

1 Maps, scale and spatial thinking — Part 1 — Answers

Answers

Work through these after you have tried the questions yourself.

1.1 A choropleth map.

1.2 It preserves direction but distorts area, and the distortion grows towards the poles — so high-latitude landmasses such as Greenland and Russia appear far larger than they are.

1.3 Density is the number per unit area; concentration is how spread out or clustered those things are. Two areas can share a density while one is clustered and the other dispersed.

1.4 A pattern visible at one scale can disappear or reverse at another — national population growth can hide regional decline — so a conclusion is only valid for the scale it was drawn at.

1.5 Distance decay is the weakening of interaction between two places as the distance between them increases. Time-space compression, caused by faster transport and instant communication, reduces the friction of distance and so flattens the decay.