Political, Urban & Economic Geography
Pre-AP World Geo
Mrs. Hartman
Political Geography

- The world is divided into many political regions.
- Local, national and regional governments control aspects of life within the boundaries of each unit.
Nations of the World

- **State** - independent unit that occupies a specific territory and has full control of its internal and external affairs (country)
- **Nation** - group with a common culture living in a territory and having a strong sense of unity
- **Nation-state** - when these two occupy the same territory
- **Stateless nation** - group without a territory (Palestinians, Kurds, and Basques)
Discuss:

- What are the disadvantages to being a stateless-nation?
Color-coding

• **blue** - presidential republics, [full presidential system](#)
• **green** - presidential republics, [executive presidency](#) linked to a [parliament](#)
• **yellow** - presidential republics, [semi-presidential system](#)
• **orange** - [parliamentary](#) republics
• **red** - [parliamentary constitutional monarchies](#) in which the monarch does not personally exercise power
• **magenta** - [constitutional monarchies](#) in which the monarch personally exercises power, often alongside a weak parliament
• **purple** - [absolute monarchies](#)
• **brown** - republics whose constitutions grant only a [single party](#) the right to govern
• **olive** - [military dictatorships](#)
Types of Government

- **Democracy** - citizens hold political power, either directly or through representatives (U.S.)
- **Monarchy** - a ruling family headed by king or queen holds political power and may or may not share the power with citizens (United Kingdom-shared or Saudi Arabia-absolute)
- **Dictatorship** - an individual holds complete political power (North Korea-Libya)
- **Communism** - nearly all political power and means of production are held by the government in the name of all the people; one political party
Discuss:

- What has proven to be the most effective form of government?
- Think economically
- Think socially
- Think politically
Geographic Characteristics of a Nation

- **Size** - physical size does not always have anything to do with wealth or power
  - U.K.- used to control a large empire
  - U.S.- can become wealthier because of availability of resources due to size

- **Shape** - many different forms
  - Can impact on how easy it can be governed, how easily goods can be moved, and how it relates to other countries

- **Location** - important for trade
  - Landlocked country- no direct outlet to the sea- must find ways to build connections to rest of the world
National Boundaries

- Borders are very important (laws and trade)
- **Natural boundaries** - based on physical features of the land (rivers, lakes, or mountain chains)
- **Artificial boundaries** - fixed line generally following latitude or longitude lines
  - Defined by boundary treaties
  - Conquering countries may change boundaries
- This may lead to war or internal problems
Regional Political Systems

- Countries divide into smaller political units to govern more efficiently
- Most common local government units - cities, towns, or villages (even smaller units - school districts)
- Larger regional units - counties, provinces, and states
- Countries may join with each other to form international political, military, or economic units
  - United Nations
  - European Union
Urban Areas

- Urban geography - study of how people use space in cities
- Cities - centers of business and culture with large populations
- Urban area
  - Main or central city
  - Suburbs - political units touching central city or other suburbs that touch central city
  - Exurbs - smaller cities or towns with open land between them and central city
  - Metropolitan area - when these link together to form a functional area
Cities

- **Megalopolis** - several metropolitan areas grow together
  - NE U.S. (Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, and Washington, D.C.)

- **Urbanization** - dramatic rise in the number of cities and the changes in lifestyle that result
Discuss:

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of urban life?
World Map: Population Growth with Largest Cities
World Map: Population Growth with Urbanization
City Locations

- Good transportation (rivers, lakes, coasts)
- Easy access to natural resources
- Places where goods shift from one form of transportation to another
- Specialize in certain economic activities because of location
- Grow because or expand because of economic activities in the city
  - Cultural, economic, or military activities
Land Use Patterns

- **Residential** - living areas (neighborhoods and apartments)
- **Industrial** - manufacturing of goods
- **Commercial** - private businesses and the buying and selling of retail products
- **Central business district** - core of the city
  - Almost always based on commercial activity
  - Business offices and stores found here
  - Value of land is very high
  - Farther away from CBD, the cheaper the land
Economic Systems

- **Economy** - production and exchange of goods and services among a group of people
- **Economic system** - the way people produce and exchange goods and services
- **Traditional** - goods and services are exchanged without money ("barter")
- **Command** - production of goods and services determined by central government (planned)
- **Market** - production of goods and services determined by the demand of the people (demand economy or capitalism)
- **Mixed** - combination of command and market so that all people will benefit
Discuss:

- How has free-market capitalism contributed to the highest standard of living in the world?
Economic Activities

- Agriculture, industry, and commercial activities dominate economic activities

- Four economic levels:
  - **Primary Activities** - gathering raw materials for immediate use in making final product
  - **Secondary Activities** - adding value to materials by changing their form (manufacturing cars)
  - **Tertiary Activities** - providing business or professional services (teachers, lawyers, doctors)
  - **Quaternary Activities** - information, management, and research services by highly-trained persons
Resources

- **Natural resources** - materials on or in the earth that have economic value (trees, fish, coal, etc.)
  - Only become resources if society has ability to make them into goods
  - Abundant but not evenly distributed around the world

- **Renewable** - resources can be replaced by natural processes (trees, seafood)

- **Non-renewable** - resources cannot be replaced once they have been removed from the ground (metals, non-metals such as gemstones, and fossil fuels (oil, coal, natural gas)

- **Inexhaustible energy sources** - used for producing power; result of solar or planetary processes; unlimited; include sunlight, geothermal heat, winds, and tides
Economic Support Systems

- Infrastructure - basic supports systems needed to keep an economy going
  - Power
  - Communications
    - Linked internally and to the outside world
    - Strong economies have high-speed Internet and satellites
  - Transportation
    - One of the most important
    - Roads and highways; airports
  - Water
  - Sanitation
  - Education systems
Economic Development

- Ways to compare economies:
  - **Per capita income** - average amount of money earned by each person in a political unit
  - Levels of development (industry and commerce)
  - Standard of living (purchasing power, health, and education level)
  - **Gross national product (GNP)** - total value of all goods and services produced by a country or its companies over a year
  - **Gross domestic product (GDP)** - total value of all goods and services produced **within** a country for a year
World Map: Per Capita GDP
World Map:
Political with Regional Economic and Trade Organizations

[Map of the world showing regional economic and trade organizations with a key explaining the symbols used]
World Map: Political with Calorie Supply