

Map Elements

Map Elements

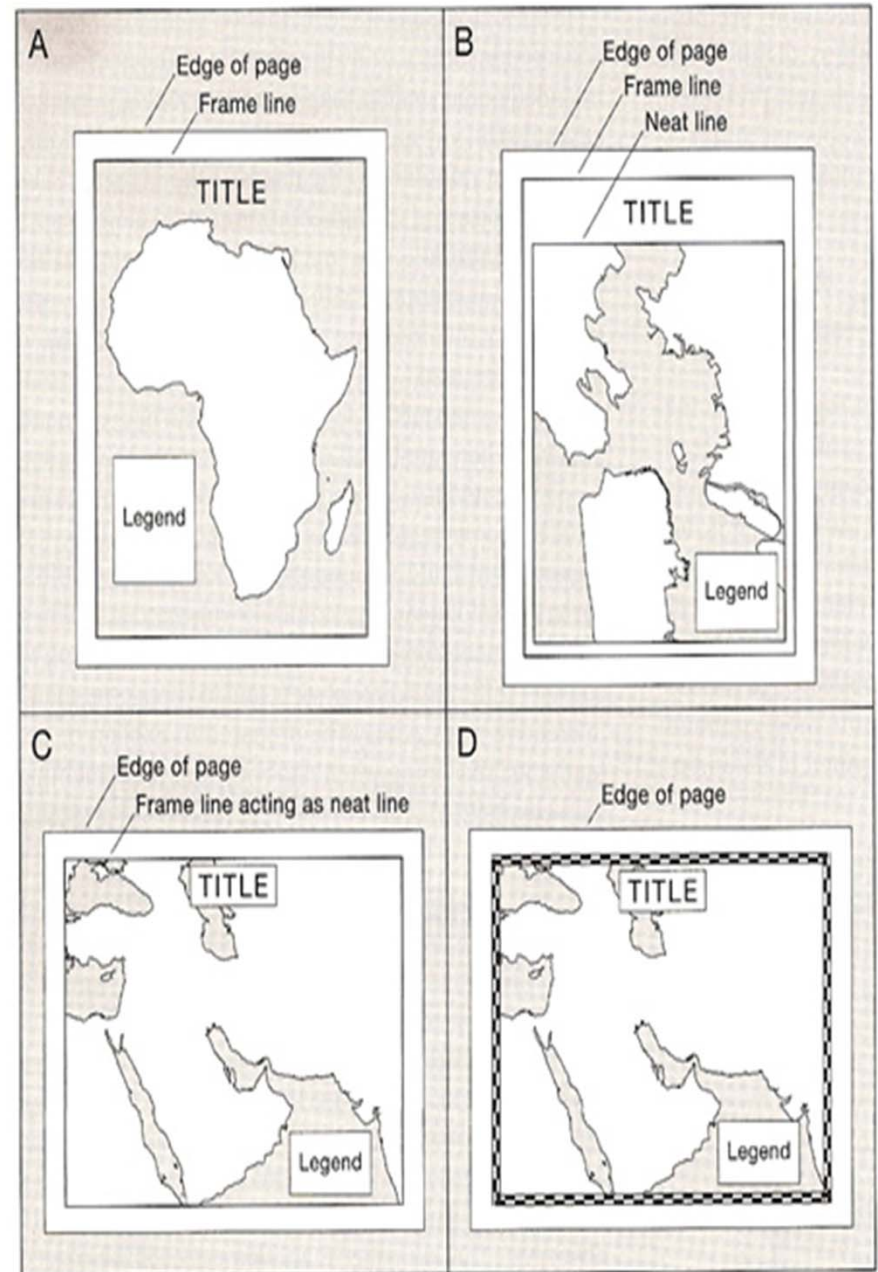
Common set of map elements:

- Frame line and neat line
- Mapped area
- Inset
- Title and subtitle
- Legend
- Data source
- Scale
- Orientation

Frame Line/ Neat Line

Used to organize the map's contents

- Define its extent
- Frame line: encloses all other map elements
- Neat line: used to crop the mapped area



Mapped Area

- Composed of thematic symbols and base information
- Size is dependent on several factors
 - Page size
 - Margins
 - Space for other elements
- As large as possible without being too close to other elements

