

1.3 — Data Visualization with ggplot2 - R Practice (Answers)

ECON 480 — Fall 2021

Tuesday, August 30, 2021

Getting Set Up

Before we begin, start a new file with **File** → **New File** → **R Script**. As you work through this sheet in the console in R, also add (copy/paste) your commands that work into this new file. At the end, save it, and run to execute all of your commands at once.

Exploring the Data

1. We will look at GDP per Capita and Life Expectancy using some data from the gapminder project. There is a handy package called `gapminder` that uses a small snippet of this data for exploratory analysis. Install and load the package `gapminder`. Type `?gapminder` and hit enter to see a description of the data.

```
# first time only
# install.packages("gapminder")

# load gapminder
library(gapminder)

# get help
?gapminder
```

2. Let's get a quick look at `gapminder` to see what we're dealing with.

a. Get the structure of the `gapminder` data.

```
str(gapminder)

## tibble [1,704 x 6] (S3: tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
##  $ country   : Factor w/ 142 levels "Afghanistan",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
##  $ continent: Factor w/ 5 levels "Africa","Americas",...: 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 ...
##  $ year      : int [1:1704] 1952 1957 1962 1967 1972 1977 1982 1987 1992 1997 ...
##  $ lifeExp   : num [1:1704] 28.8 30.3 32 34 36.1 ...
##  $ pop       : int [1:1704] 8425333 9240934 10267083 11537966 13079460 14880372 12881816 13867957 163...
##  $ gdpPercap: num [1:1704] 779 821 853 836 740 ...
```

b. What variables are there?

```
# - country: a factor
# - continent: a factor
# - year: an integer
```

```
# - lifeExp: a number
# - gdpPercap: a number
```

c. Look at the `head` of the dataset to get an idea of what the data looks like.

```
head(gapminder)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 6
##   country      continent year lifeExp      pop gdpPercap
##   <fct>        <fct>    <int>   <dbl>   <int>   <dbl>
## 1 Afghanistan Asia      1952    28.8  8425333    779.
## 2 Afghanistan Asia      1957    30.3  9240934    821.
## 3 Afghanistan Asia      1962    32.0 10267083    853.
## 4 Afghanistan Asia      1967    34.0 11537966    836.
## 5 Afghanistan Asia      1972    36.1 13079460    740.
## 6 Afghanistan Asia      1977    38.4 14880372    786.
```

d. Get summary statistics of all variables.

```
summary(gapminder)
```

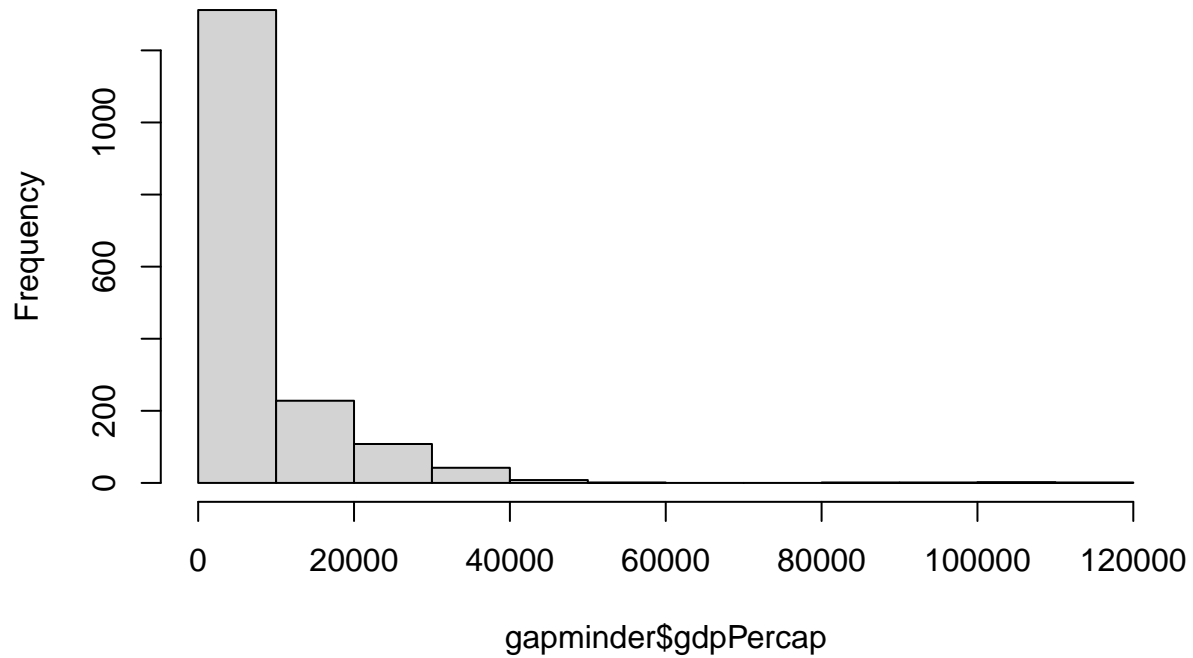
```
##           country      continent      year      lifeExp
## Afghanistan: 12 Africa :624   Min.   :1952   Min.   :23.60
## Albania      : 12 Americas:300 1st Qu.:1966 1st Qu.:48.20
## Algeria       : 12 Asia    :396 Median :1980 Median :60.71
## Angola        : 12 Europe  :360 Mean    :1980 Mean   :59.47
## Argentina     : 12 Oceania : 24 3rd Qu.:1993 3rd Qu.:70.85
## Australia     : 12              Max.   :2007 Max.   :82.60
## (Other)       :1632
##           pop      gdpPercap
## Min.   :6.001e+04   Min.    : 241.2
## 1st Qu.:2.794e+06   1st Qu.: 1202.1
## Median :7.024e+06   Median : 3531.8
## Mean    :2.960e+07   Mean    : 7215.3
## 3rd Qu.:1.959e+07   3rd Qu.: 9325.5
## Max.    :1.319e+09   Max.    :113523.1
##
```

Simple Plots in Base R

3. Let's make sure you can do some basic plots before we get into the `gg`. Use base R's `hist()` function to plot a *histogram* of `gdpPercap`.

