

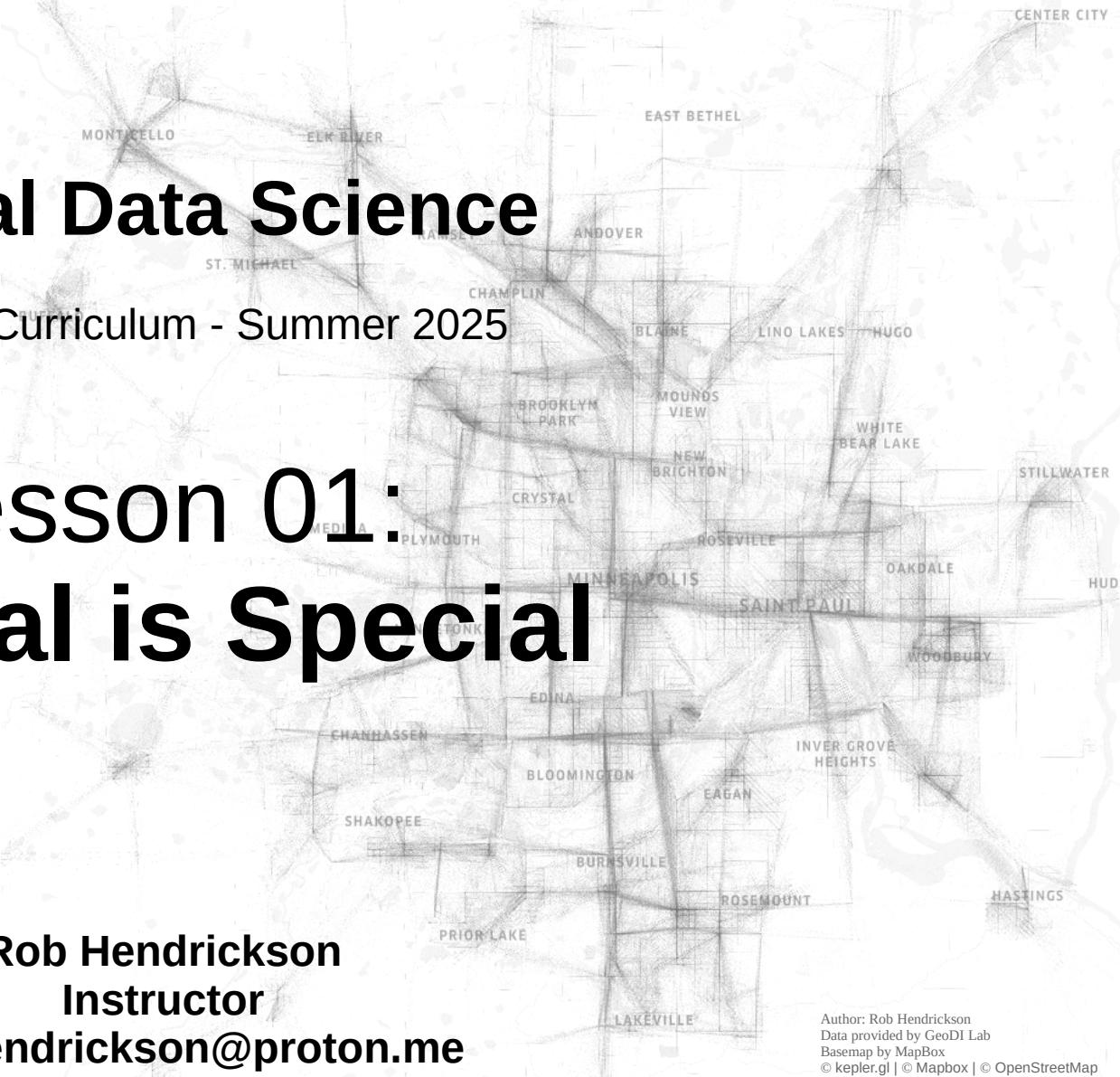
Spatial Data Science

Sankofa Curriculum - Summer 2025

Lesson 01: Spatial is Special



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Instructor**
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Hello!