Inset

- Serves multiple purposes
 - Enlarges an important congested area
 - Locating primary map area
 - Shows related themes or areas



Title/Subtitle: Thematic maps

- Title: Succinct description of the maps theme
- Subtitle: Further explains the title (*optional*)

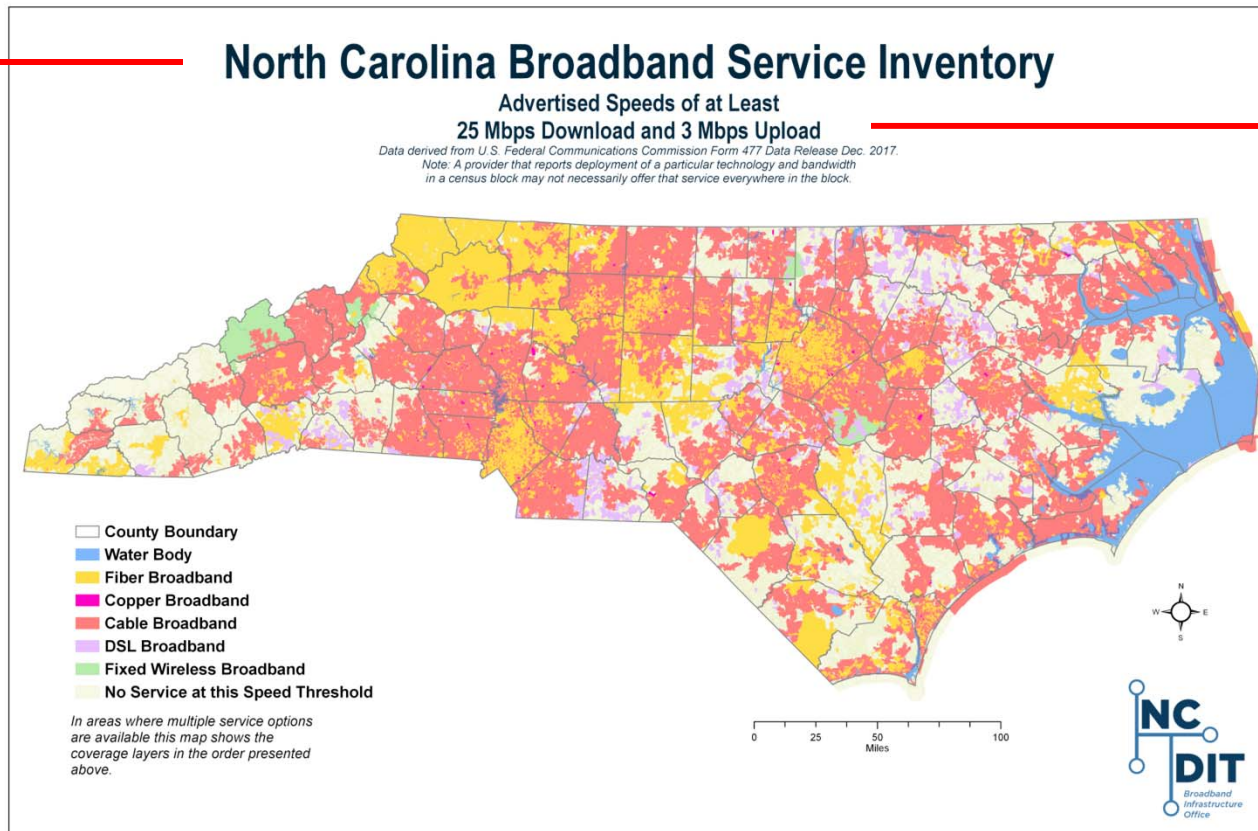
Title

North Carolina Broadband Service Inventory