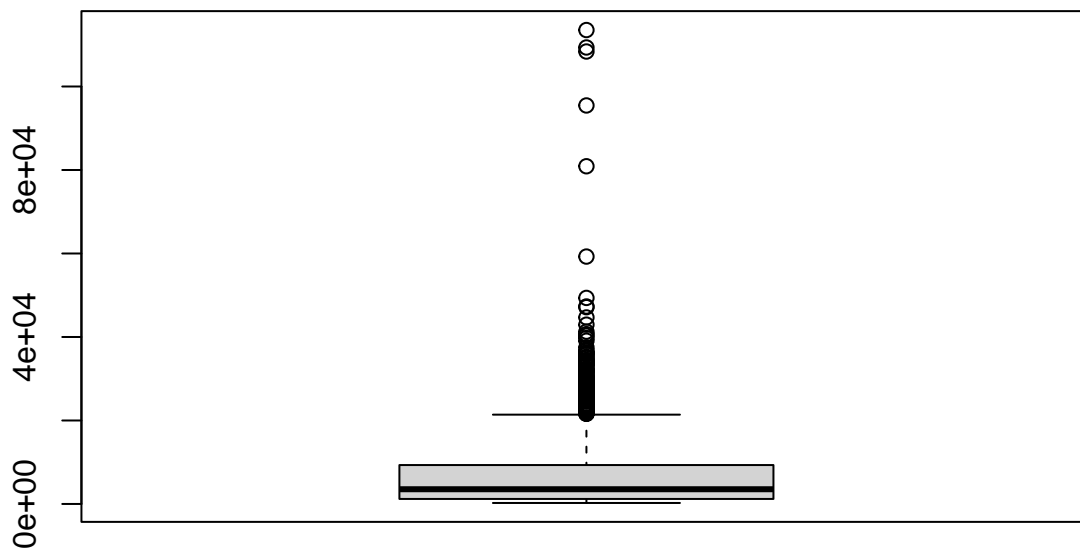
```
hist(gapminder$gdpPercap)
```

Histogram of gapminder\$gdpPercap



4. Use base R's `boxplot()` function to plot a *boxplot* of `gdpPercap`.

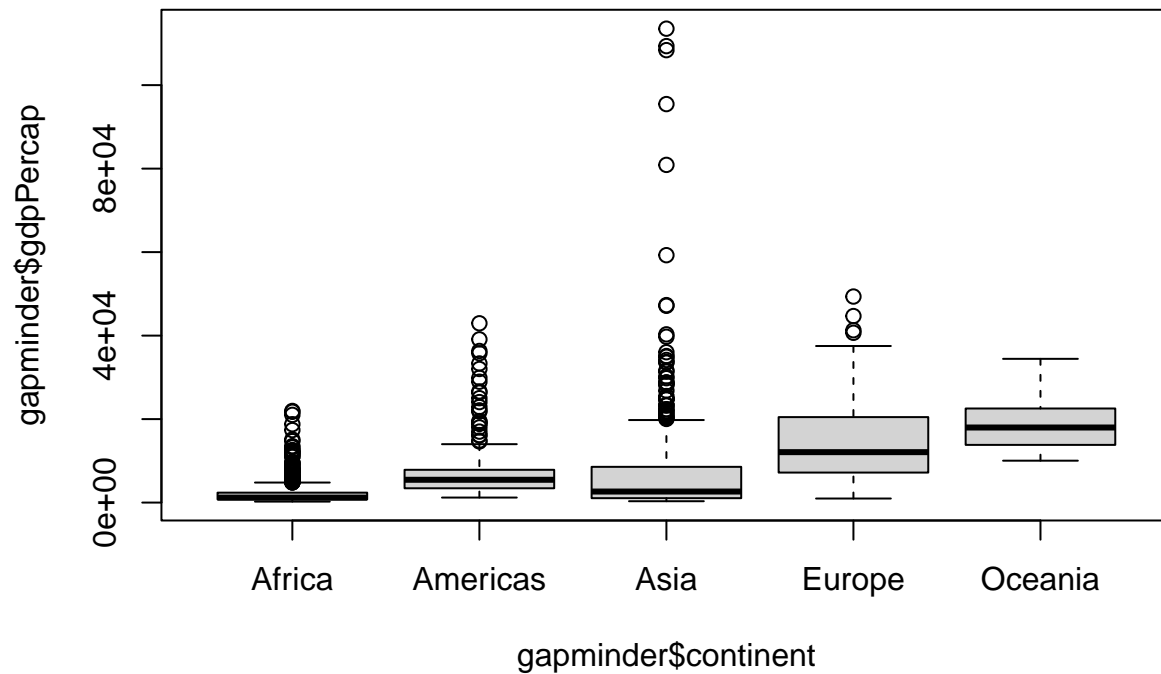
```
boxplot(gapminder$gdpPercap)
```



5. Now make it a *boxplot* by continent.¹

```
boxplot(gapminder$gdpPercap~gapminder$continent)
```

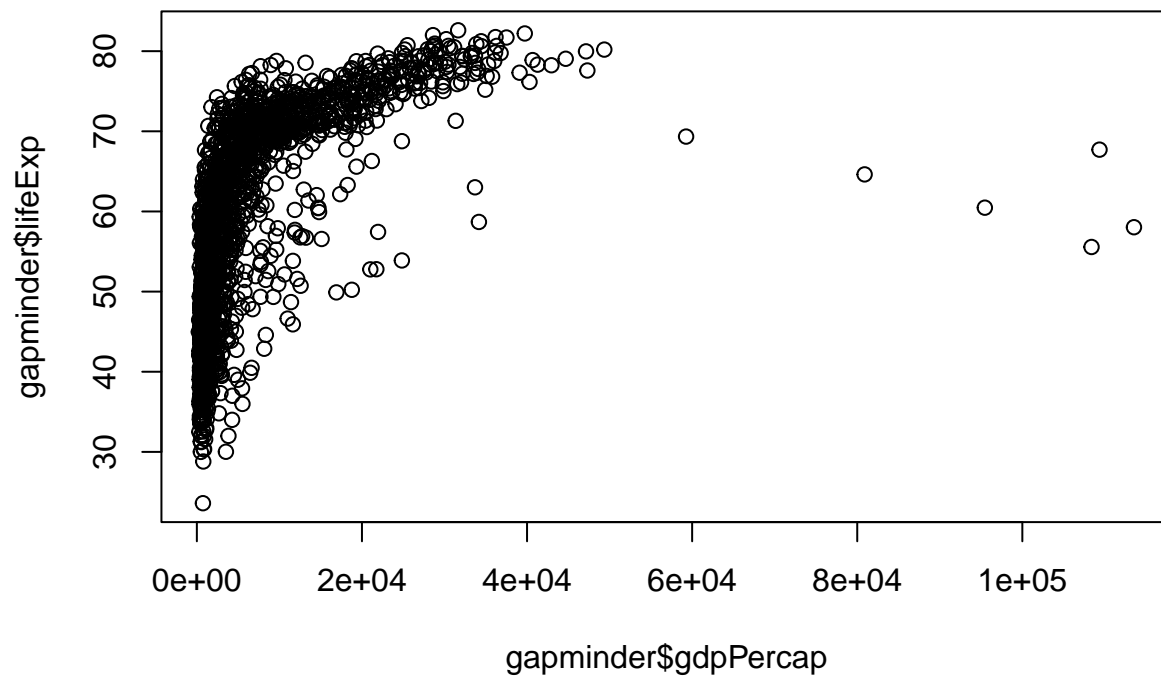
¹Hint: use formula notation with ~.



```
# alternate method
# boxplot(gdpPercap~continent, data = gapminder)
```

6. Now make a *scatterplot* of **gdpPercap** on the *x*-axis and **LifeExp** on the *y*-axis.

```
plot(gapminder$lifeExp~gapminder$gdpPercap)
```



```
# alternate method
# boxplot(lifeExp~gdpPercap, data = gapminder)
```

Plots with ggplot2

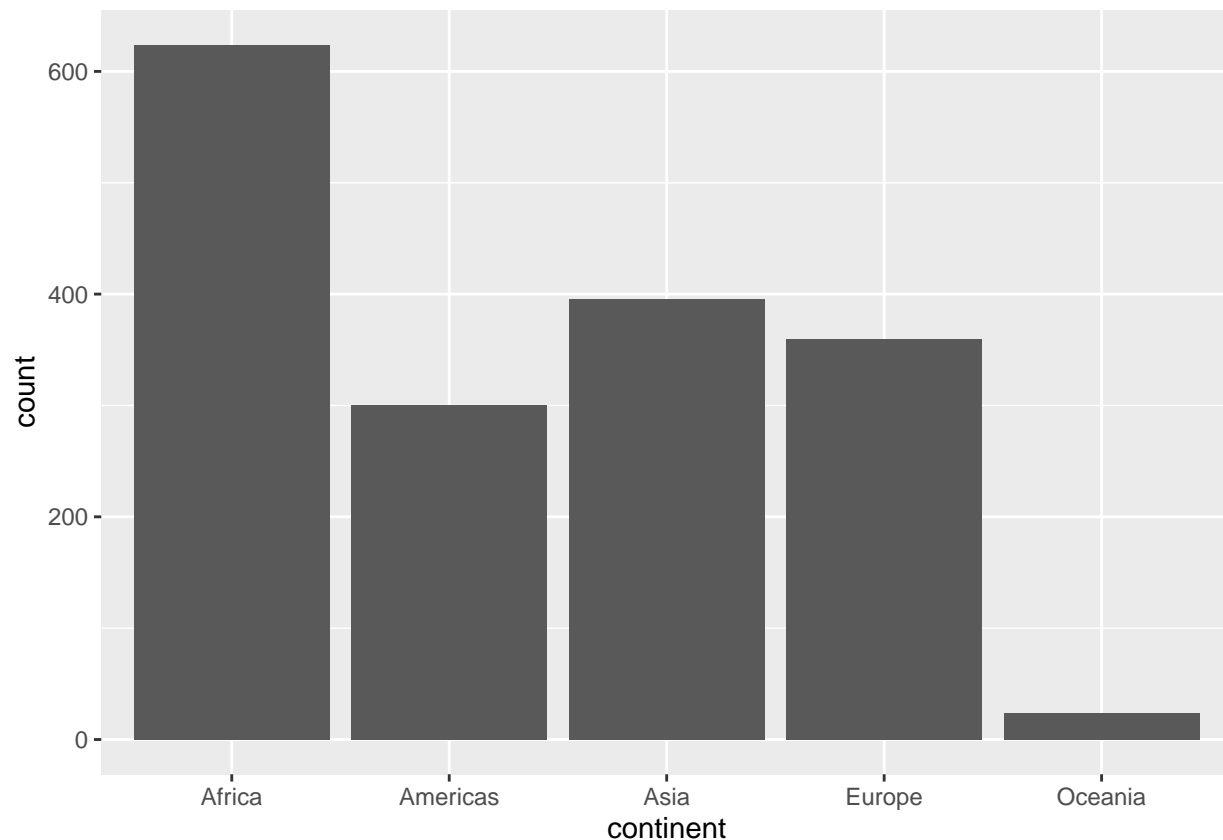
7. Load the package `ggplot2` (you should have installed it previously. If not, install first with `install.packages("ggplot2")`).

```
# install if you don't have
# install.packages("ggplot2")

# load ggplot2
library(ggplot2)
```

8. Let's first make a bar graph to see how many countries are in each continent. The only aesthetic you need is to map continent to x. Bar graphs are great for representing categories, but not quantitative data.

