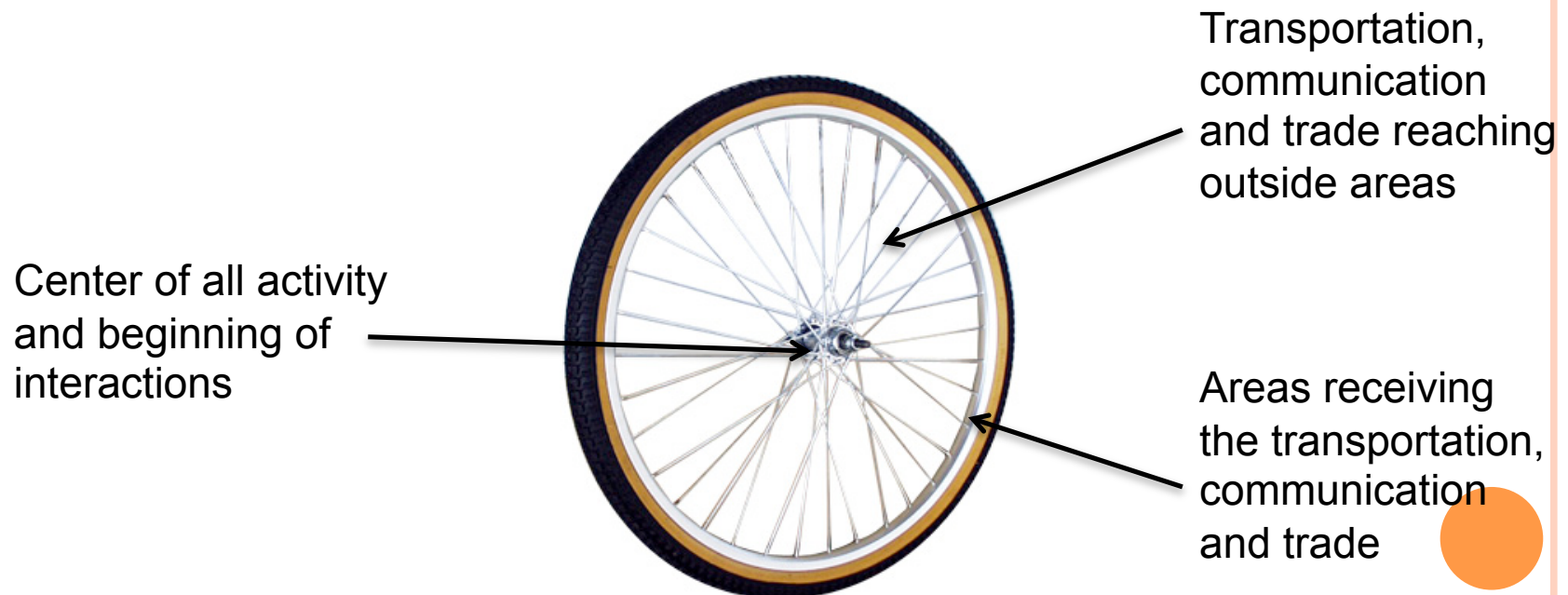


[http://blog.usa.gov/roller/govgab/resource/images/ntus\\_map.jpg](http://blog.usa.gov/roller/govgab/resource/images/ntus_map.jpg)