Advertised Speeds of at Least
25 Mbps Download and 3 Mbps Upload

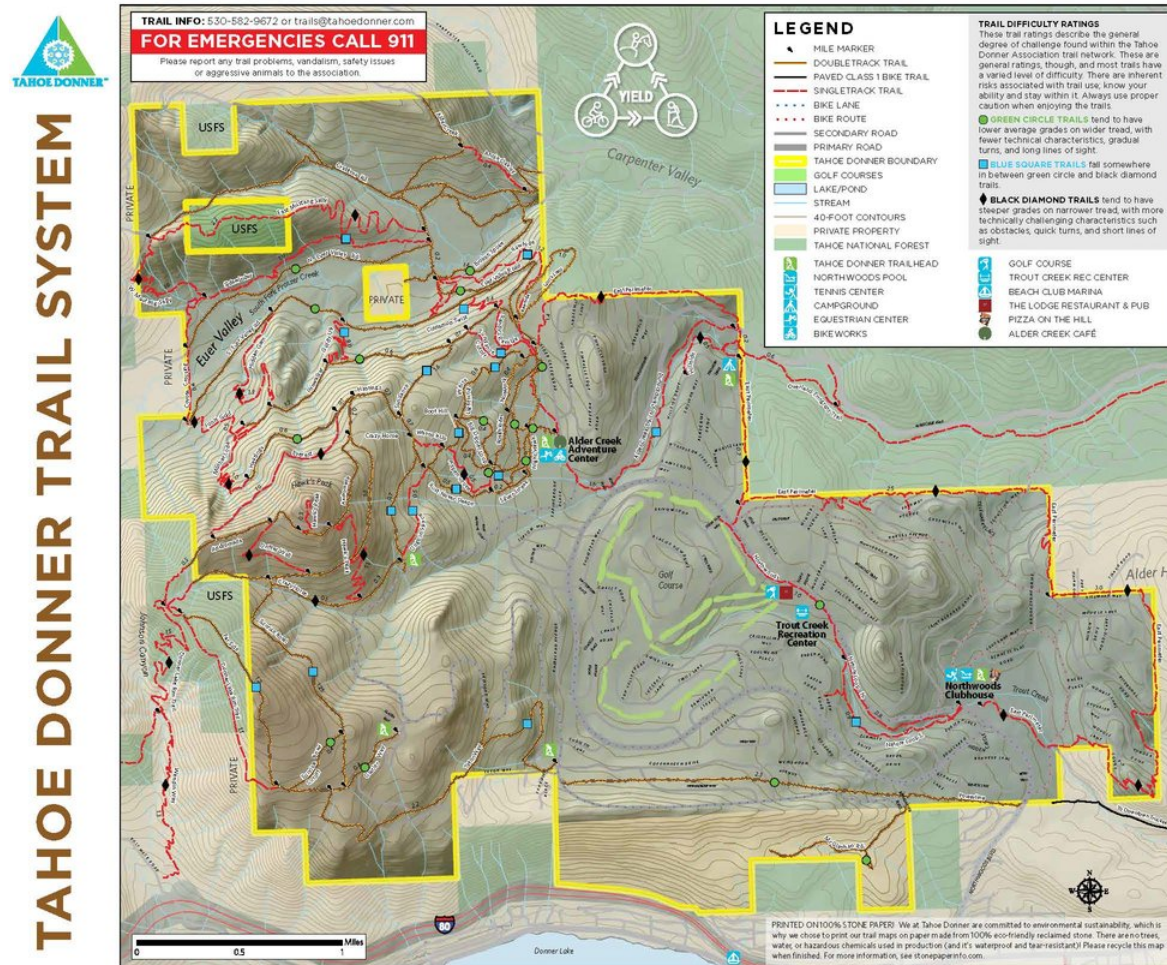
Data derived from U.S. Federal Communications Commission Form 477 Data Release Dec. 2017.
Note: A provider that reports deployment of a particular technology and bandwidth
in a census block may not necessarily offer that service everywhere in the block.