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,
       aes(x = continent)) +
  geom_bar()
```

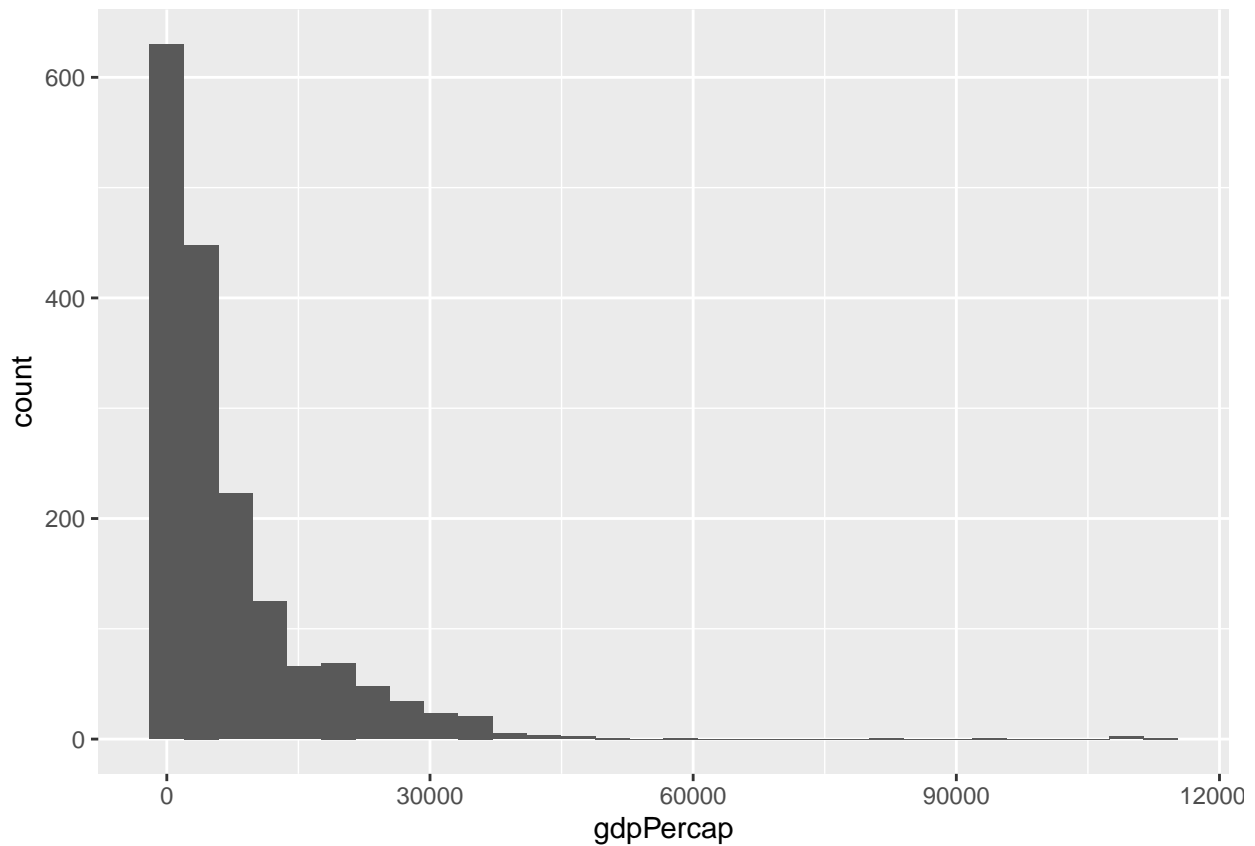


9. For quantitative data, we want a histogram to visualize the distribution of a variable. Make a histogram of `gdpPercap`. Your only aesthetic here is to map `gdpPercap` to x.

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,
       aes(x = gdpPercap)) +
```

```
geom_histogram()
```

```
## 'stat_bin()' using 'bins = 30'. Pick better value with 'binwidth'.
```

