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## Functional region definition and example

Home » Huge ARTICLES: By Theme » ARTICLE: Cultural Identity: Language, Religion, Ethnicity, Gender » Article through Science Trends: Functional Region: Definition and Examples Excerpt: While studying geography, you may have heard the term functional region before. However, what exactly is a functioning region? In short, a functional region is a defined geographical area centered around a specific focal point with a specific function. A functional region is distinguished by a centralised hub with the surrounding areas and structures that relate to a common activity. For example, a trade route, transport hub or shopping centre would be considered functional regions. Let's go into more detail on the characteristics of the regions, look at a few examples and see different functional regions from other types of geographical regions. FROM: DANIEL NELSON | 26 NOVEMBER 2018 Nodal Funionregion Types of Region In conceptual terms, a functional region (FR) is defined as a region organised by functional relationships that are maximised in the region (maximising intra-regional flows) and minimised across its borders (minimizing interregional flows or interactions), so as to respect the principles of internal cohesion and external separation in terms of spatial flow intensities or interactions (Klakap, Halás & Tonev, 2013: 96). In more concrete terms, the term FR refers to a subdivision of territories resulting from spatial differentiation and the organisation of social and economic relations, rather than geographical boundaries and peculiarities or historical developments. Although the conceptual bases of the term are heterogeneous across Europe, the FR is, according to the OECD, in most countries defined in terms of labour markets delimited around a specific (metropolitan) centre (OECD, 2002; see also EC/OECD, 2015). Thus, an FR can be described as a territorial unit which can be defined as a central place and the surrounding places affected by it defined by commercial or economic activities. For example, the principle of commuting conditions, namely that of labour mobility, or the size of the population, as well as the level of employment, is considered a central element. Functional regions usually have a relatively functional match between labour supply and demand, which makes labour mobility not necessary because workers find jobs within their own region (OECD, 2002). Although there are some incompatibilities with territorial and/or administrative regions, in most cases the FR provides the basis for understanding regional disparities, planning and economic and labour market policies and policies (ibid.). In YOUNG\_ADULLLT, FR provides a way to map and examine links and flows that create interdependence, and the main advantage involved is to help identify areas with would be the mismatches between the education, social and employment sectors, as policies and young adults meet here (OECD, 2014). Fr that are considered autonomous units can take different shapes or types and different internal patterns of interaction, because any kind of spatial flow or interaction can organize this region. For example, in the case of a functional urban area, flows or interactions could be oriented towards a single city or city (for example, with daily travel flows to work). However, an FR could also have several cores (e.g. Oberrhein area with Basel, Strasbourg and Freiburg) and, in this case, mapping and analysis relate in particular to the relationships and interactions between individual nuclei in a region. (Marcelo Parreira do Amaral & Hans-Georg Kotthoff) In the previous section, you were introduced to some basic features of a region. In this section, you'll learn about the types of regions. The concept of regions may apply to several neighbouring countries that share some of the same characteristics or may apply to areas in a country. It is also important to understand that a place can be included in several regions. There are three types of regions: formal, functional and perceptual. Formal Region A formal region is an area inhabited by people who have one or more characteristics in common. Common characteristics can be a common language, economic activities, would be a certain plant production, or physical characteristics, would be the climate of an area. Some formal regions have distinct boundaries that make them easy to identify, such as counties or states. Examples of formal regions are Europe, Africa, the United States and Canada. Functional Region A functional region is an area organized to function politically, socially and economically as a single unit. Functional regions are centred on a focal point that connects other areas through different systems, such as transport, communication or economic activities. Cities can be considered functional regions, as highways, railways, subways and buses move people from the suburbs to the central areas of the city. Other examples of functional regions are television signal areas, Wi-Fi hotspots or pizza delivery areas. The map of the New York subway system, illustrated on the right, is another example of a functional region where the subway system operates with the main purpose of moving people between New York City and the neighborhoods outside. It also works as a way to move people into the city. Perceptual Region A perceptual region is based on the common feelings and attitudes of people living in the area. Perceptual regions reflect the cultural identity of the people of the region. Limits are not always distinct, as they may be perceived differently from person to person. Another. regions are also called vernacular regions. The Bible Belt, illustrated in the map above, is a perceptual region located mainly in the southern states of the United States. This region is named after the strong religious presence that permeates the culture of the area: there are many Christian and Protestant churches throughout the area. Big Apple (New York City), Midwest, The South and New England are other examples of perceptual regions in the United States. Roll over each region to see its location. Click the correct type of region (formal, perceptual, or functional) in the chart below to classify each region. Now that you've learned about formal, functional and perceptual regions in the United States, use what you've learned to explore regions around the world in the next section. Source of images used in this section, so appear from top to bottom: North America Location, Bosonic Dressing, Wikipedia Refmag Physical North America, Central Intelligence Agency NYC Metro-4D, Count Z, Wikipedia Bible Belt, Qz10, Wikipedia Picture of the United States, WikimediaPacific Northwest, Sebastian Helm, WikipediaNew England, MissMJ Map USA Midwest, Beao Wikipedia, US A.S. Census South, 8Gator, Wikipedia functional regions often exceed local , state, or even national borders. This ScienceStruck article tells you what a functioning region is, using its definition and some examples. Did