



What is geography?



- The study of spatial variation
- How – and why – things differ from place to place on the surface of the earth
- The study of how observable spatial patterns evolved through time

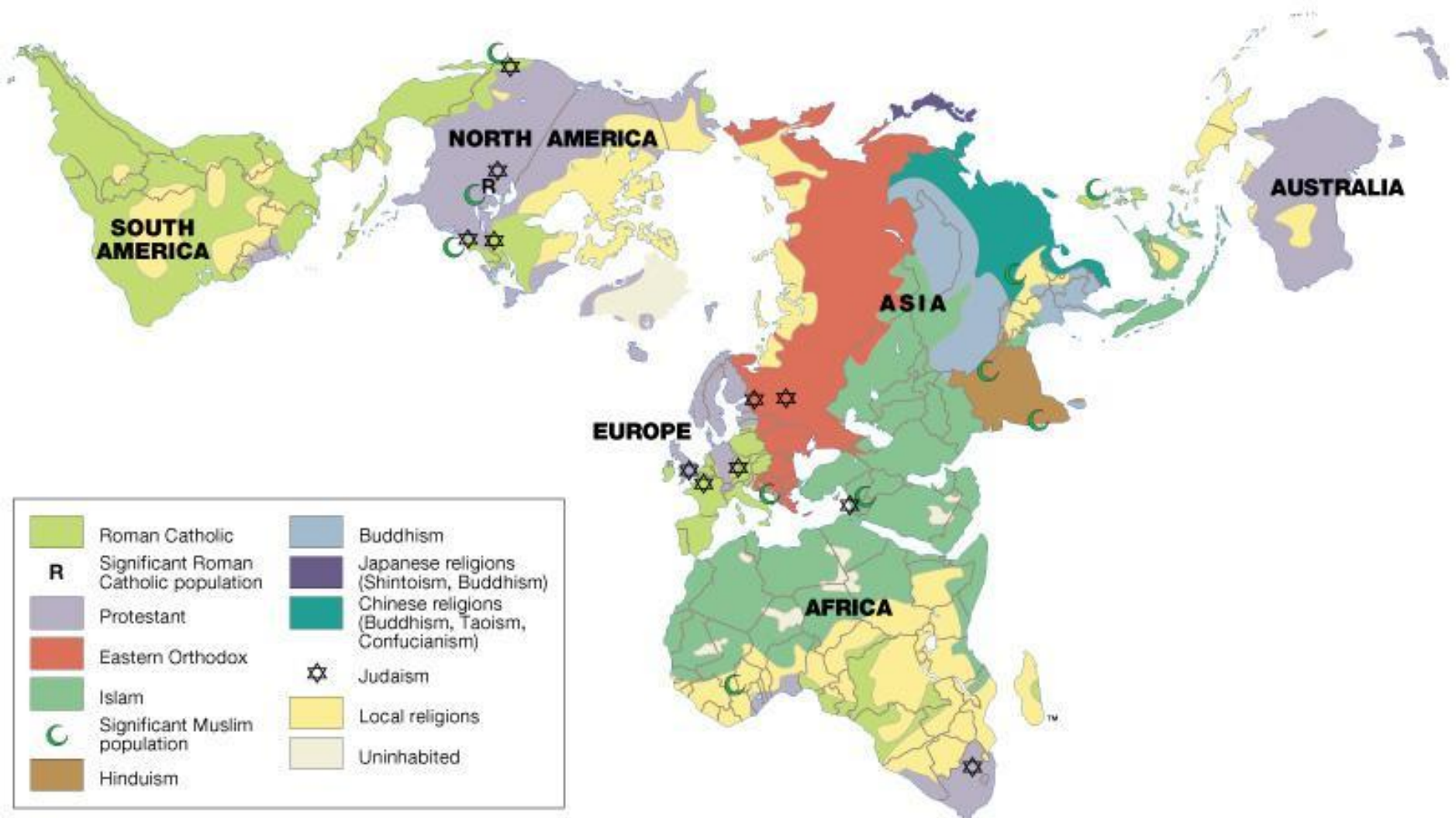