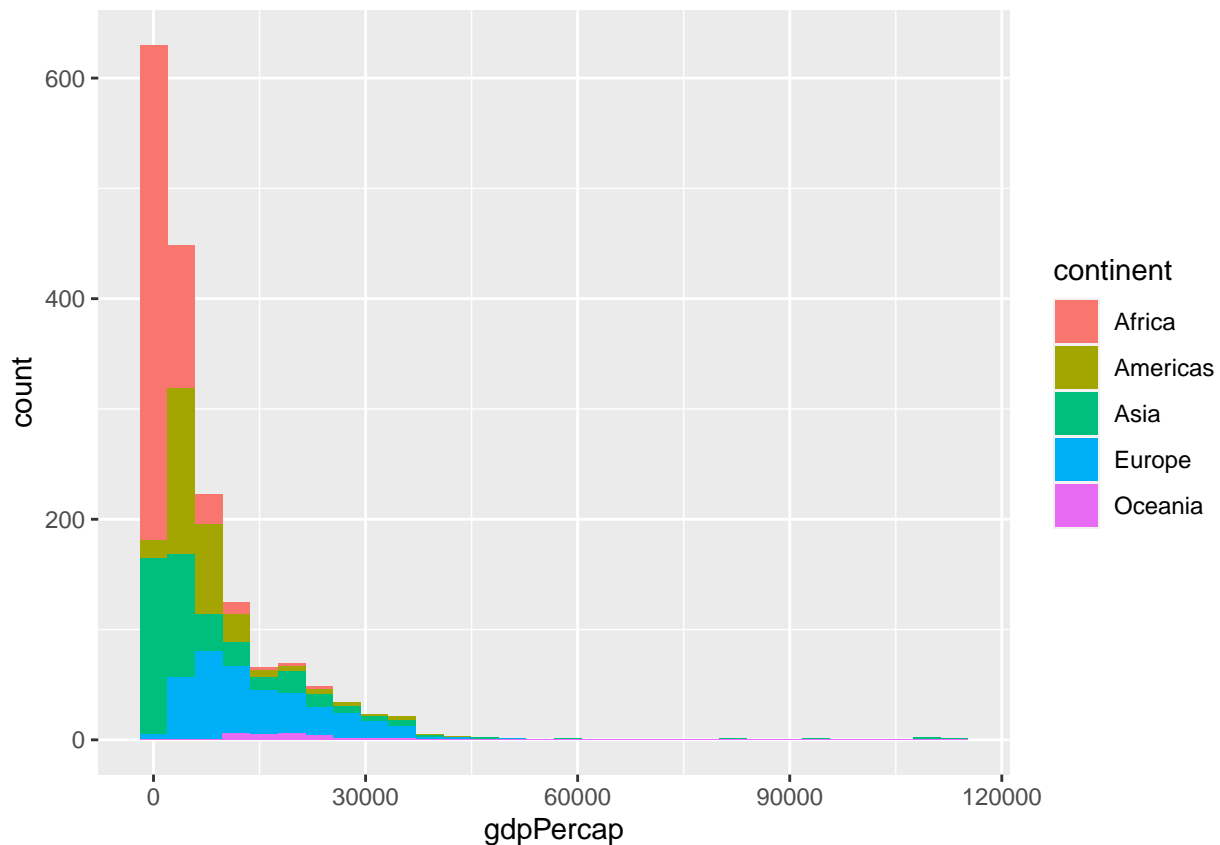


10. Now let's try adding some color, specifically, add an aesthetic that maps continent to fill.²

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,  
       aes(x = gdpPercap,  
           fill = continent))+  
geom_histogram()
```

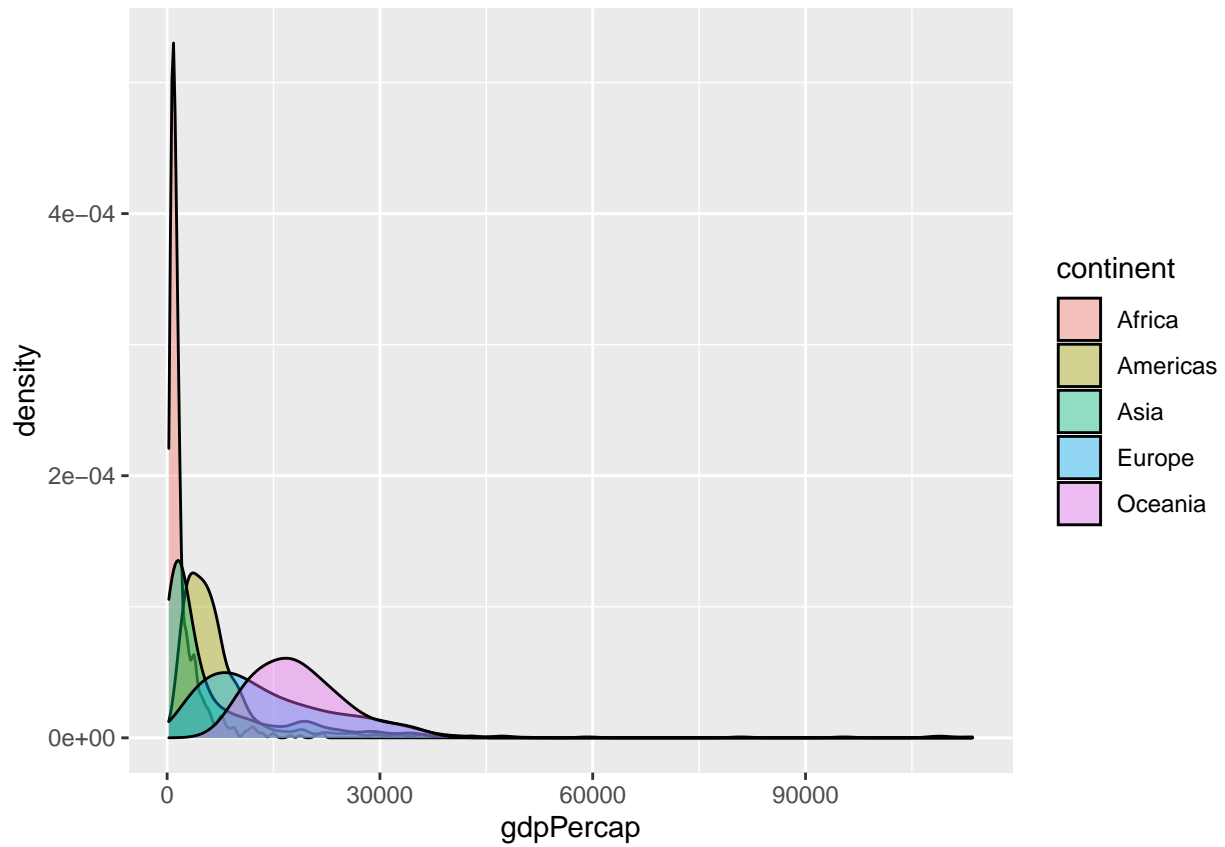
```
## 'stat_bin()' using 'bins = 30'. Pick better value with 'binwidth'.
```

²In general, color refers to the outside borders of a `geom` (except points), fill is the interior of an object.



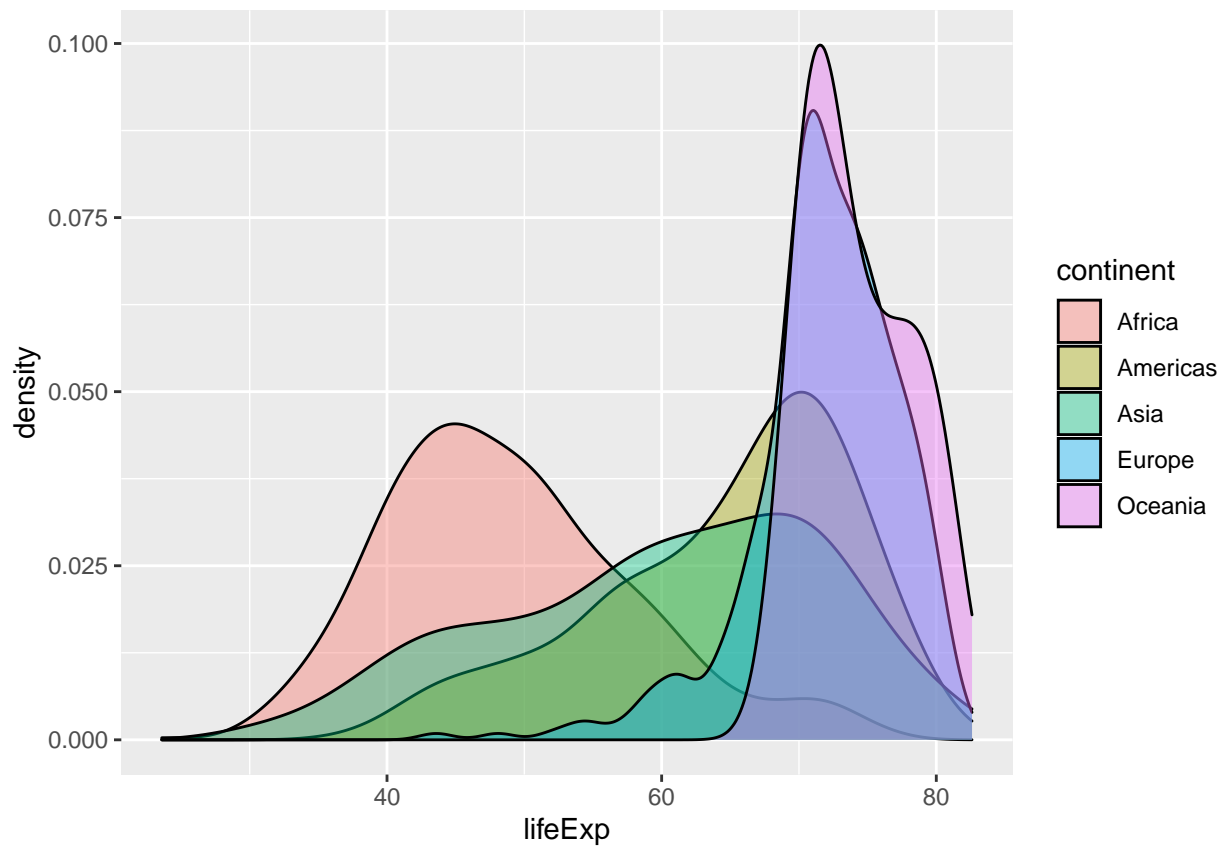
11. Instead of a histogram, change the geom to make it a density graph. To avoid overplotting, add `alpha=0.4` to the geom argument (alpha changes the *transparency* of a fill).

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,  
       aes(x = gdpPercap,  
           fill = continent))+  
geom_density(alpha=0.4)
```



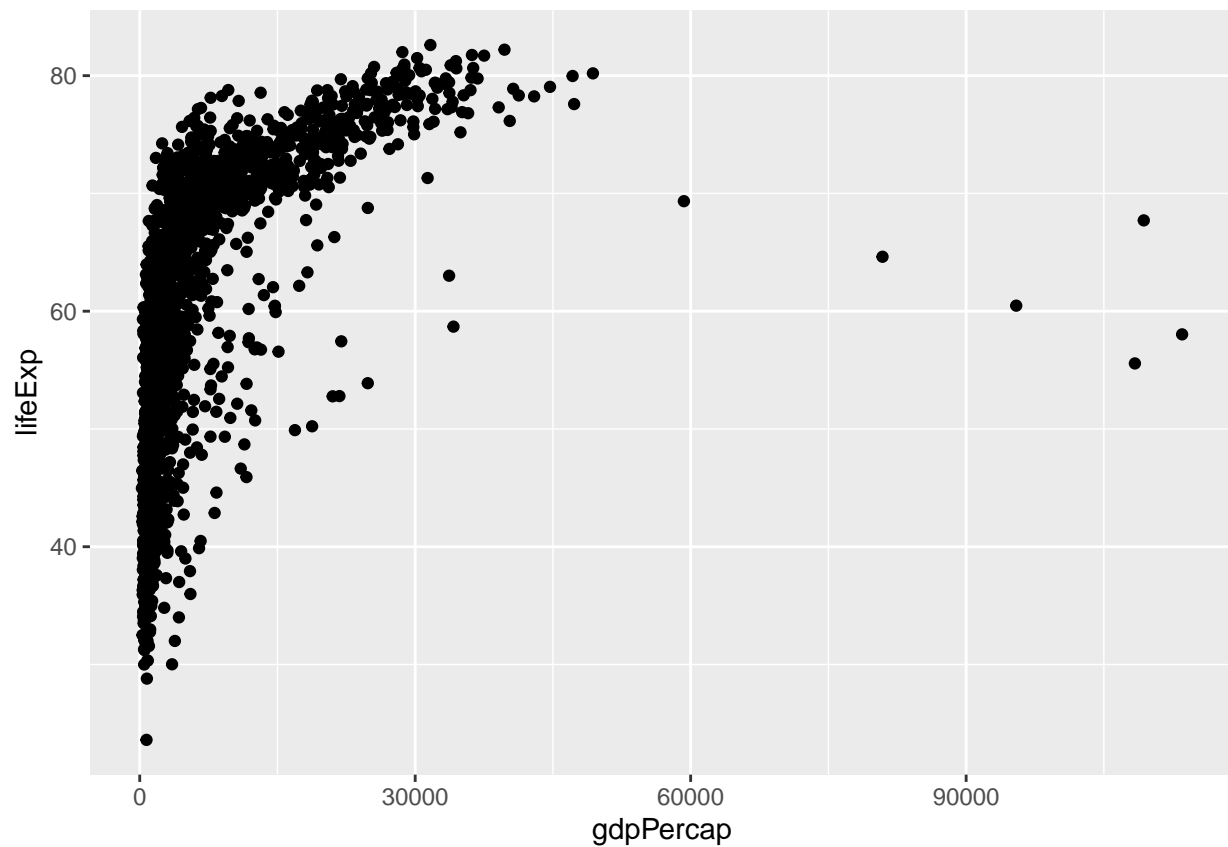
12. Redo your plot from 11 for lifeExp instead of gdpPercap.

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,  
       aes(x = lifeExp,  
           fill = continent))+  
  geom_density(alpha=0.4)
```

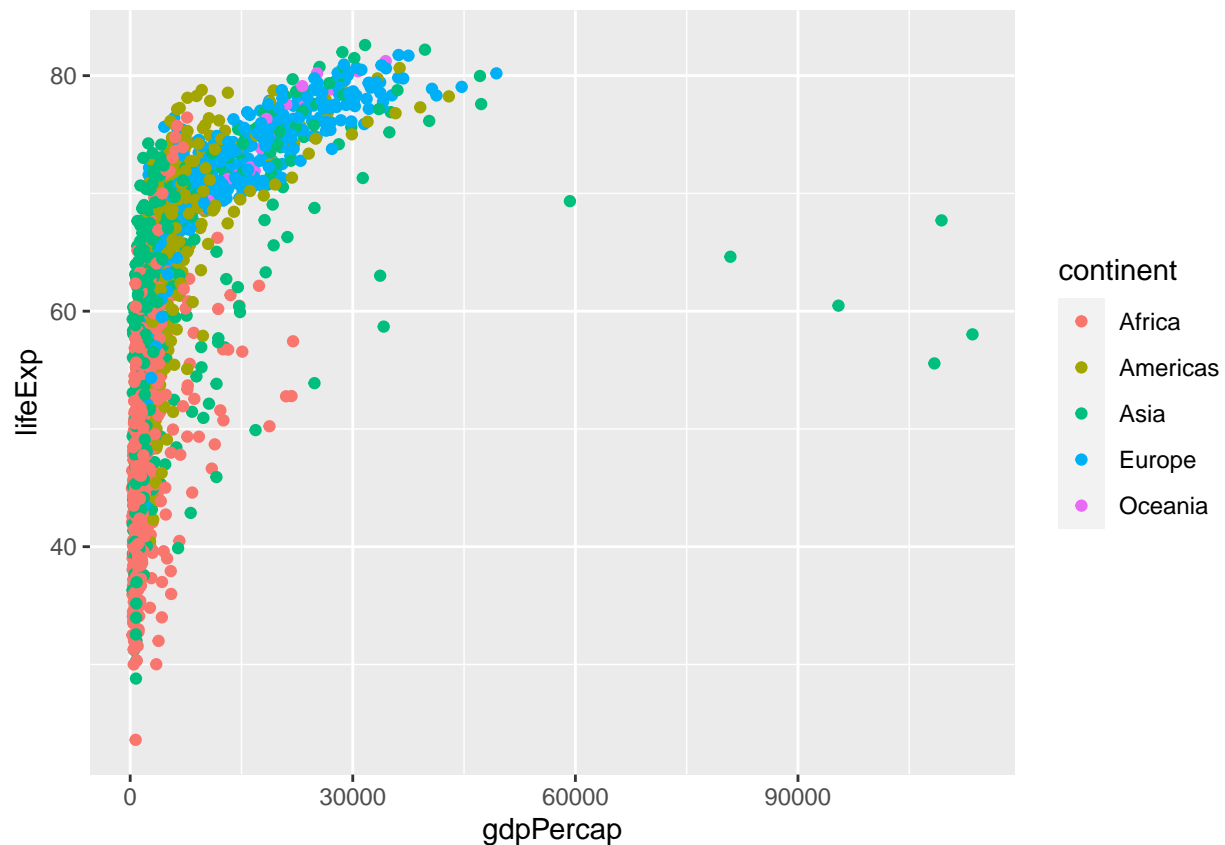
13. Now let's try a scatterplot for lifeExp (as y) on gdpPercap (as x). You'll need both for aesthetics. The geom here is geom_point().

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,  
       aes(x = gdpPercap,  
           y = lifeExp))+  
  geom_point()
```