Subtitle



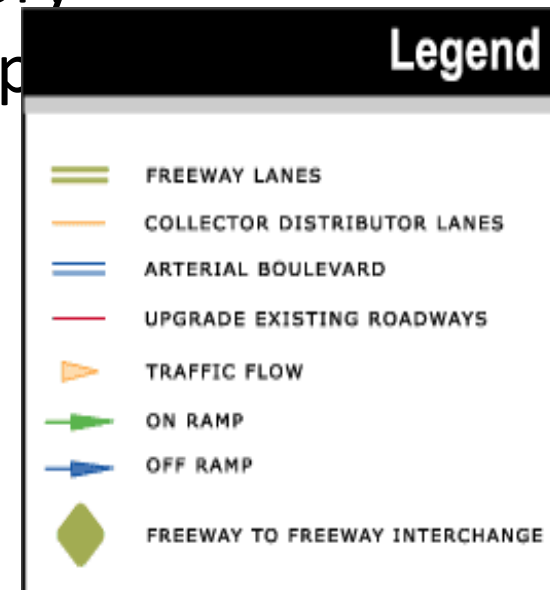
Title: General Reference--

- Statement of region being represented



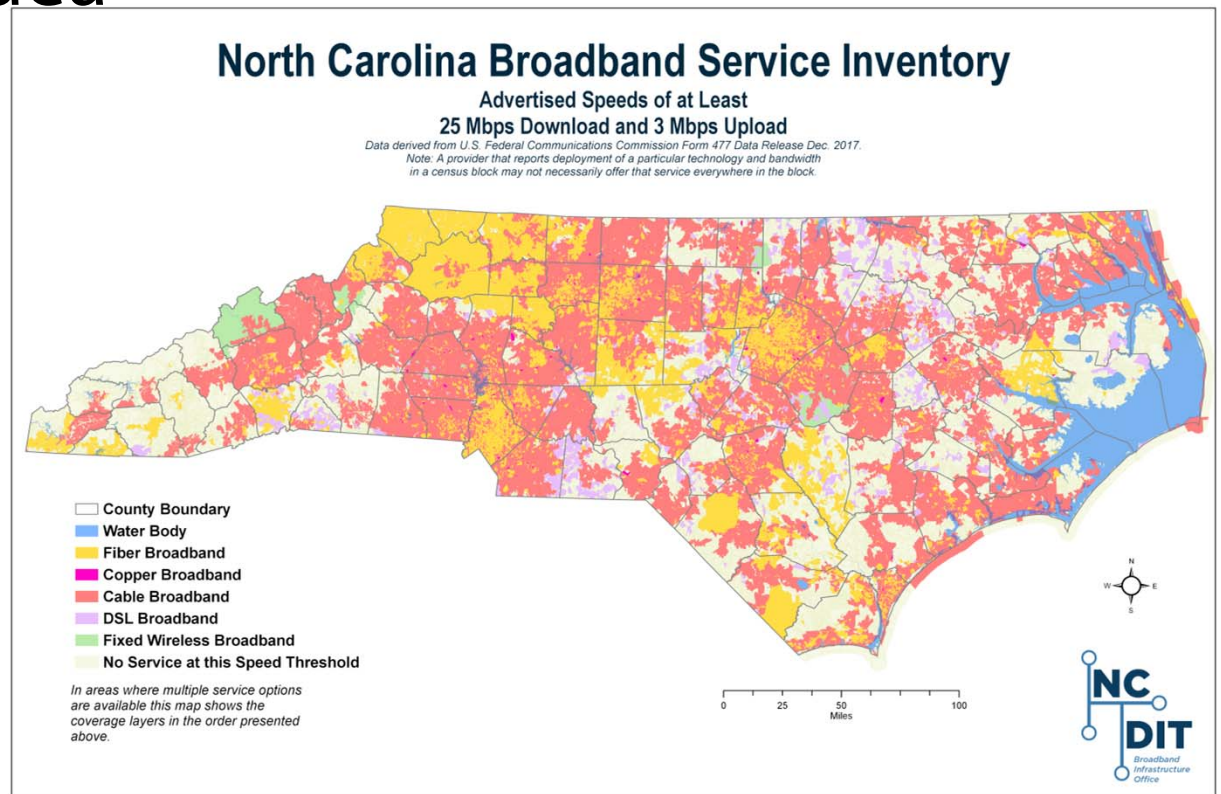
Legend

- Defines all the thematic symbols on a map
- Symbols placed on the left and defined on the right
- What symbols to leave out:
 - Symbols that are self-explanatory
 - Not directly related to the map



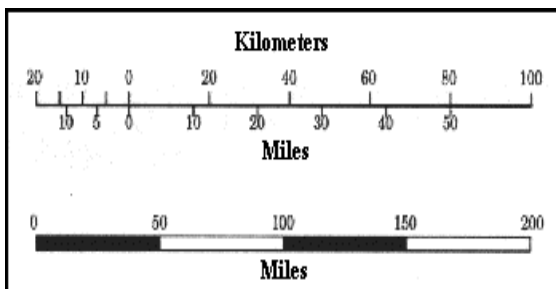
Data Source

- Indicates where data were obtained
- Give general idea
- Be plain, subtle, concise



