

URBAN GEOGRAPHY

SETTLEMENT and the DEVELOPMENT of the URBAN LANDSCAPE

GEOGRAPHIC CITY

1. Unique characteristics (urban functions)
2. Site and situation
3. Economic base
4. Shape (spread; urban footprint)

URBAN HIERARCHY

1. Central place – node (focus) for the distribution of goods and services to a surrounding area.
2. Hierarchy – step-like series of urban units in classes differentiated by both size and function.
3. Sphere of influence – area outside of a city that is affected by the city; also a tributary area that focuses on the city.

URBAN LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

1. Creation – initial reason for development; subsequent functions; they can change over time.
2. Growth – “pull factors”.
3. Stagnation – passed over with advances in technology.
4. Demise - population leaves for places that are “more modern”, urban functions disappear.
5. Resurgence – gentrification.

PATTERNS INSIDE A CITY

- 1) Social Patterns
 - a) Functional interior land use.
 - b) Population densities.
 - c) Social geography.
 - d) Urban models.
- 2) Physical Patterns
 - a) Micro-climate development.
 - b) Altered hydrological patterns (surface and underground flow).

URBAN PROBLEMS

1. Congestion – accessibility; moving people and goods; housing (shelter).
2. Health – food and water supply; waste management (including cemeteries); controlling the spread of disease.
3. Quality of Life – crowding; haves vs. have-nots; crime; pollution; health care
4. Pollution – air, water, land and noise.
5. Hazards – man-made and natural; urban flooding; storms; earthquakes; terror.