A Vocabulary List for AP Human Geography

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Unit I. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives—Basic Vocabulary and Concepts

Note: The following concepts transcend all units in AP Human Geography; they are central to all geographic thinking and analysis and could even be considered central to any definition of geography.

Basic Concepts

Changing attributes of place (built landscape, sequent occupance)

Cultural attributes (cultural landscape)

Density (arithmetic, physiological)

Diffusion (hearth, relocation, expansion, hierarchical, contagious, stimulus)

Direction (absolute, relative)

Dispersion/concentration (dispersed/scattered, clustered/agglomerated)

Distance (absolute, relative)

Distribution

Environmental determinism

Location (absolute, relative, site, situation, place name)

Pattern (linear, centralized, random)

Physical attributes (natural landscape)

Possibilism

Region (formal/uniform, functional/nodal, perceptual/vernacular)

Scale (implied degree of generalization)

Size

Spatial (of or pertaining to space on or near Earth's surface)

Spatial interaction (accessibility, connectivity, network, distance decay, friction of distance, time-space compression)

Geographic Tools

Distortion

Geographic Information System (GIS)

Global Positioning System (GPS)

Grid (North and South Poles, latitude, parallel, equator, longitude, meridian, prime meridian, international date line)

Map (Maps are the tool most uniquely identified with geography; the ability to use and interpret maps is an essential geographic skill.)

Map scale (distance on a map relative to distance on Earth) Map types (thematic, statistical, cartogram, dot, choropleth, isoline) Mental map

Model (a simplified abstraction of reality, structured to clarify causal relationships):
Geographers use models (e.g., Demographic Transition, Epidemiological
Transition, Gravity, Von Thünen, Weber, Stages of Growth [Rostow], Concentric
Circle [Burgess], Sector [Hoyt], Multiple Nuclei, Central Place [Christaller], and
so on) to explain patterns, make informed decisions, and predict future behaviors.

Projection Remote sensing Time zones