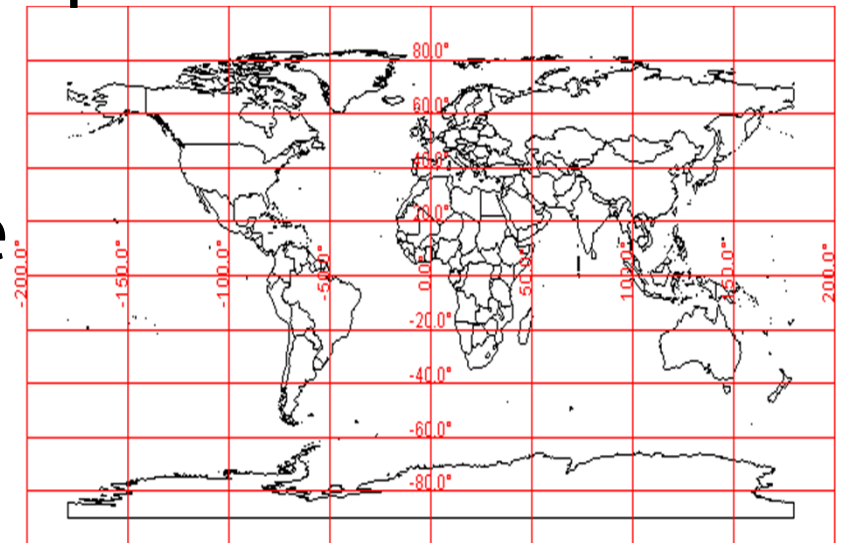
Scale and Bar Scale

- Amount of reduction that has taken place
- Representative fraction is ratio of map distance to Earth distance
- Bar Scale resembles a ruler that can easily be used to measure distances on a map
 - Should be included if distance information enhances map user's understanding of the theme



Orientation

- Refers to indication of north on a map
 - Graticule
 - North Arrow
- Always needs to be included if true north NOT on the top
- Navigation maps, surveying always include orientation as well



Orientation symbols

- Should be simple and subtle, not attract attention
- Only North ***needs*** to be indicated
- Compound North arrows should be reserved for navigation with compass