14. Add some color by mapping continent to color in your aesthetics.

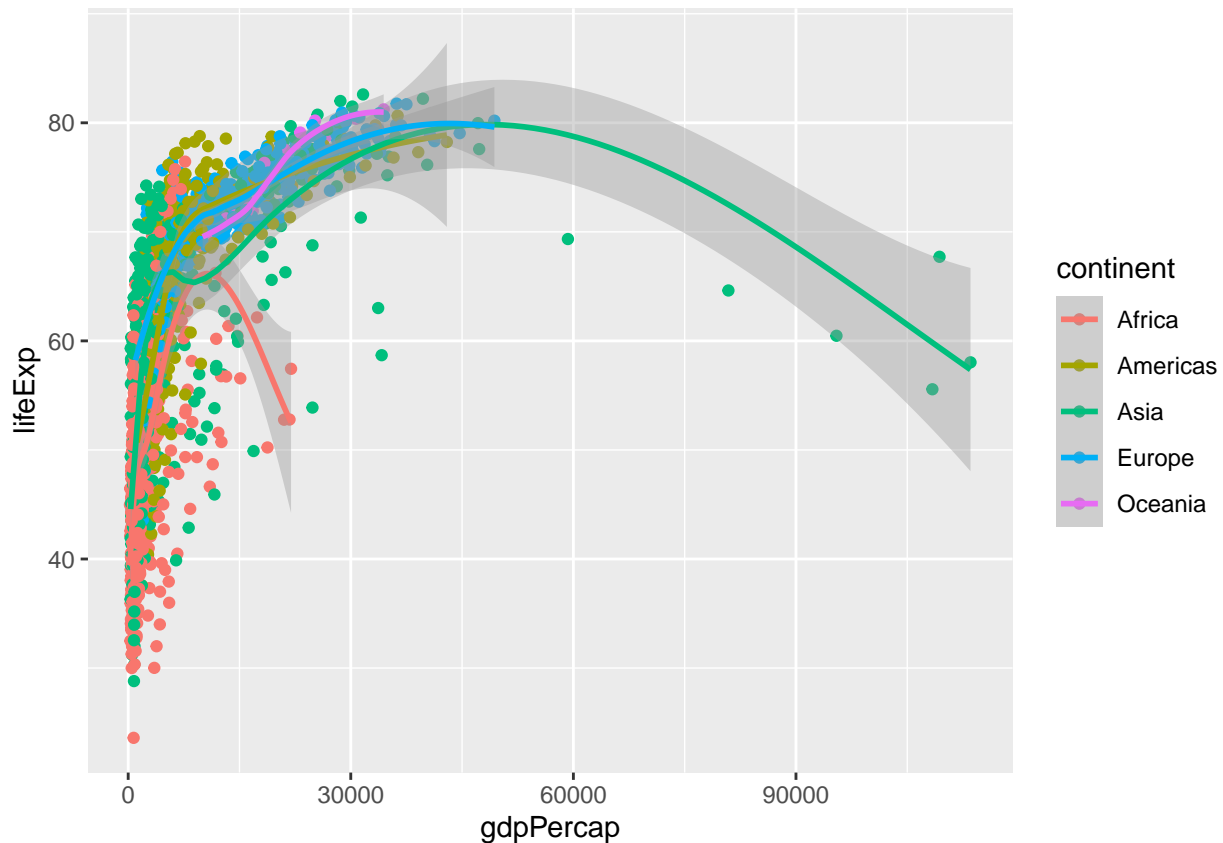
```
ggplot(data = gapminder,  
  aes(x = gdpPerCap,  
    y = lifeExp,  
    color = continent)) +  
  geom_point()
```



15. Now let's try adding a regression line with `geom_smooth()`. Add this layer on top of your `geom_point()` layer.

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,
       aes(x = gdpPercap,
           y = lifeExp,
           color = continent)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth()
```

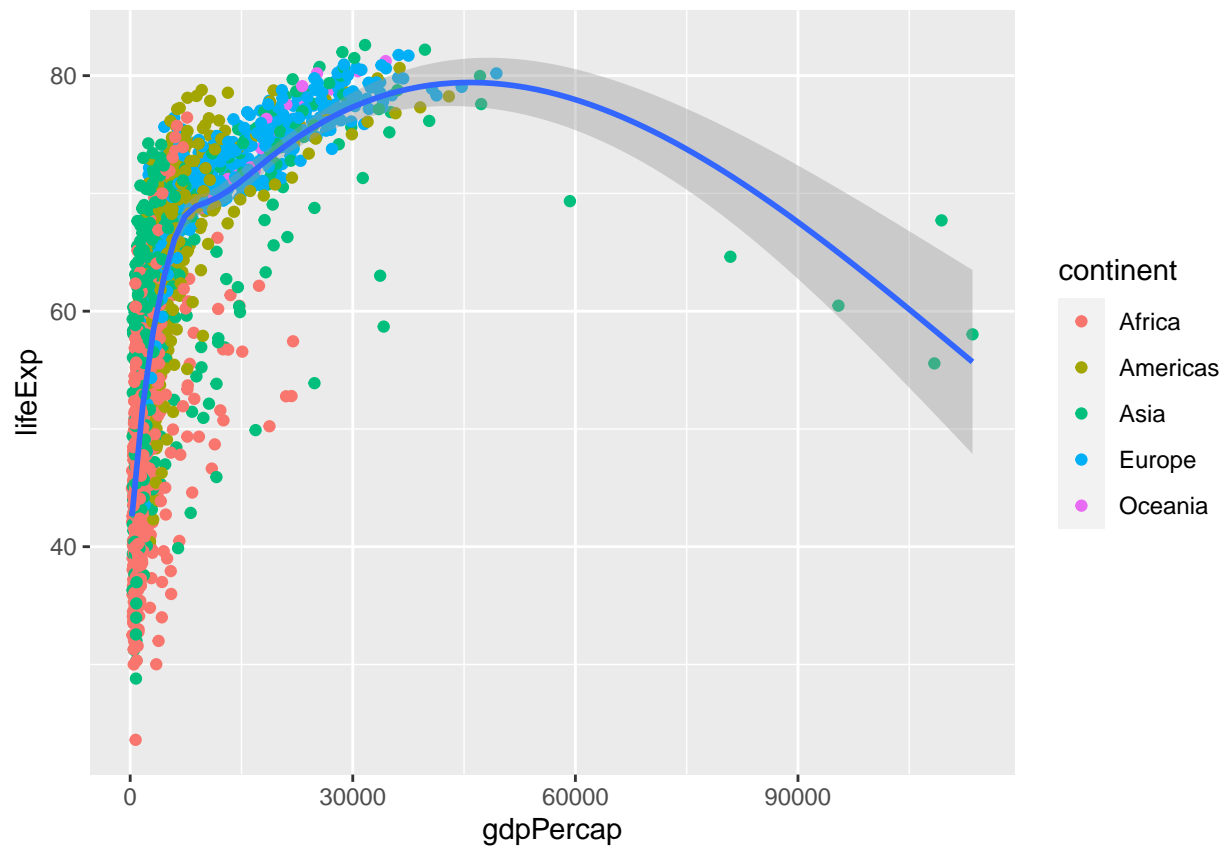
'geom_smooth()' using method = 'loess' and formula 'y ~ x'



16. Did you notice that you got multiple regression lines (colored by continent)? That's because we set a global aesthetic of mapping continent to color. If we want just *one* regression line, we need to instead move the `color = continent` inside the aes of `geom_point`. This will only map continent to color for points, not for anything else.

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,
       aes(x = gdpPercap,
           y = lifeExp)) +
  geom_point(aes(color = continent)) +
  geom_smooth()
```

