

III. The Spatial Dimensions of Culture

A. Cultural Regions

1. Broad areas where groups share similar but not identical cultural traits.
2. Remember 3 types of Regions (Formal, Functional/Nodal, Perceptual/Vernacular)

B. Cultural Landscapes

1. Visible Reflection of Culture

Ex: USA has national parks: land set aside to preserve the environment

Ex2: Quebec: Signs in English + French

Ex 3: Pakistan Schools: Gender Segregated

Ex 4. Shanghai: Office buildings: Massive skyscrapers = show of economic power

C. Ethnic Enclaves

1. Clusters of people of the same culture, but ~~separated~~ surrounded by people of a culture that is dominant in the region.
2. Sometimes this reflects the desire of people to remain apart from the larger society.
3. Sometimes this reflects a dominant culture's desire to segregate a minority culture.
4. Inside these enclaves
 - a) Stores + Religious institutions that are supported by the ethnic group.
 - b) Signs in the traditional language of the group.
 - c) Architecture that reflects the group's place of origin.
 - d) Can provide a buffer against discrimination.

D. Borders + Barriers

1. Identifying cultural borders can be hard
2. Usually a transition zone exists: place where cultures mix and people exhibit traits from both cultures

Ex: El Paso US-Mexico Border people speak English + Spanish

E. Culture Realms

1. Include several regions, still have a few traits they all share.
Ex: language, religion, food preferences