The Regional Concept

- Areal Generalization: Attempt to separate into recognizable component parts the diversity and complexity of the earth’s surface
- Physical and cultural phenomena on the surface of the earth are rationally arranged by spatial processes
  - Location
  - Spatial extent
  - Boundaries
The Regional Concept

- Regions may be either formal or functional
- Regions are hierarchically arranged
- All regions socially constructed based on criteria relevant to those studying the region
- Exist in the perceptions of their inhabitants or the general populace
- Reflect the areal identifications of individuals and groups
Landform Regions: Black Hills
Dynamic Weather/Climate Regions: Monsoon Region of India
Natural Resource Regions: Schuylkill Anthracite Region
Population Regions: South America
Linguistic Regions: Gullah Country
Political Regions: European Union
Economic Regions: Special Economic Zones

Map of Russia showing various economic regions and zones, including:
- Industrial production zones
- Technical research and implementation zones
- Tourism-recreation zones
- Free economic zones in Magadan and Kaliningrad Regions

Regions highlighted include:
- Kaliningrad Region
- St. Petersburg
- Moscow Region
- Lipetsk Region
- Republic of Tatarstan
- Krasnodar Territory
- Stavropol Territory
- Tomsk Region
- Irkutsk Region
- Republic of Buryatia
- Altai Territory
- Republic of Altai
Urban Regions: Metropolitan Tokyo
Ecosystems: Florida Everglades
Functions of Regions

- How are regional divisions useful for geographical analysis of everyday life? Think about police precincts, voting districts, sales / marketing territories, census tracts, etc.

- Why do geographers establish regions to help them understand the spatial patterns within a particular spatial area?