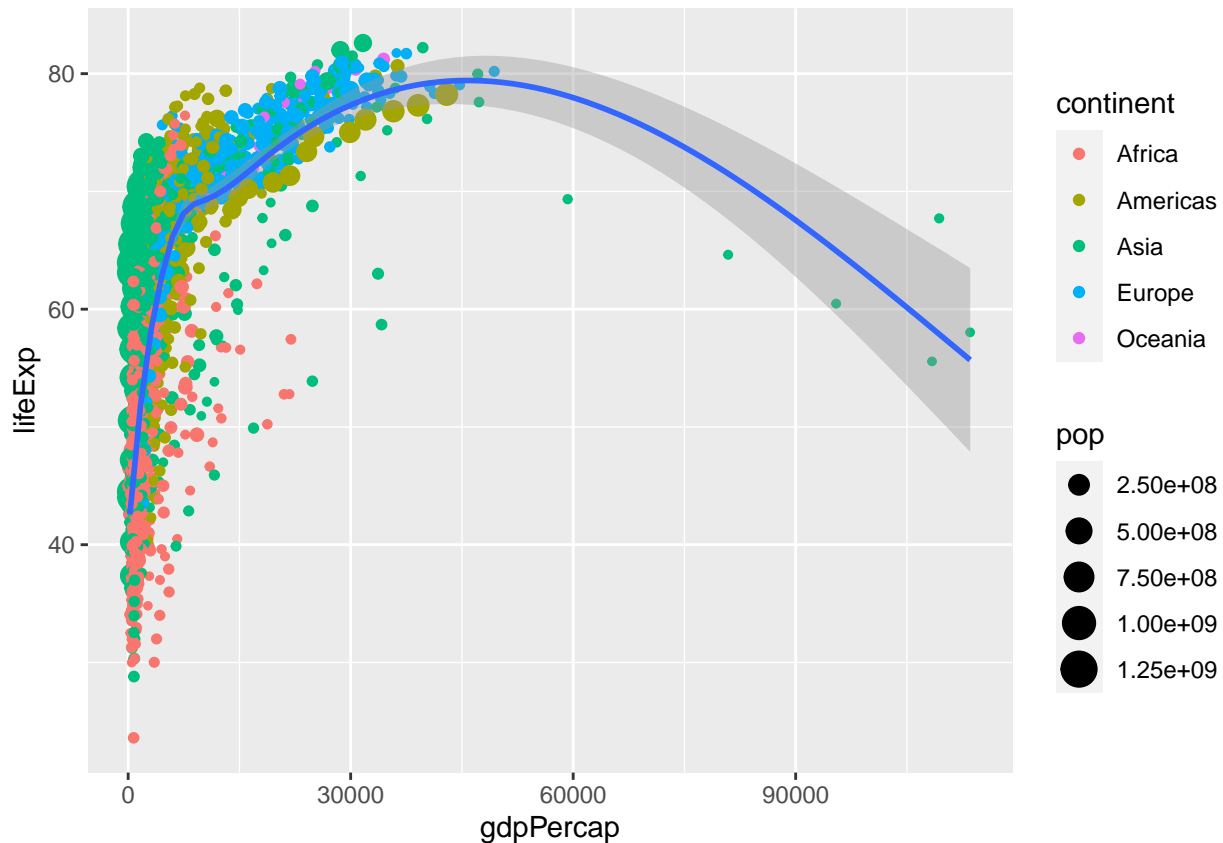
```
## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'gam' and formula 'y ~ s(x, bs = "cs")'
```



17. Now add an aesthetic to your points to map pop to size.

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,
       aes(x = gdpPercap,
           y = lifeExp)) +
  geom_point(aes(color = continent,
                 size = pop)) +
  geom_smooth()

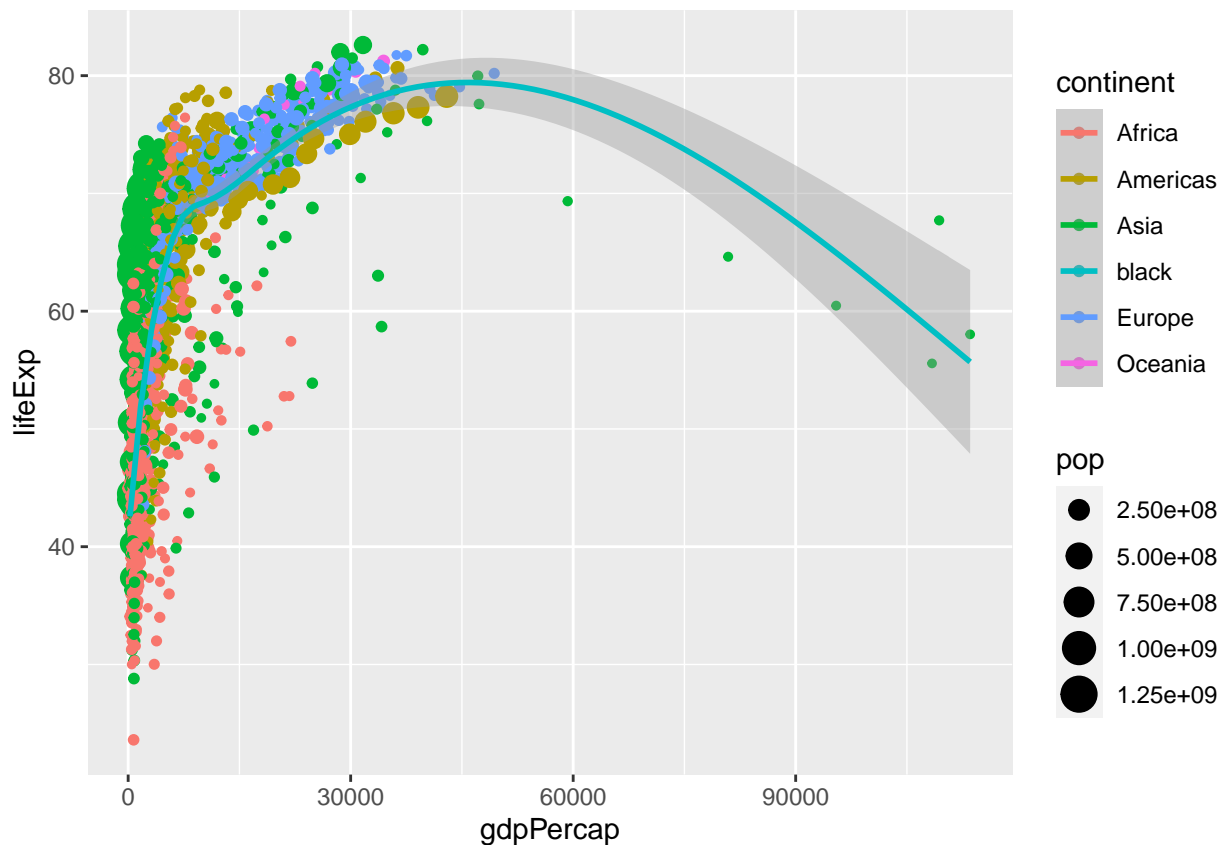
## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'gam' and formula 'y ~ s(x, bs = "cs")'
```



18. Change the color of the regression line to "black". Try first by putting this inside an `aes()` in your `geom_smooth`, and try a second time by just putting it inside `geom_smooth` without an `aes()`. What's the difference, and why?

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,
       aes(x = gdpPercap,
           y = lifeExp))+
  geom_point(aes(color = continent,
                 size = pop))+
  geom_smooth(aes(color = "black"))
```

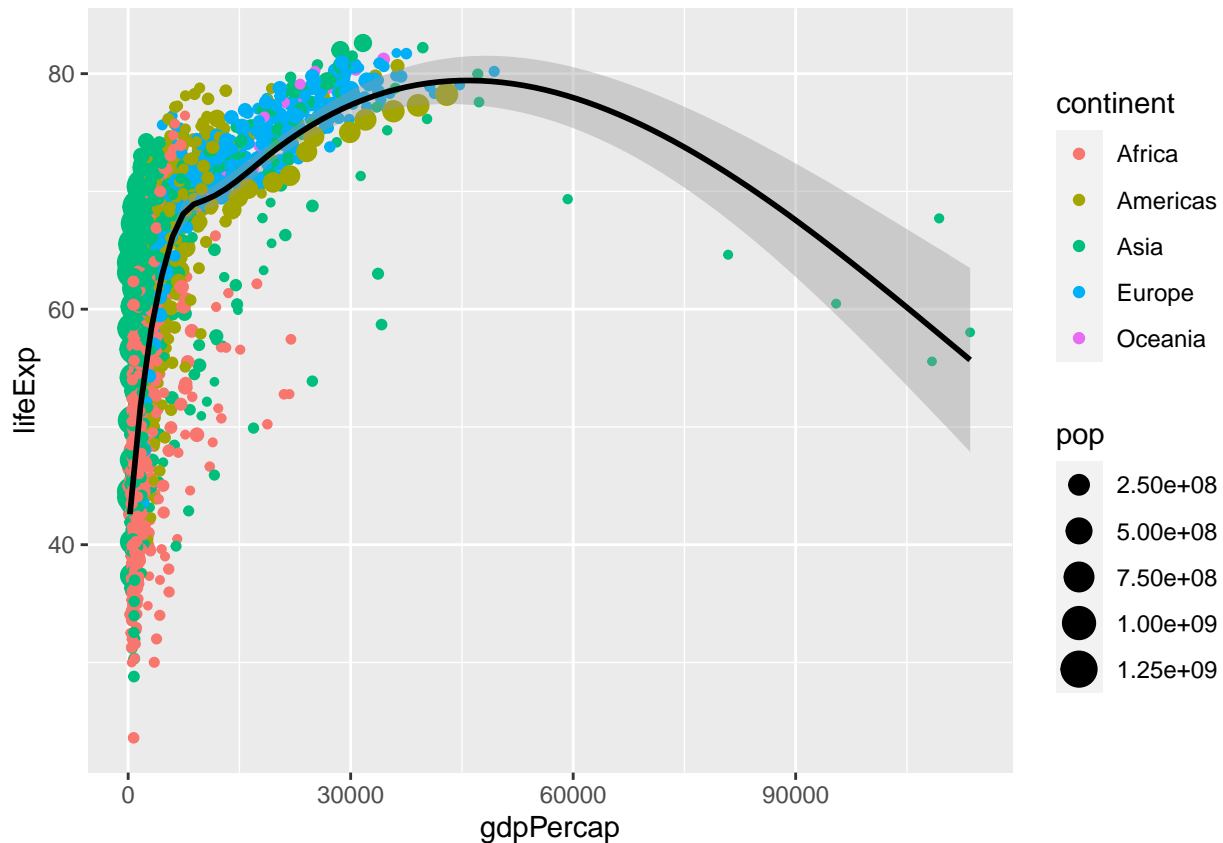
```
## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'gam' and formula 'y ~ s(x, bs = "cs")'
```



```
# putting it inside aesthetics tries to map color to something
# in the data called "black", since R can't find "black",
# it will produce some random color
```