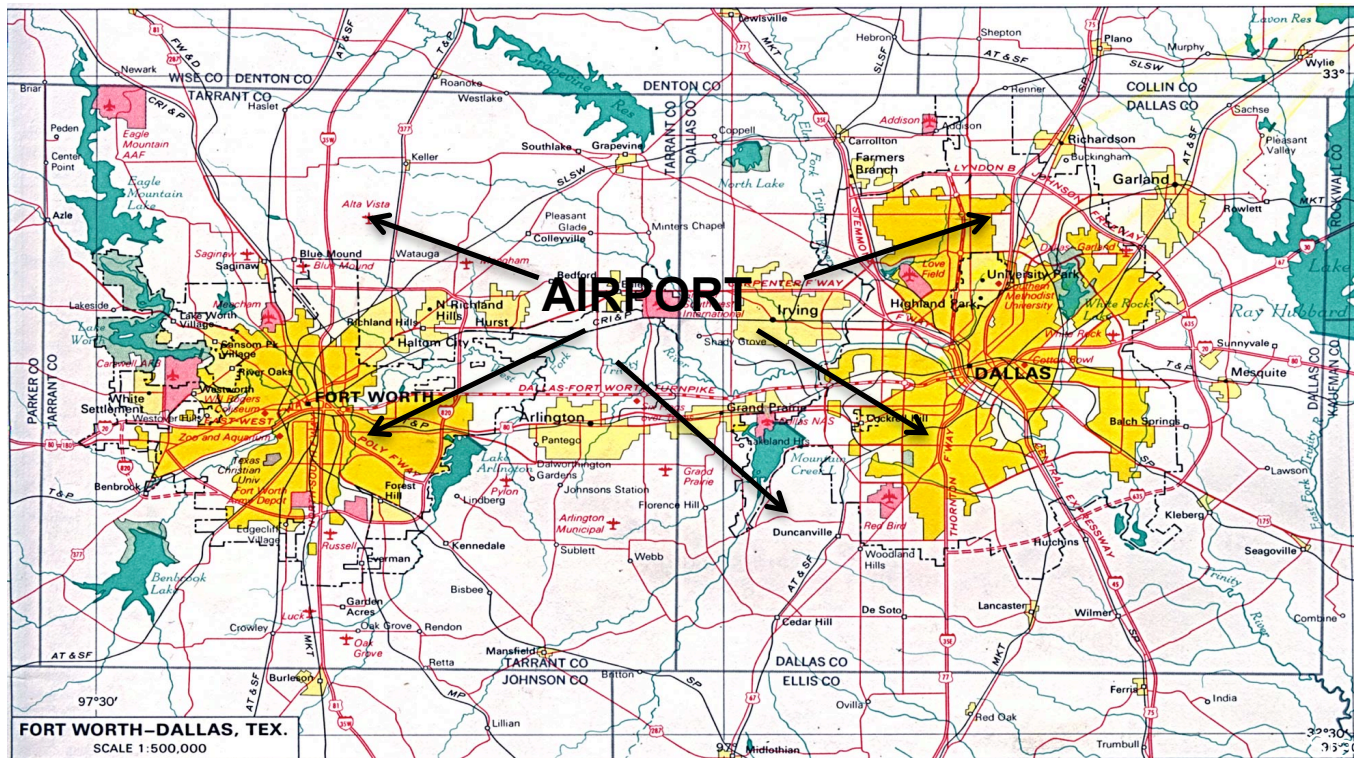
# FUNCTIONAL REGIONS

- ❏ Functional regions are defined by a system of interactions.
- ❏ Picture a bicycle wheel with a central axel in the middle of the wheel, which represents the center of all the activity. The spokes of the wheel represent links to outside areas (the tire) through transportation, communication and trade.



# EXAMPLES OF FUNCTIONAL REGIONS

- ✉ The Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area is a functional region in that Dallas and Fort Worth share a common airport located between the two cities.



# FUNCTIONAL REGION MAP



## PERCEPTUAL REGIONS

- ❏ A perceptual region is defined by people's feelings and attitudes about an area.
- ❏ Perceptual regions are more likely than other kinds of regions to change over time.
- ❏ They are also frequently based upon stereotypes, as people's definitions of perceptual regions are influenced by travel, media, reading, films, and conversations.



# WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN I SAY...

 Southern California

 The South

 New York City

 The Middle East





<http://library.thinkquest.org/08aug/01940/Extreme%20Water%20Sport.htm>



[lodging.uptake.com](http://lodging.uptake.com)



[news.boisestate.edu](http://news.boisestate.edu)



[Tajapi.com](http://Tajapi.com)

# WHAT IS THE PERCEPTION OF THIS MAP?



[http://cartophilia.com/blog/uploaded\\_images/footballstates.gif](http://cartophilia.com/blog/uploaded_images/footballstates.gif)

# Three Types of Regions

**1 Formal regions** have one or more common characteristics. They can be political entities, climate regions or landform regions.



Southern Europe

**2 Functional regions** have a focal point with surrounding areas linked by transportation and communication systems.



New York metropolitan area

**3 Perceptual regions** are defined by how people perceive of an area.



Rust Belt



# Now, you try it....

- State of Texas Formal
- Amazon River Functional
- Dixie Perceptual
- Sun Belt Perceptual
- Travis County Formal
- Country of Brazil Formal
- The ship channel Functional
- Aggieland Perceptual
- Chinatown Perceptual