- My name is Rob Hendrickson (he/him)
 - Master of Geographic Information Science (MGIS)
 - Also a gardener, musician, active community member
- More on my [website](#), if interested!



Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. What is a Food System?
- III. Spatial is Special
- IV. Sankofa & POWER
- ~~~~ BREAK ~~~
- V. Introduction to GIS

Introductions

- Let's go around the room for quick introductions!
 - Preferred Name
 - Pronouns
 - Word that begins with same letter as name (eg. Robot Rob)

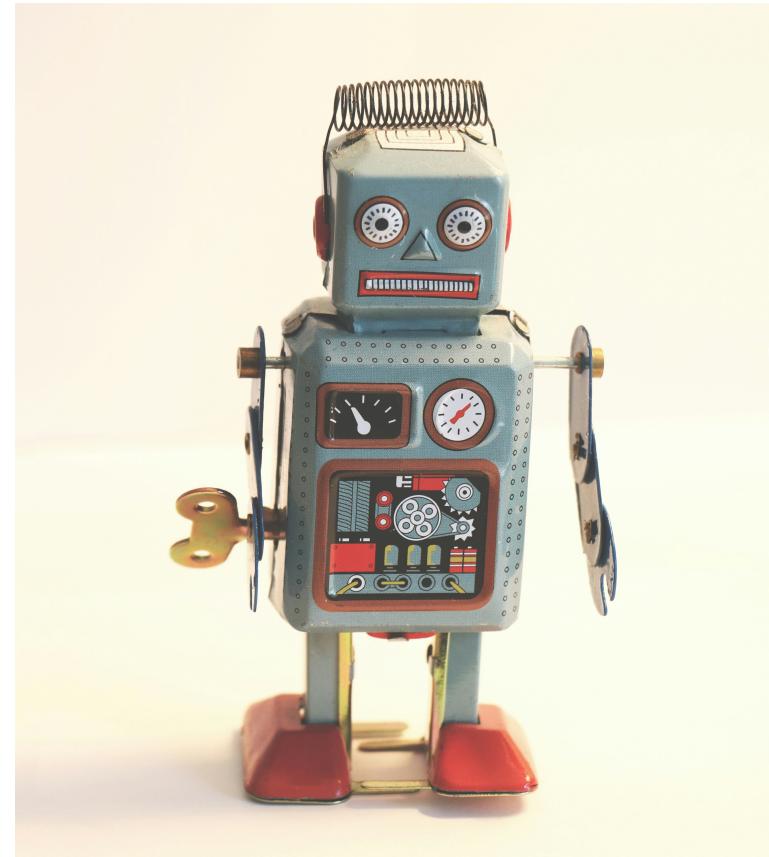
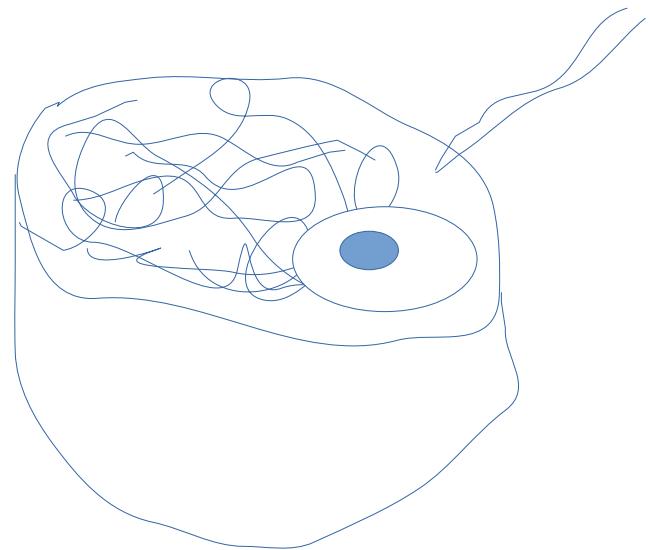


Photo by [Emilipothèse](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Icebreaker Activity

- Draw or describe a nice meal you've had recently
 - Take 2 minutes to complete #1 on the activity sheet
 - Reintroduce yourself to a neighbor and share your meal



What is a Food System?

