

GEO 3411

Maps and Mapmaking

Lab 1: Mental maps

This lab is about mental maps, a type of cartography with which we are all familiar. After all, in our minds we mentally “draw” maps all the time!

Mental maps are important in our everyday life. Most often we use them for navigation, but we also use another type of mental map, one that has to do with desirability. In this lab we will work on a U.S map of *residential desirability*.

Assignment Lab 1

Answer these questions:

1. List your five most and least desirable states to live in. This list, of course, is laden with personal experience; your experiences in that state, what you have heard or read, your personal likes and dislikes, etc. Do you think this choice is a purely *individual* phenomenon or are there collective patterns and generalizations that can be derived from such a listing? To research this question, prepare a combined list of the most/least desired states for all people in your class (All Group). What are the five most/least desired states for the class as a whole?
2. Locate on the U.S. state map (see attached) states in both (most/least) categories, using symbols or patterns to make the categories clear. ***Use the U.S. map handed out.***
3. Write an assessment of the pattern that you found for Question #2. Where are the most popular and least desirable states? Analyze this pattern. Why do you think this pattern occurs?
4. Compare your map with figure 1.4 in Campbell (see attached). What is the “view from Texas”? How does the “view from Texas” differ from the four “views” shown? Write your thoughts about this question.
5. Now imagine you are the governor (business leader, real estate agent, state secretary of tourism or development...) of the *least* desirable state. Your state is viewed as not particularly desirable to live in. What implications does that have? What programs does that suggest?

Alternatively, assume you are the governor of the *most* desirable place, and because of the influx of an overwhelming emigrant population, your social, economic, and natural resources are stretched thin. What would you do? How would you plan?

This assignment is due at the beginning of next week’s lab.

Submit the answers to the text questions above in Word or Notepad format in Blackboard into the Drop Box, making sure that you get a “file sent” with a date and time. Hand in your paper map. On each item turned in, put your name, the date, “GEO 3411 Lab #1”, and tell me which lab (M or W) you are in.

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Name:

Date:

GEO 3411 Lab #1: Mental Maps

Lab (M or W):

1. List the 5 **most** and **least** desirable states to live in (YOU)

Most desirable

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

Least desirable

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

Do you think this is a purely *individual* phenomenon or are there collective patterns and generalizations that can be derived from such a listing?

List the 5 **most** and **least** desirable states to live in all in the whole class (All Group)

Most Desirable

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

Least Desirable

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

2. Locate on the attached (paper) U.S. states map, the states in both (most/least) categories, using symbols or patterns to make the categories clear.

3. Write an assessment of the pattern that you found for Question #2.

Where are the most popular and least desirable states?

Analyze this pattern. Why do I think this pattern occurs?

4. Compare your map with figure 1.4 in Campbell (attached).
What is the “view from Texas”?

How does the “view from Texas” differ from the four “views” shown?

My thoughts on this topic ...

5. If you were the governor of the least desirable state
What implications does that have?

What programs does that suggest?

If I were the governor of the most desirable state

What would I do?

How would I plan?