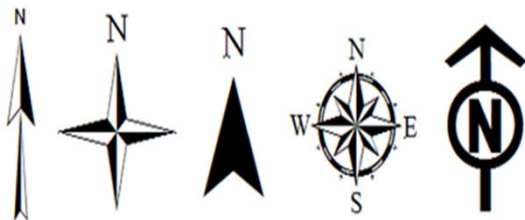
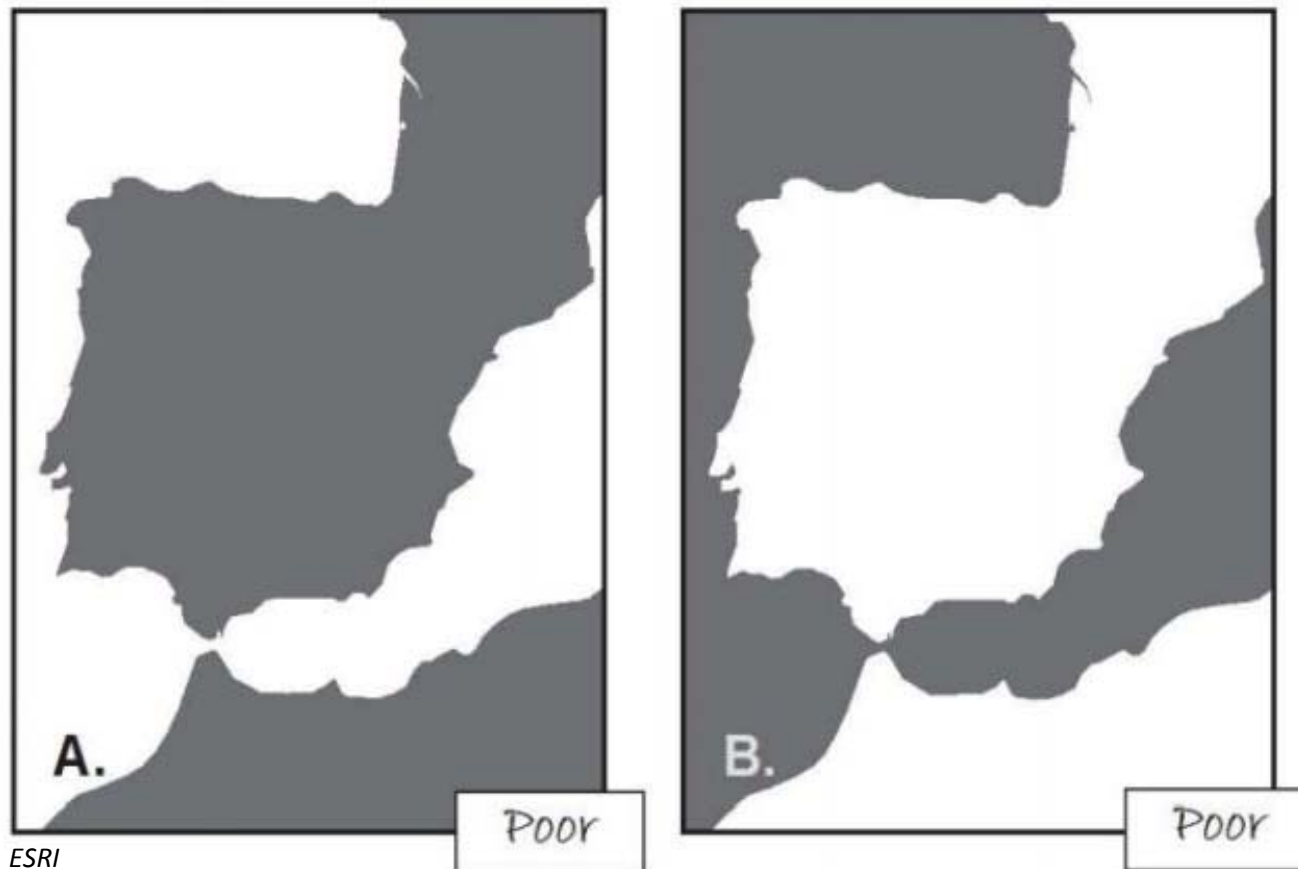