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,
       aes(x = gdpPerCap,
           y = lifeExp)) +
  geom_point(aes(color = continent,
                 size = pop)) +
  geom_smooth(color = "black")
```

```
## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'gam' and formula 'y ~ s(x, bs = "cs")'
```

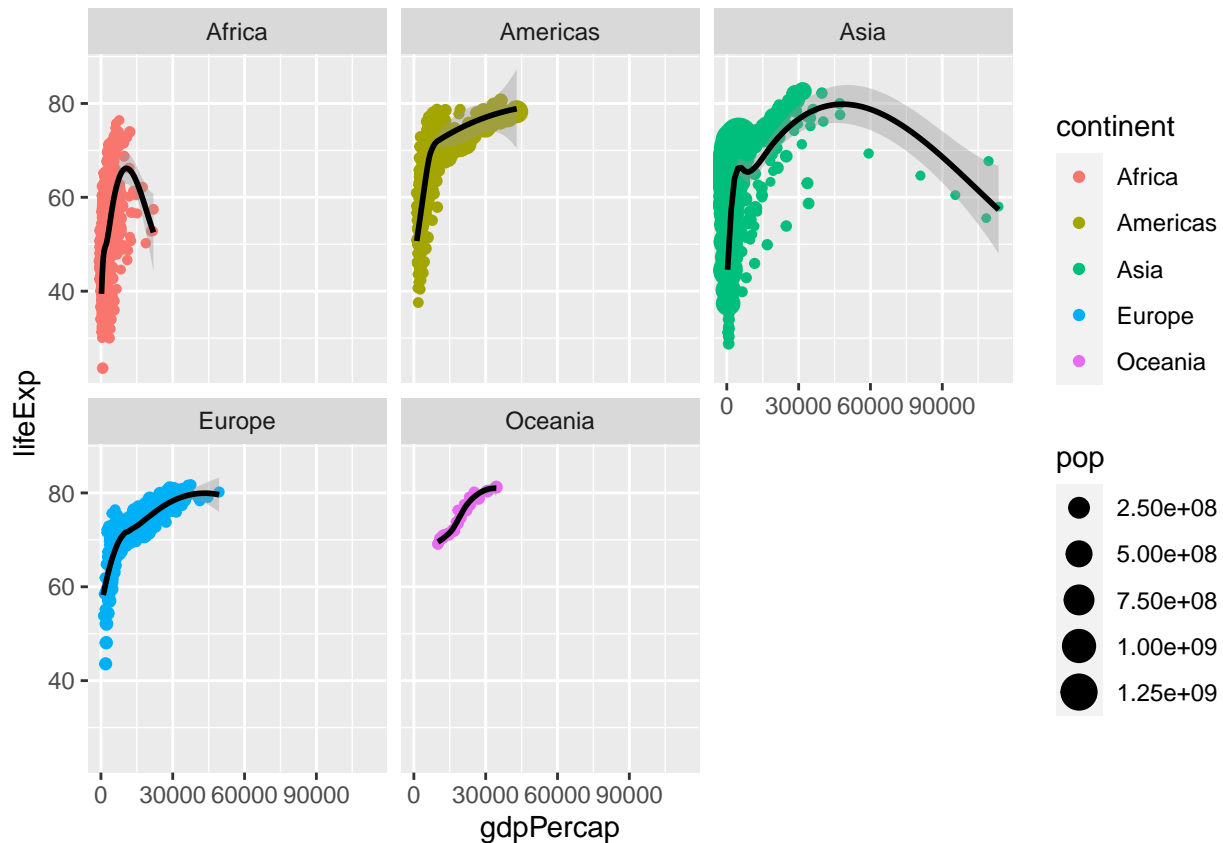


```
# putting it outside aesthetics (correctly) sets color to black
```

19. Another way to separate out continents is with faceting. Add `+facet_wrap(~continent)` to create subplots by continent.

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,
       aes(x = gdpPercap,
           y = lifeExp))+
  geom_point(aes(color = continent,
                 size = pop))+
  geom_smooth(color = "black")+
  facet_wrap(~continent)
```

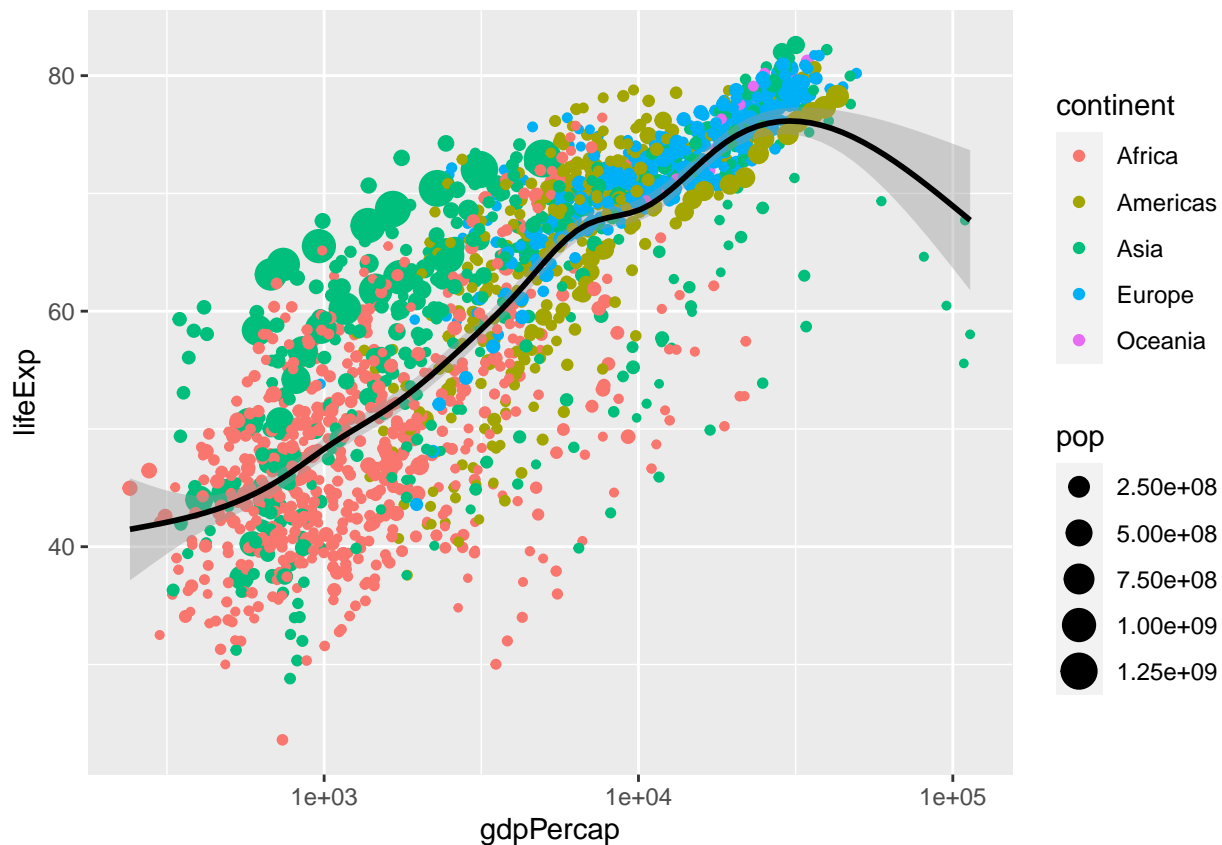
```
## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'loess' and formula 'y ~ x'
```

20. Remove the facet layer. The scale is quite annoying for the x-axis, a lot of points are clustered on the lower level. Let's try changing the scale by adding a layer: `+scale_x_log10()`.