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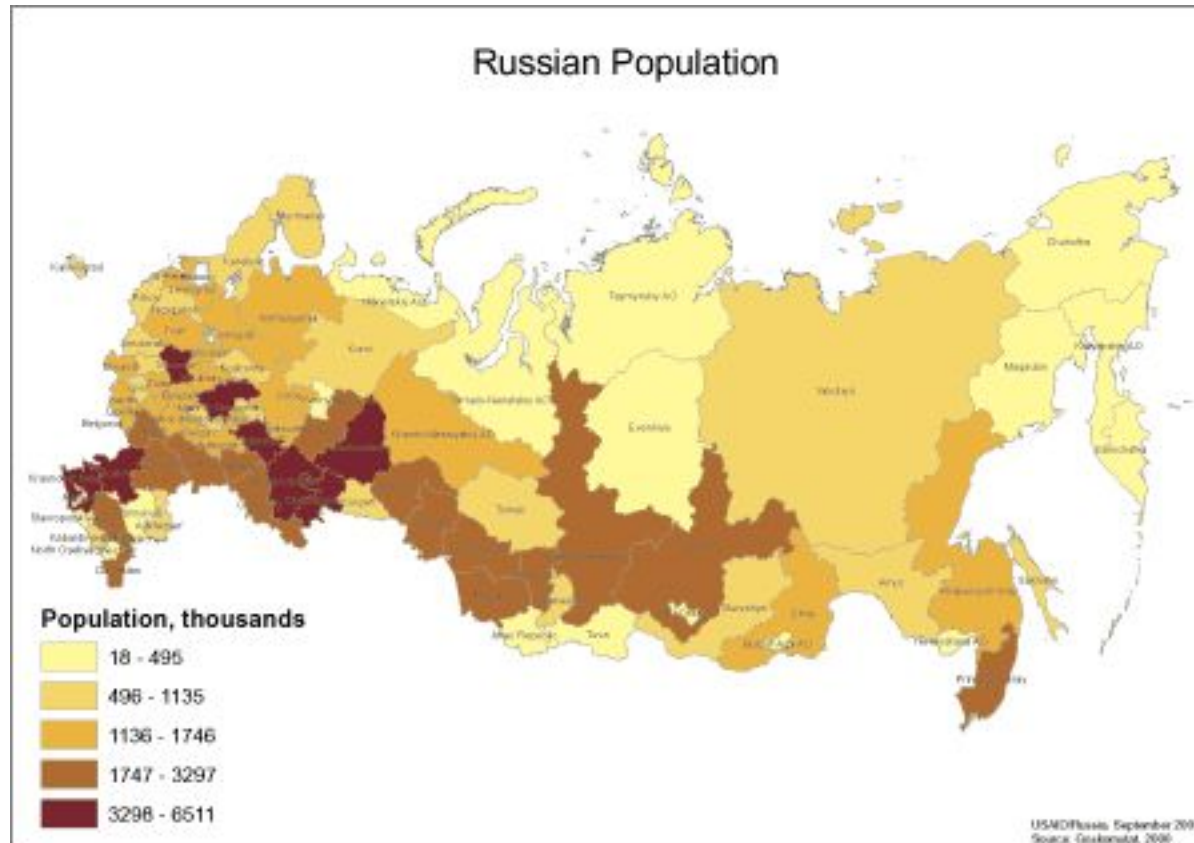


- Geography is a *spatial* science
- *Spatial behavior* of people
- *Spatial relationships* between places
- *Spatial processes* that create or maintain those behaviors and relationships

