Visualizing Patterns



Choropleth maps use color to display variations in a country's possession of a particular attribute. The darker the color, the higher the values. For example, when mapping infant mortality, the countries with the highest values would be the darkest color.

You will create a choropleth map for a subregion of Sub-Saharan

You will research a specific demographic indicator for each of the countries you have been assigned. You will then map the data and analyze the map to discern any patterns within your region.

Step 1: Obtain the data.

- Infant mortality
- life expectancy for males
- population growth rate (BR DR)
- percent urban
- per capita GDP
- percent under 15

Step 2: In the proper location, write the number on the map, not the name of the country. Include a title for the map that includes the name of the attribute shown.

Step 3: Select the appropriate scale of values. See the list on next page. You may need to modify the suggested values to better illustrate your data.

Step 4: Create the legend for the map and color the map according to the scale you have established. Remember to use the darkest color to show the highest values.

Step 5: Compare the maps your team has created and provide a response to the following questions.

Base your answers on the map your team has created.

- Which country in the region was the "best" for your attribute? Why?
- Which country is the worst? Why?
- Consult the thematic maps in the Nystrom Atlas and your book. Suggest some geographic reasons that may account for the country's rank.
- Which country has the best prospects for future development? Why?
- Which country seems the most likely to experience a decline in the standard of living in the future? Why?

WEST AFRICA	EAST AFRICA		
Benin	Eritrea		
Burkina Faso	Uganda		
Chad	Rwanda (book: Central Africa)		
Cote d' Ivoire	Djibouti		
Ghana	Ethiopia		
Sierra Leone	South Sudan		
Guinea	Кепуа		
Mali	Burundi (book: Central Africa)		
Mali	Somalia		
Mauritania	Sudan		
Niger	Tanzania (book: East Africa)		
Nigeria	Burundi		
Senegal			
CENTRAL AFRICA	SOUTHERN AFRICA		
Cameroon	Madagascar		
Central African Republic	Mozambique		
Congo	Angola		
Equatorial Guinea	Lesotho		
Gabon	South Africa		
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Botswana		
Sao Tome and Principe	Namibia		
	Zambia		
	Zimbabwe		
	Lesotho		
*Italics-= mention in the SOL	eSwatini (Swaziland)		

Decide whether or not the following generalizations are proved or disproved by your data.

- The further away from the equator, the higher the standard of living.
- Life in Wester Africa is better than life in Eastern Africa.
- Life in Southern Africa is worse than like in Central Africa.
- Countries that have the equator pass through them are the poorest.
- Former French colonies have a better standard of living than the former British colonies.
- The standard of living and quality of life are highest in landlocked countries.

Infant Mortality		Life expectancy for males	
Range 31 -85		Range 50 -65	
Low:	over 31 to 49	Low:	under 50 – 55
Medium:	50 - 66	Medium:	56 – 60
High:	over 67	High:	61 – over 65
Populatior	Growth Rate (BR-DR)	P	ercent Urban
F	Range 5 to 35	F	Range 13 - 89
Low:	under 5 -15	Low:	under 15 - 40
Medium:	16 - 25	Medium:	41 - 56
High:	over 26	High:	over 67
Per Capita GDP (PPP) Range \$500 -\$25,000 Low: under \$,6000 Medium: \$6,001 - \$24,999 High: over \$25,000		Percent under 15 Range 30 - 50 Low: under 30 - 37 Medium: 38- 46 High: over 48	

Ranges were calculated from the Population Reference Bureau's World Datasheet.