Types of Maps

AP Human Geography
Mental Maps

• Maps are not always printed. Everyone has a mental map- a map in your mind- that has developed over the years.

• They are also known as cognitive maps.
How accurate is this map? If so, what does it say about Americans?
Reference Maps

• General purpose maps with a variety of common features like cities, boundaries, mountains, or roads

• Examples- Political Boundaries Map of the World, Road map of the City of Chicago
Thematic Maps

Types of thematic maps are:

• Dot Map
• Choropleth Map
• Proportional Symbol Map
• Cartogram Map
• Isoline Map
Dot Maps

• A thematic map in which a dot is used to represent some frequency of the mapped variable.

• Dot maps depict magnitude by frequency only
  – the more dots in one location, the higher the frequency of the variable.

• The size of a dot does not matter

• Examples- Population Density, Number of Technology Users
A simple dot map of commercial wireless antennas in the USA.
Choropleth Maps

• A thematic map in which ranked classes of some variable are depicted with shading patterns or colors for predefined zones

• Examples could include economic, political & population, anything

  – Pg. 7 Hurricane Katrina maps
Proportional (Symbol) Map

• A map that displays the size of symbols proportionally to the data value found at that location.
• The size of the symbol represents the quantity and also depicts the specific location of the variable.
• Examples- Unemployment rates in the U.S., Population, Gallons of Oil from individual wells
Where the Oil Is

Is there enough of it elsewhere in the world to wean ourselves from the Persian Gulf? By Noam Scheiber
Cartogram

• A map that combines statistical information with geographic location.
• Can be considered a special type of Proportional Map
• They are unusual because the symbol that is scaled is the geographic location/area
Isoline Maps

• A map that shows the depth of something by using curvy lines
• Each line represents a different depth
• Lines that are close together show more depth, lines further apart represent less depth
• Examples- Elevation map of ocean floor, elevation map of Pakistan, temperature change, flu infections
Isopleth Map of H1N1 Deaths in California (November 10, 2009) (Kriging interpolation based on counties)

Density of H1N1 Deaths in California (November 10, 2009)

Data column: H1N1 Deaths