Definition: Food System

The term **food system** describes the interconnected systems and processes that influence nutrition, food, health, community development, and agriculture.

A **food system** includes all processes and infrastructure involved in feeding a population:

Growing, harvesting, processing,

Packaging, transporting, marketing,

Consumption, distribution, and disposal

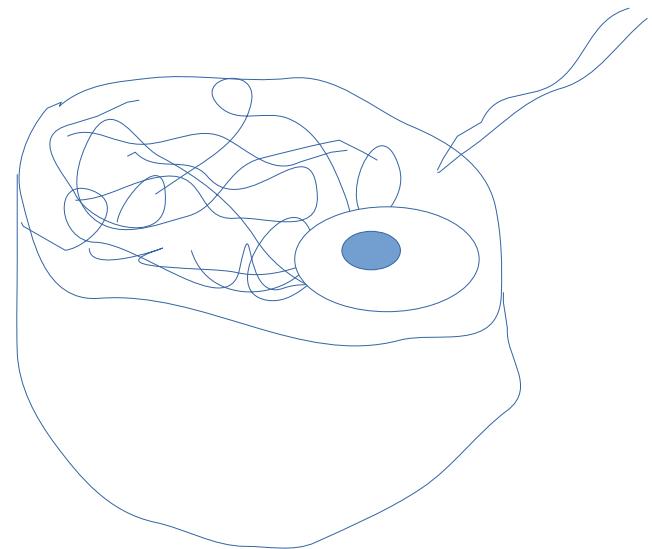
of food and food-related items.

Icebreaker Activity - Expanded

- Pick an ingredient in your meal.
Draw or describe how it got to
your plate

If unknown, create a story

- Take 2 minutes to complete
#2 on the activity sheet
- Share with your neighbor



Noodles – Bought from grocery store

Egg – Housemate brought home
from work

Spatial is Special

Definitions

Space

Space is a three-dimensional continuum containing positions and directions.

([Britannica Dictionary](#), 4/2008)



Meaning

A quality that gives something real value and importance

([Britannica Dictionary](#), 6/2025)



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Place



Place ... is a part of the terrestrial surface that is not equivalent to any other,

that cannot be exchanged with any other without everything changing

([Franco Farinelli - Source](#))



Place is Power – Song Lines

- What is a “Song Line”?
 - Aboriginal Australian myths based on local “creator-beings” during the Dreamtime
 - Guide through challenging terrain
- Star Maps helped Aboriginal Australians remember Song Lines
- Lives on in the Australian Highway System



Fig 5 Goodooga to Quilpie waterhole star map (image courtesy of Starry Night Education)

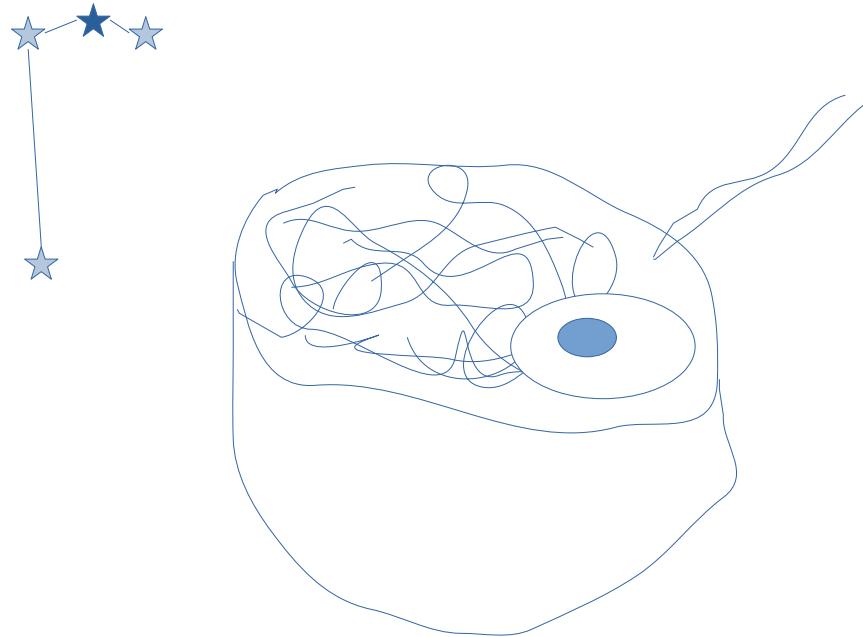


Fig 6 ground travel route Goodooga to Quilpie waterhole (image Google Earth)

Source: Fuller, Robert S. et al.