Spatial variation: predominant religion



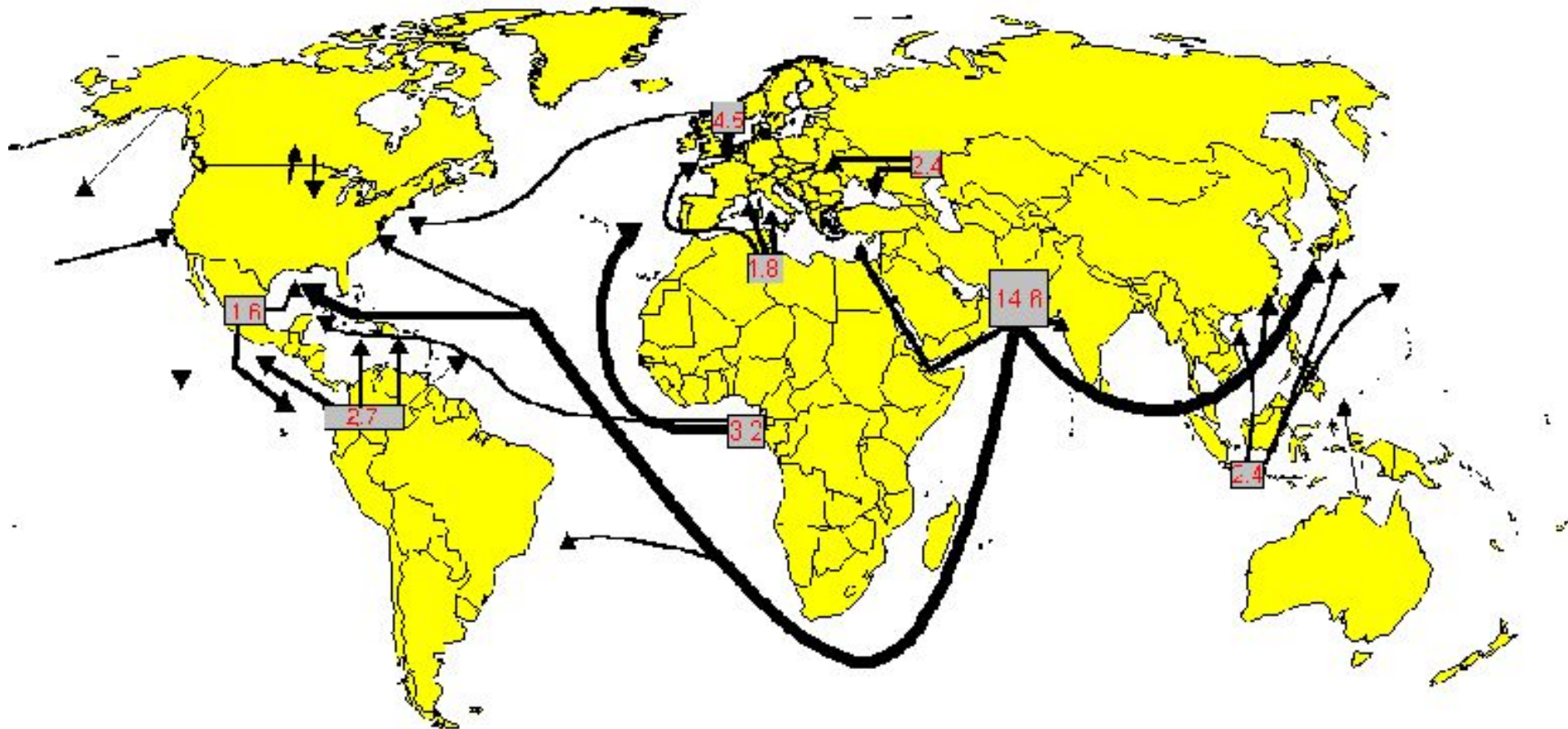
Spatial behavior of people: population



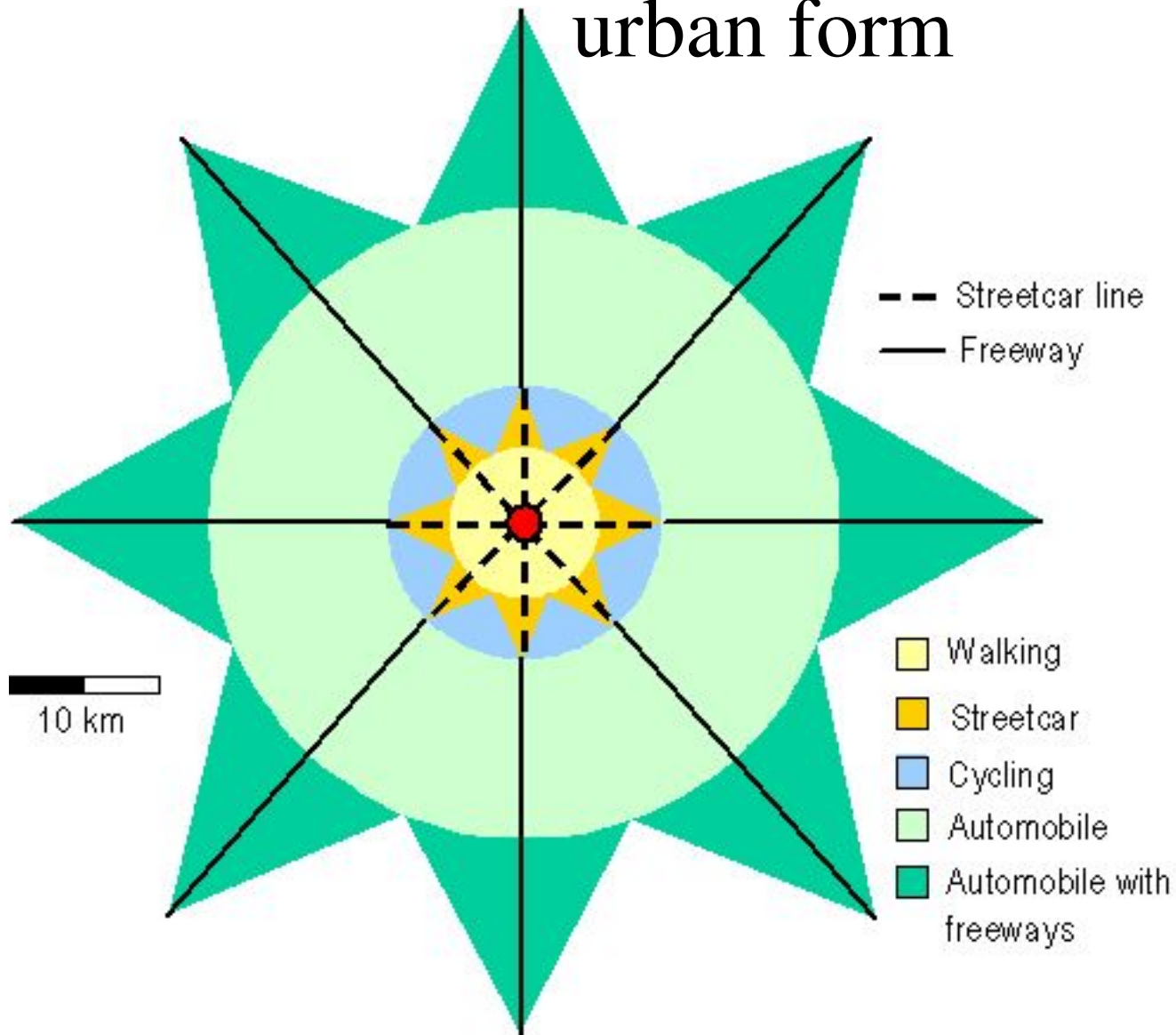
Spatial relationships between places: trade

World Crude Oil Flows 1997

34.8 Million Barrels Per Day



Spatial processes: commuting and urban form



Five fundamental themes of geography

- 1) Location: the meaning of relative and absolute position on the earth's surface
 - Sample terms: Latitude and longitude, site and situation, direction, distance, scale
 - Skills: Map reading, identification
 - Questions: Where is _____? Where is _____ relative to where I am?

Five fundamental themes of geography

2) Place: the distinctive and distinguishing physical and human characteristics of locales

- Sample terms: Physical and cultural landscapes, sense of place
- Skills: Description, compare and contrast
- Questions: What does _____ look like? Why? How is it different from _____?

Five fundamental themes of geography

- 3) Relationships within places: the development and consequences of human-environment relationships
- Sample terms: Ecosystems, natural resources, environmental pollution
 - Skills: Evaluation, analysis
 - Questions: What human-environment relationships are occurring? How do they affect the place and its inhabitants?

Five fundamental themes of geography

- 4) Movement: patterns and change in human spatial interaction on the earth
- Sample terms: Migration, diffusion, globalization
 - Skills: Explanation, prediction
 - Questions: How has this spatial pattern developed? Will it continue to change? What does it mean for the places involved?

Five fundamental themes of geography

5) Regions: how they form and change

- Sample terms: Formal vs. functional regions
- Skills: Synthesis, application
- Questions: How has this spatial pattern developed? Will it continue to change?
What does it mean for the places involved?