The Basics of OpenStreetMap

Provided by:
The Metropolitan Center (@FIUMetroCenter)
Daniela Waltersdorfer (@DWaltersdorfer)
Nohely Alvarez (@Tereisco)
What is Geography?

• GE- Earth
• Graphy-Writing
• Cultural Geography
  • Deals with languages, culture, customs, religion, agriculture, transportation systems, political systems, economy, demographics...
• Physical Geography
  • Deals with features of the Earth
    • Water, air, animals, land, topography, atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere
• From these two:
  • Regional Geography leads to in-depth research of a particular region, including cultural and physical characteristics
  • Geographic Technologies includes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and may include a combination of cultural and physical geography.
Why Maps Matter

• Maps illustrate and communicate information of cultural and physical geography
• Data must be accurate in order to have right representation of it on a map
• Mistakes are easy to make
• Misrepresentation of maps
  • Watch for data (ask for data)
  • Geo-Tagging (Geographical location is representative of the data)

Source: Twitter @Wisemana
Reading a Map

• Understand the orientation of the map
  • Which way is North?
  • Am I reading it right?

• Look for a legend

• Understand the scale of the map
  • i.e: 1:100,000
  • 1 unit illustrated in the map = 100,000 in real life

• Look at the boundaries of the area you are studying/researching
  Neighboring countries (cities, neighborhoods, etc.), oceans, rivers, mountain ranges?
Which way is up?

Trick to remember:
Sun rises on the east
Sun sets on the west

Source: ESRI, ArcMap Reference Guide
Mwingi, Kenya
(Town in Kitui County)
Cameroon is surrounded by:

- Nigeria (West)
- Chad (Northeast)
- Central African Republic (East)
- Gabon (Southwest)
- Republic of Congo (South)
- Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean on its coast (West)
Latitude and Longitude
Latitude and Longitude

- Latitude is given before longitude
- The coordinates of the North and South Pole are 90.

CAN YOU FIND THE COORDINATES OF THESE POINTS?

A:
B:
C:
D:
E:
F:
G:
H:
I:
J:
Latitude and Longitude

A: 75N, 90W
B: 60N, 120W
C: 60N, 60E
D: 15N, 45W
E: 0, 150W
F: 60S, 120W
G: 30S, 0
H: 15S, 75E
I: 45S, 150E
J: 30N, 180