

Discussion Questions

Slide 1

- How and why are maps created?
- How are they used?
- How do we create and store maps in our minds, and how do we use these “mental maps”?
- How are people and places organized on the Earth’s surface?
- How are people’s decisions affected by their locations and the locations of things in their environments (such as buildings, natural resources, and transportation routes)?

Slide 4

- Why is it important to figure out a map’s scale before you use it?
- Why would it help to know the scale?

Slide 6

- What are the advantages of using a globe to find information about the world?
What are the advantages of using a map?
- What are the drawbacks of each?
- Which do you use most often?
- Why?

Slide 12

Which maps would be the most helpful in answering each of the following questions:

- What types of clothing should I bring?
- Is there anywhere I can go to escape the crowds and be alone in the countryside?
- Might I get a chance to do some hiking in the forest?

Slide 20

- What purposes do you think historical maps serve?
- Do you think they’re helpful when you’re studying a historical topic such as ancient Egypt?
- Why or why not?

Slide 24

- How might mapping the locations of a disease outbreak help the government and the medical profession assist people?

Slides 33–34

- What states would you travel through to get from Atlanta to Seattle?
- Can you draw a mental map of the United States that shows your route between these two cities?
- What would this map look like?
- Where would the population centers appear?

Slide 35

- What is the city-suburb relationship in the metropolitan area closest to where you live?
- Do many people work in the suburbs?
- Are there some “mega-burbs” that seem like suburbs but actually function as cities on their own?
- If you live in the suburbs, how often do you go into the city?
- If you live in the city, how often do you go to the suburbs?

Slide 38

- What new opportunities arise when transportation routes change or expand?
- How does the availability of various types of transportation and transportation routes affect people’s decisions about where to live, work, play, and shop?
- How do these decisions affect a region’s economy?

Slide 39

- What factors might make people decide to live in one place instead of another?
- Do most people live where they do because they have to or because they’ve chosen to?
- If you could live in a particular type of place, where would it be and why?

Slides 43–45

Say you want to open a store.

- What factors would you need to find out in order to make sure you locate your store in just the right place?
- What would you need to know about the city or town, the places people spend their time, the methods of transportation people use, and the other businesses located in the area?
- Can you think of anything else you’d need to take into account?
- What would be some advantages and disadvantages of locating your store in a mall?
- What would be some advantages and disadvantages of locating your store in the downtown area of either a large city or a smaller town?
- In general, what are the pros and cons of locating stores downtown? Does it depend on the city?

Slide 46

- Have you ever seen two or more stores that sell virtually the same products located right next to, across the street from, or very close to one another?
- If so, did you wonder why a store owner would choose to locate his or her business so close to a competitor?

Slide 54

Today, the greatest numbers of immigrants to the United States come from Latin America and Asia.

- How far do they have to travel?
- Why do you think they come?

Slide 55

- In what ways can maps help you in your daily life?
- In what ways might they be helpful to the following people: businesspeople in your community; politicians; health workers; entrepreneurs?
- What are some reasons why different people might have different mental maps of the same place?
- How different are your mental maps from those of your classmates, parents, and other residents of your community?
- Where would you rather live: in the city, the suburbs, or a rural area? Why?
- What factors make you favor one type of place over another? How many of these factors have to do with location (e.g., where businesses or homes are located)? How many of these factors have to do with convenience?
- How do activities in one area affect activities in another? Can you think of other types of interactions in which what happens in one location affects what happens in another location, even if they're very far away from each other?