

## **Human Geography**

### **Introduction**

Earth Day is next week! This week's newsletter will focus on the Human aspect of our Earth, with next week being more about the Physical component (look out for next week's [Physical Geography Newsletter](#)). Human Geography is all about the people and cultures on this planet. It is the study of the economy, population, and even how people use and alter the environment. It also looks into political and social systems such as different types of governments. The main branches of Human Geography look into the different ways of living. These branches include Urban Geography, Economic Geography, Cultural Geography, Political Geography, Social Geography, Population Geography, and Historical Geography.

Cultural Geography is the study of the cultural aspects around the world and how they relate to the places and people in that specific region. This includes studying the language, religion, government structures, art, and music. Globalization is a topic that is becoming increasingly relevant in this branch. Globalization is the exchange of human goods, services, technologies, and cultural practices all over the planet. This leads to operations and communication on an international scale.

Another branch mentioned is Urban Geography, which consists of studying cities and urban processes. It focuses on the placement of settlements in regards to the physical terrain as well as neighboring settlements. A major topic discussed in this field is gentrification where lower-class neighborhoods are impacted by wealthier individuals arriving and developing the area.



Economic Geography is the study of the spatial variation of economic activities such as consumption, exchange, trade, production, and development. This branch focuses on trying to learn about the patterns and trends in human behavior and its relationship to the economy. How does agriculture affect the economy? What about manufacturing, extracting natural

resources, and even land use affect it? These are questions that these geographers try to answer!

The last branch we'll be addressing is Population Geography. There are more than 7 billion people on our Earth right now, and that number is only getting larger. The number of people dying each year is much less than the number of babies born, so it is important to understand how and why our population is increasing, as well as learning to manage it. Population Geography studies the patterns of our population. It looks into topics such as schemes that try to decrease the population growth, such as China's one-child policy, as well as studying the distribution of ages in countries. For example, did you know that Japan has one of the largest aging populations?



Geography is vast, with so many different topics to explore! We recommend you learn more about the other subdisciplines of Human Geography to learn more about the world we live in!

## Northeastern Connections

### Faculty Connection

Northeastern has different Colleges for different degrees. One of the Colleges is the College of Social Science and Humanities, which has different departments such as Politics, Philosophy, and Economics; Sociology and Anthropology; Cultures, Societies, and Global Studies; as well as International Affairs.

The department of Cultures, Societies, and Global Studies encourages and facilitates interdisciplinary research and also teaches about the power of culture. It looks into social

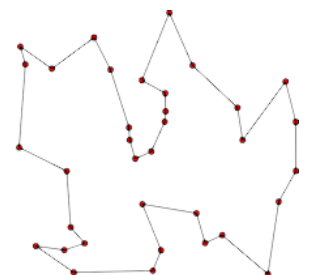
change as well as innovation. They approach challenges we face through studying the perspectives of different regions such as the Caribbean, Latin America, and Asia. The department “aim(s) to reevaluate and learn from the historical experiences, belief systems, intellectual traditions, and pressing concerns of the greater part of the world’s population.” Global communities are connected, and they aim to teach students about economies, cultures, languages, and religions to create the tools needed to foster global well-being and sustainable economic growth.

### **Student Connection**

At Northeastern University, there are a variety of student-led organizations that aim to promote unique cultures to the community at Northeastern. With such a diverse student body, these clubs allow students to continue to preserve their identities and teach students that are interested in such cultures.



The Japanese Cultural Club studies the cultural aspect of Japan through weekly meetings focused on Japanese cuisine, movies, games, language, and various traditions. Like many other Northeastern organizations, this club is not limited to Japanese students; they welcome any student interested in learning more about Japan. This club hosts events such as making takoyaki, watching anime, and language sessions.



Pictured to the left is the annual Harumatsuri (spring festival) from 2019. The Japanese Cultural Club celebrated this festival through Japanese food, calligraphy, and traditional Japanese songs and dances.

The Latin American Student Organization (LASO) is a club dedicated to promoting a positive image of Latin American culture. This club focuses on inspiring, developing, and promoting leadership within the membership in order to improve the college experience for Latin American students as well as the overall student body. LASO creates a safe space to address social injustice issues, while immersing students in Latinx culture.



Pictured above was the 2019 Día de Los Muertos celebration (Day of the Dead). The Veronica Robles Cultural Center hosted this celebration through Catrina's hat-making, a parade, and various food stands.