Icebreaker Activity – Expanded!

- Draw the story of your ingredient as a star map
 - Take 5 minutes to complete #3 on the activity sheet
 - Share with your neighbor



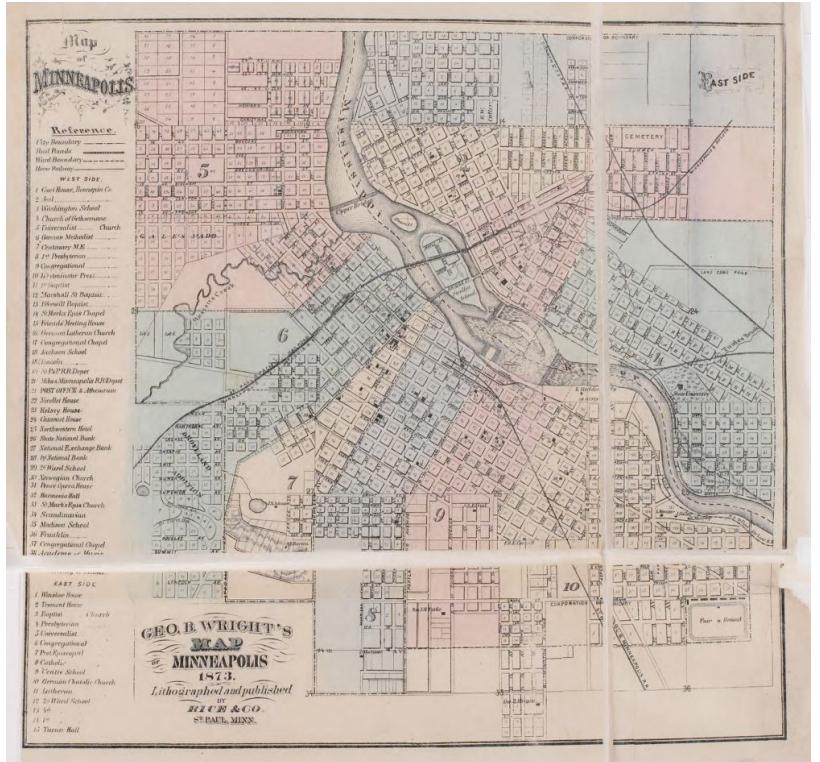
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Sankofa & POWER

Maps & Power

- Historically, maps have been very valuable
 - Sometimes hoarded by people in power, especially in the Age of Discovery
- Today, we all can access maps (digitally)
 - Google, Apple, Bing, Organic Maps,...
- But we don't necessarily own them...
 - Access could be removed by company or internet availability
 - Their purpose may not fit our needs
 - Ads, privacy, & data harvesting



Wright, George Burdick, 1835-1882. Map of Hennepin County, Minnesota. 1873. Minnesota Historical Society, collection.mndigital.org/catalog/mhs:865 Accessed 17 June 2025

Sankofa as Counter Mapping?