you know? The boundaries of functional regions change over time, depending on the development of infrastructure and services in the area. In geography, the Earth is divided into different regions. These regions use artificial boundaries that separate areas based on properties that are more common within the boundary than those outside the boundary. There are three types of regions: formal, functional, and vernacular or perceptual. Formal regions are those that have official limits, such as countries, states and cities. Perceptual regions are those that are influenced by the cultural representation of a particular area and are based on the common opinions of people. Examples of such areas include the Midwest, and Big Apple in the US. Let's now see the definition of a functional region, to understand what it is. Functional region: Definition Do you want to write for us? We're looking for good writers who want to spread the word. Get in touch with us and we'll talk... Let's work together! A functional region is an organized area around a central hub or focal point. The surrounding places depend on the central centre through political, social and economic links, such as trade routes, radio and television networks, internet connectivity and transport. To be classified as a functional region, the whole area must have a common characteristic activity. The maximum occurrence of this is at the focal point and decreases as one goes away from this point. A functional region is characterized by a continuous flow to and from the central centre, as well as the areas around it. Thus, the whole region acts as a unit in terms of a particular activity. Functional region: Examples of newspaper circulation If the circulation of a local newspaper is concerned, a city and its suburbs can be considered as a functioning region. The city itself serves as a central hub where the editorial and publishing offices of the newspaper are located, and is connected by different routes to the suburbs. These routes include a stream of information from the suburbs to the newspaper office, as well as the circulation of newspapers from the office to the suburbs. The maximum readers of the newspaper are in the city, and drop towards the suburbs, where people can choose to read newspapers from another neighboring city too. The places where the newspaper's circulation figures are equal to those of a newspaper of a neighbouring town serve as the region's border. Departmental Store A departmental store attracts customers from a specific shopping area, which can be called its functional region. In this case, the focal point is represented by the places closest to the store. Obviously, this is the area that will have the highest number of customers, as people tend to shop at nearby stores. As its distance from the store increases, its customer base continues to decline, and people in the most remote areas have the choice of shopping from this store or going to another. This region is the limit of the functional region. This store is thus connected to the surrounding areas via trade routes and transport networks. Metropolitan area A metropolitan area is a good example of a functional region, where the central center is the innermost part, which is densely populated and has a large number of industries that provide jobs. This hub is connected to its surrounding regions through communication routes, trade and transport routes, as people carry daily shuttles to get to their workplace in the central hub. Thus, metropolitan areas are functional regions where the surrounding areas are connected to an urban centre through trade and employment routes. In several countries, including the US, metropolitan areas comprise territories of several cities, suburbs, districts or even states and play an important economic and political role. An example is the Dallas/Forth Worth Metropolitan area in the US, where the two cities of Dallas and Forth Worth are linked to a shared airport between them, which serves as the central hub. School District A school district is a functional region that has a higher concentration of schools. These form the nodal point that attracts students from different parts of the city, thus interconnecting these areas. Considering that must commute to school daily, the central hub is connected to the surrounding areas by transport routes. The higher number of schools will attract more residents to the area, while retaining previous residents. These social factors ensure a match between the characteristics of schools and the needs of the local community. Statistics indicate that school districts are more socio-economically homogeneous compared to political units such as counties. Port ports can serve as the focal point of a larger functional region along the coast. As such areas receive a large number of tourists, this leads to an increase in jobs, infrastructure, local trades, such as fishing and handicrafts, etc. People attracted to ports can be either tourists or those looking for a job in the tourism industry. Thus, the central hub is interconnected with other areas of the functional region through transport, communication and trade routes. As the distance from the hub increases, tourists can decide whether they want to visit the port or go elsewhere. Similarly, people who live far from the port may choose to look for a job elsewhere. Television station A television station serves as the focal point of a functional region, which is the area that receives signals from it. Obviously, the places closest to the station receive the strongest signal, which decreases in power as the distance from the station increases. Places outside the station's coverage area must receive signals from another station, which form another functional region. In such functional regions, the different places are linked to the central hub (station) by means of communication. Bank Branch A bank branch is a way to ensure that banking services can be made available to people in their region or locality, away from the bank's home branch. In this branching system, the bank sets up a number of branches, each for certain parts of a larger target area. Thus, in this case, the area covered by a particular branch can be classified as a functional region, where people living within its borders can opt for the use of its services. Most of the customers come from the towns closest to the bank, which is the centre of the region. As one goes further from the bank, its customer base tends to decline. People living outside the area served by the bank may also choose to use the services of another branch. You want to write for us? We're looking for good writers who want to spread the word. Get in touch with us and we'll talk... Let's work together! It is important to note that, unlike formal regions, may not be homogeneous in terms of characteristics such as climate, language, religion or population, but are consistent in organisation where the focal point is the main mandatory factor. Factor. Factor.

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