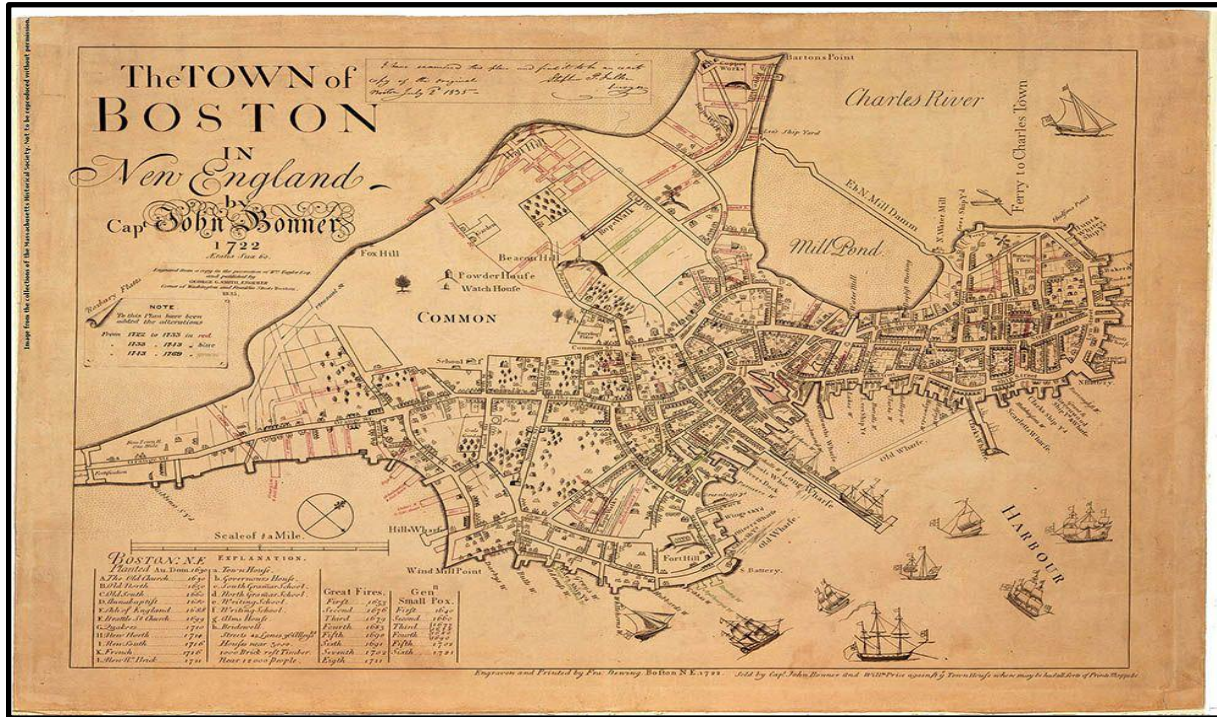
## Do Now

A flag symbolizes a country's values, beliefs, and history. People are proud of their flags, and in fact, 86% of the flags from different countries have geographical elements. Natural and human elements relating to the geographical region are used to represent the place. Enjoy some flag trivia to learn more about the different flags around the world! [Click here](#) to play.



# Activity

Boston 1775 vs Boston 2021



## Steps:

- Look carefully over the 1775 map of Boston, then search for an image (or an actual map) of present-day Boston
- Analyze the two maps using the discussion questions below
- Pull up the National Geographic Interactive MapMaker using the following link: <https://mapmaker.nationalgeographic.org/#/>
- Zoom in on Boston, then change the base map in the tab titled “Base Maps”
- Compare and contrast different maps of the Boston area today

## Discussion Questions:

- Does the 1775 map show what Boston looks like today? How do you know?
- Why do you think Boston was settled on a peninsula?
- How does the current map of Boston show how people’s lives have changed over time?
- What buildings and areas are still found in Boston today?

## Share Your Results

We'd love to know how the activity and/or the "do now" turned out! What worked and what didn't work? Please share with us something you learned and/or send us pictures! Email us at [stem@northeastern.edu](mailto:stem@northeastern.edu).

## Related links/Extensions

- [Human Geography.](#)
- [World Games](#)
- [Geography - Human geography](#)
- [Wikipedia - Human geography](#)
- [Defining human geography - Human Geography](#)