[Video](#)

- Counter Mapping may refer to...
 - **Protecting** traditional territories and/or knowledge
 - **Engaging** public participation in mapping
 - **Challenging** dominant power structures
 - ...

Remember Place

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([Britannica Dictionary](#), 4/2008)



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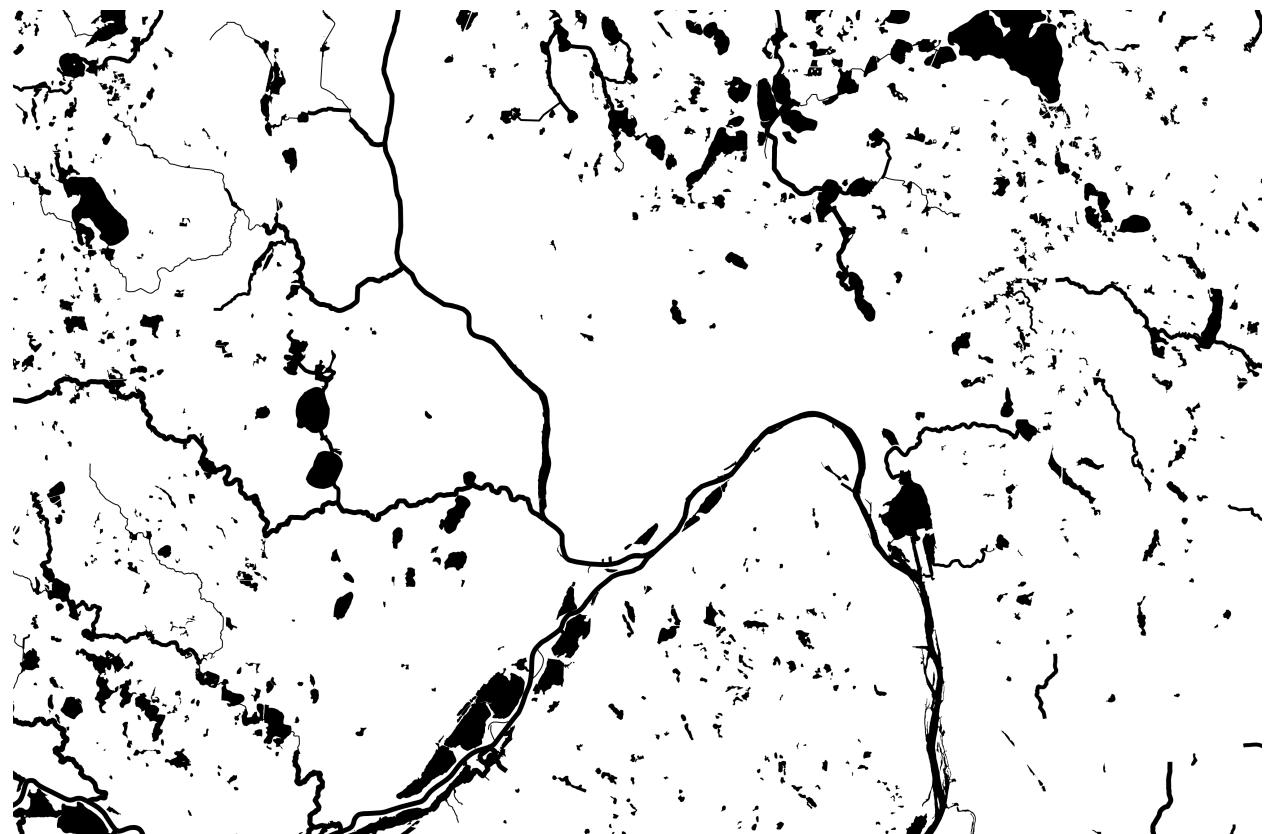
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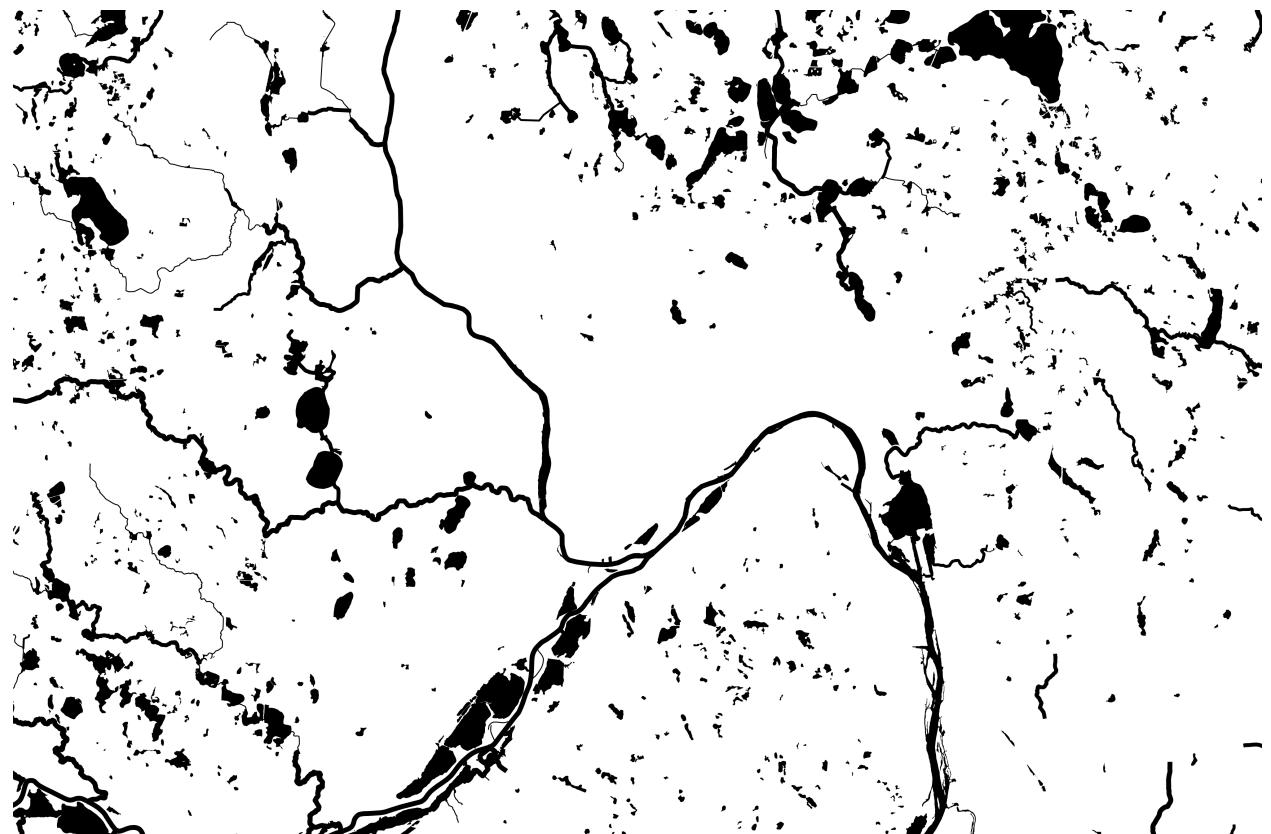
Know Where You Are - Bdote

- [Bdote Memory Map](#)
- [Virtual Tour Video](#)
(0:00-8:50)



Know Where You Are - Bdote

- [Bdote Memory Map](#)
- [Virtual Tour Video](#)
(0:00-8:50)
- Take 5 minutes to complete #4 on Activity Sheet
- Anyone want to share their food story with the class?



BREAK!
(Please be back in 10 minutes)

Lab Time!

Please go to

[https://github.com/RwHendrickson/SankofaClass/Session01/
LabInstructions.pdf](https://github.com/RwHendrickson/SankofaClass/Session01/LabInstructions.pdf)

Thank you!