For my map, I chose to look at unemployment data, because it was readily available for most countries, and unemployment rates are a crucial statistic to examine regionally. The data ranged from 0.13% to 37.64%, so I experimented with different increment sizes and found that breaking the data into 5% increments (0-5%, 5-10%, 10-15%, 15-20%, and >20%) provided a clear distribution across countries when visualized on the map. This choice ensured the categories were easily distinguishable and balanced, with a reasonable number of countries falling into each range. For instance, using an 8% increment clustered too many countries into certain categories, making it harder to interpret. This occurs because the median of the data is 5.42%, indicating a large skew since the range extends far beyond this value. My map shows that most countries in North and South America, Europe, Oceania, and Asia tend to have unemployment rates below 10%, while countries with rates above 10% are primarily located in Mediterranean, African, and Middle Eastern regions, illustrating regional economic patterns. The reason for the color selection was that it was easily distinguishable by my eyes, although looking at the final result now, I believe that I could have made the low end of the color range a tad bit lighter to accentuate it further.

Unemployment Rates in 2023
(% of total labor force)

Legend:
- 0 - 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 15
- 15 - 20
- > 20
- No data

Source: World Development Indicators (World Bank)
Date: October 11, 2024