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,
       aes(x = gdpPercap,
           y = lifeExp))+
  geom_point(aes(color = continent,
                 size = pop))+
  geom_smooth(color="black")+
  scale_x_log10()
```

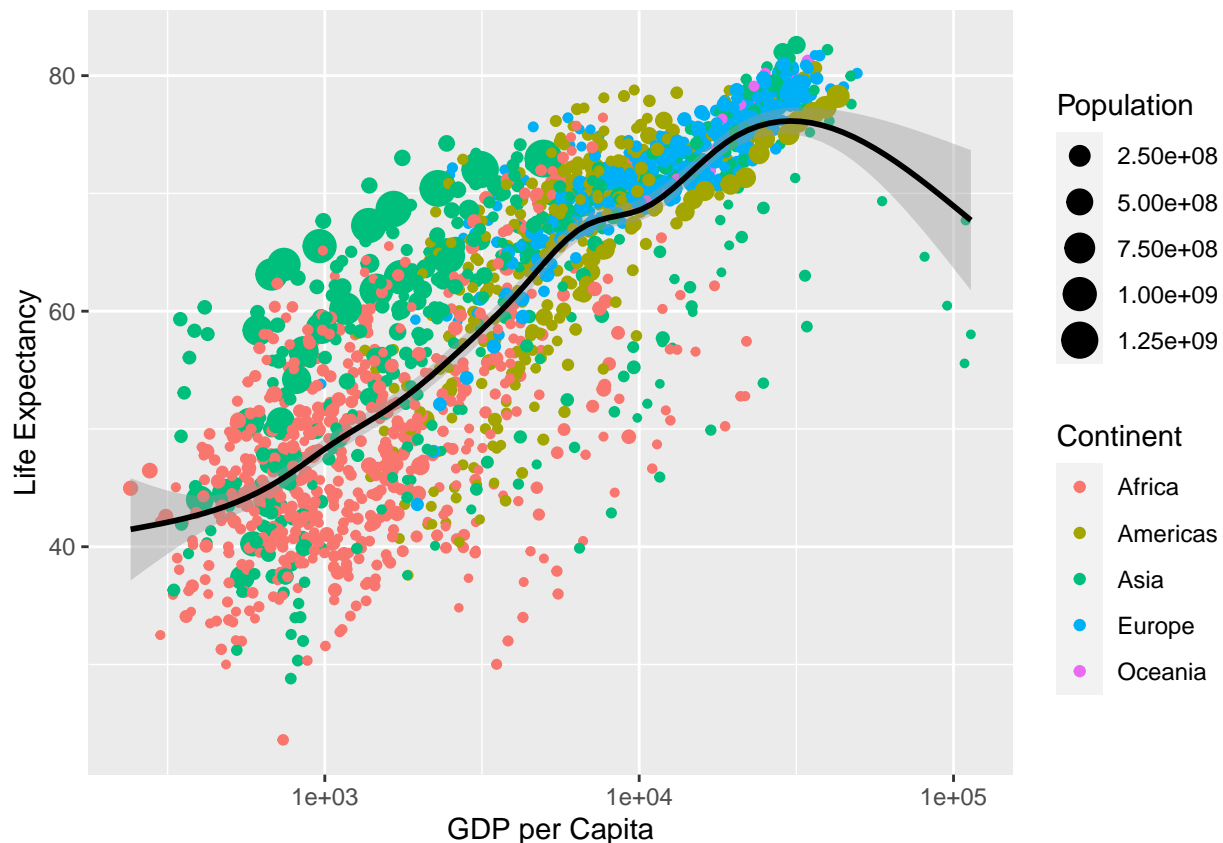
```
## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'gam' and formula 'y ~ s(x, bs = "cs")'
```



21. Now let's fix the labels by adding `+labs()`. Inside `labs`, make proper axes titles for `x`, `y`, and a title to the plot. If you want to change the name of the legends (continent color), add one for color and size.

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,
       aes(x = gdpPerCap,
           y = lifeExp))+
  geom_point(aes(color = continent,
                 size = pop))+
  geom_smooth(color="black")+
  scale_x_log10()+
  labs(x = "GDP per Capita",
       y = "Life Expectancy",
       color = "Continent",
       size = "Population")

## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'gam' and formula 'y ~ s(x, bs = "cs")'
```



22. Now let's try subsetting by looking only at North America. Take the `gapminder` dataframe and subset it to only look at `continent=="Americas"`). Assign this to a new dataframe object (call it something like `america`.) Now, use *this* as your data, and redo the graph from question 17. (You might want to take a look at your new dataframe to make sure it worked first!)

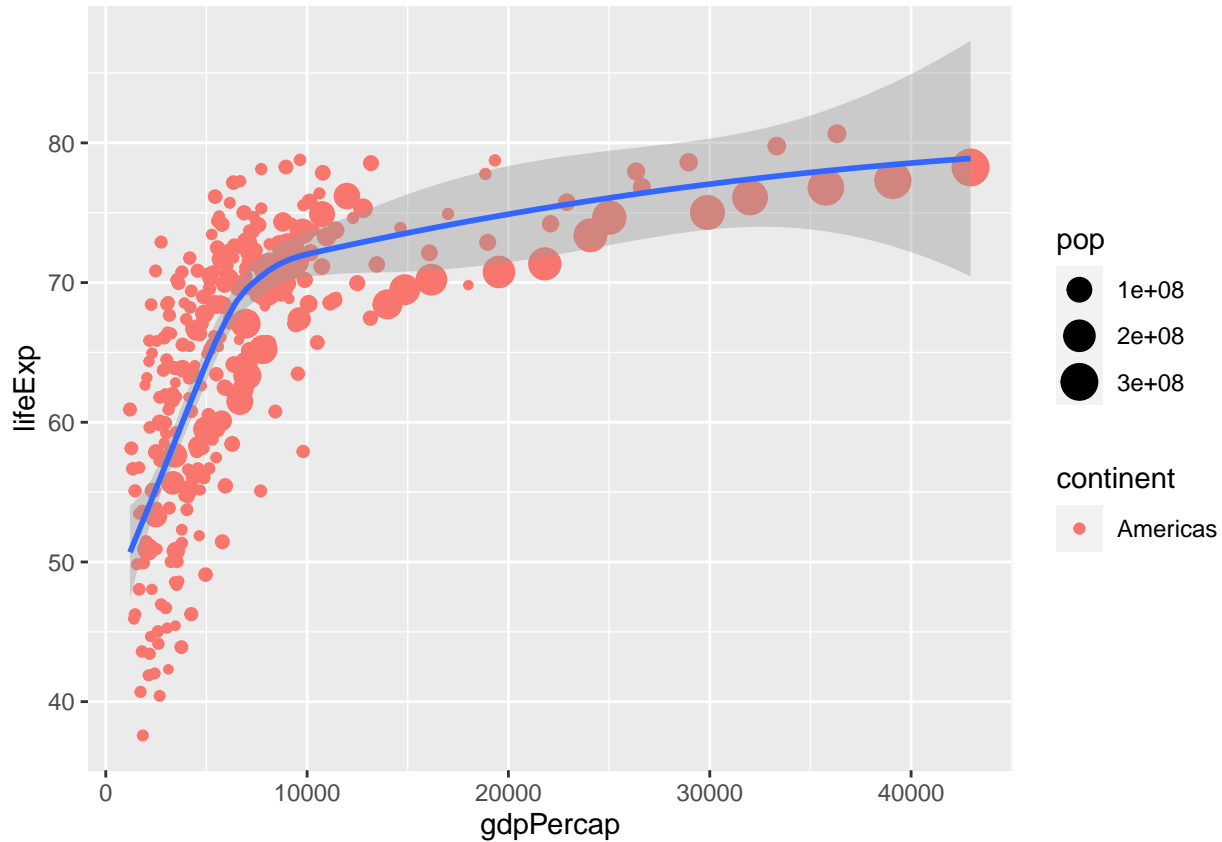
```
america<-gapminder[gapminder$continent=="Americas",]

# verify this worked
america

## # A tibble: 300 x 6
##   country    continent  year lifeExp      pop gdpPercap
##   <fct>      <fct>    <int>  <dbl>   <int>   <dbl>
## 1 Argentina Americas   1952   62.5 17876956   5911.
## 2 Argentina Americas   1957   64.4 19610538   6857.
## 3 Argentina Americas   1962   65.1 21283783   7133.
## 4 Argentina Americas   1967   65.6 22934225   8053.
## 5 Argentina Americas   1972   67.1 24779799   9443.
## 6 Argentina Americas   1977   68.5 26983828  10079.
## 7 Argentina Americas   1982   69.9 29341374   8998.
## 8 Argentina Americas   1987   70.8 31620918   9140.
## 9 Argentina Americas   1992   71.9 33958947   9308.
## 10 Argentina Americas  1997   73.3 36203463  10967.
## # ... with 290 more rows
```

```
ggplot(data = america,
       aes(x = gdpPercap,
           y = lifeExp))+
  geom_point(aes(color = continent,
                 size = pop))+
  geom_smooth()
```

```
## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'loess' and formula 'y ~ x'
```



23. Try this again for the *whole* world, but just for observations in the year 2002.

```
gap_2002 <- gapminder[gapminder$year == 2002,]
```

```
# verify this worked
gap_2002
```

```
## # A tibble: 142 x 6
##   country    continent  year lifeExp      pop gdpPercap
##   <fct>      <fct>    <int> <dbl>    <int>    <dbl>
## 1 Afghanistan Asia      2002  42.1  25268405    727.
## 2 Albania    Europe    2002  75.7   3508512   4604.
## 3 Algeria    Africa    2002  71.0  31287142   5288.
## 4 Angola     Africa    2002  41.0  10866106   2773.
## 5 Argentina  Americas  2002  74.3  38331121   8798.
## 6 Australia  Oceania   2002  80.4  19546792  30688.
## 7 Austria    Europe    2002  79.0   8148312  32418.
## 8 Bahrain    Asia      2002  74.8    656397  23404.
```

```
## 9 Bangladesh Asia 2002 62.0 135656790 1136.
## 10 Belgium Europe 2002 78.3 10311970 30486.
## # ... with 132 more rows
```

```
ggplot(data = gap_2002,
       aes(x = gdpPercap,
           y = lifeExp))+
  geom_point(aes(color = continent,
                 size = pop))+
  geom_smooth()
```

```
## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'loess' and formula 'y ~ x'
```

