

Regional Map Activity

Due: Monday, January 29

For decades, geographers have subdivided the U.S. and Canada into broad areas of distinctive character, or “regions.” Geographers use these regions as a way of organizing large, complex sets of facts about places into a meaningful set of areas for their own purposes. Any single factor (e.g. climate, physical landscape, economy, ethnicity, culture, religion, etc.), or combination of factors, may be used in a regional classification system.

Your assignment is to personally “regionalize” the U.S. and Canada, where each region can be described by some shared characteristic(s). Regions do not have rigid boundaries, so sketch yours as best you can. You do not have to include every area of the map in a region. I do not expect you to do outside research for this assignment, even if you feel you do not have enough information; you may rely on your existing knowledge and experience and/or perceptions (whether verified or not) to draw your regions. If you do consult outside sources, please cite them.

Turn in your personal regional map, along with a short description of the rationale for each of your regions. What criteria did you consider in defining each region? Do your criteria differ across regions? How would you classify each of your regions (i.e. formal, functional, perceptual, vernacular, culture, or a mixture of these types)? Also consider these questions in your write-up: Do you believe your regions to be stable? Are they changing form? How?

Turn in:

- ⇒ Regional map
 - ⇒ 2-3 page essay describing your classification and rationale
- And...
- ⇒ Paper topic proposal: Please describe the area or place you would like to study for your final project. Simply identifying the general region in which you believe you would like to focus is fine – I just want to get an idea of the range of projects. (And yes, if you decide later to change your mind, that’s fine!)