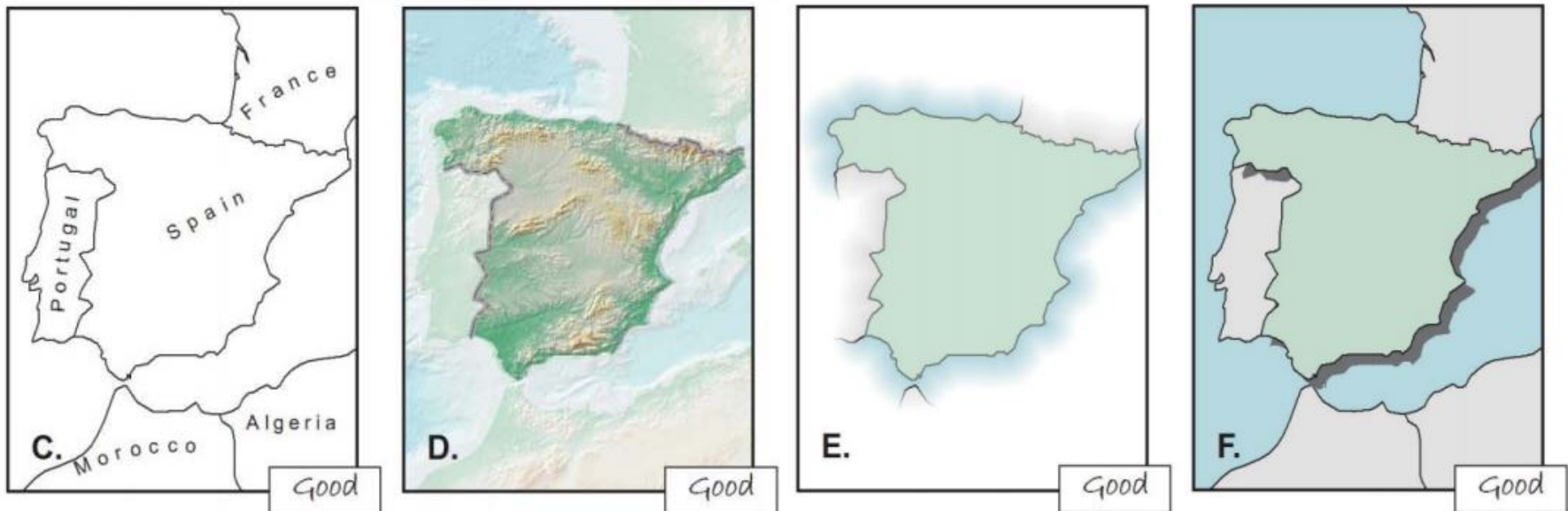
Figure-Ground Relationships

Easily distinguish between the main figure on the map and the background



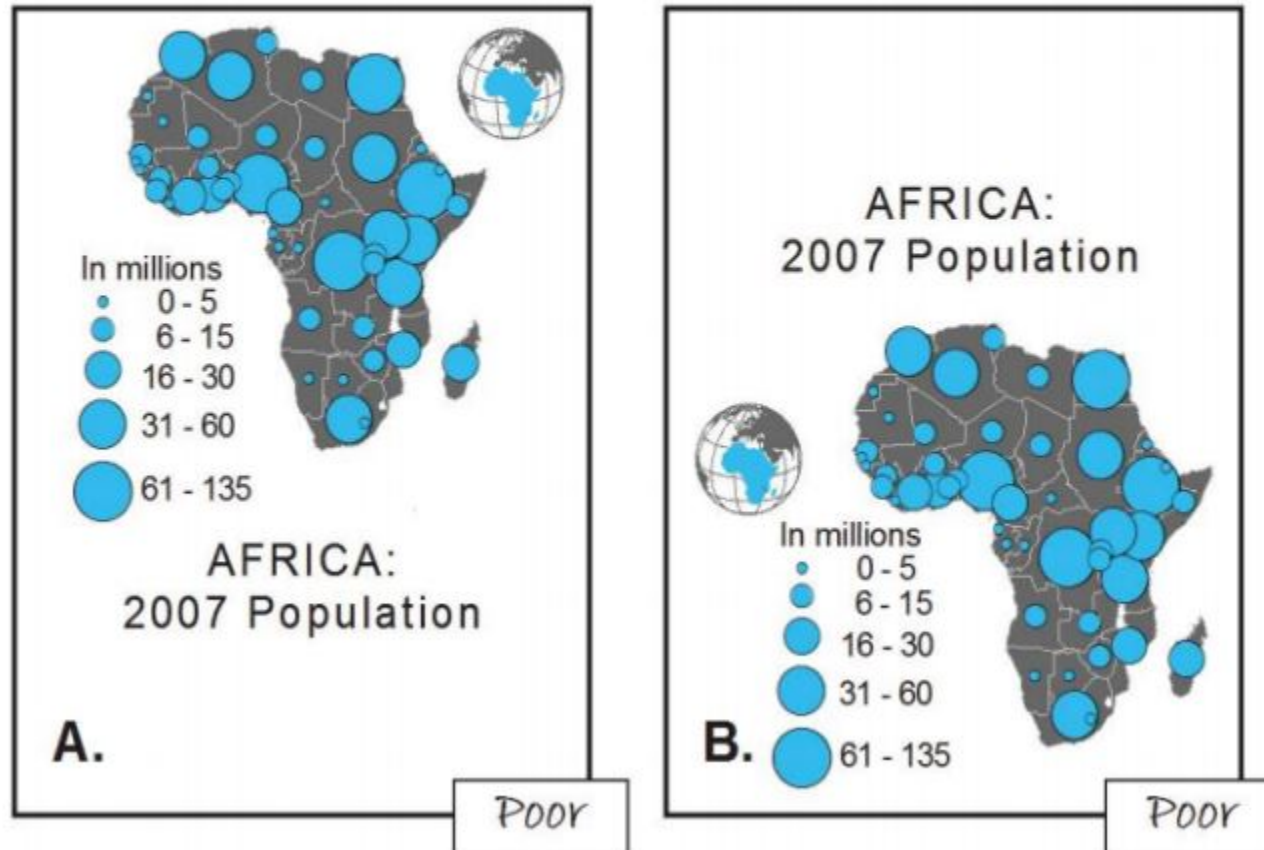
Source: Aileen Buckley, ESRI

Figure-Ground, Improved

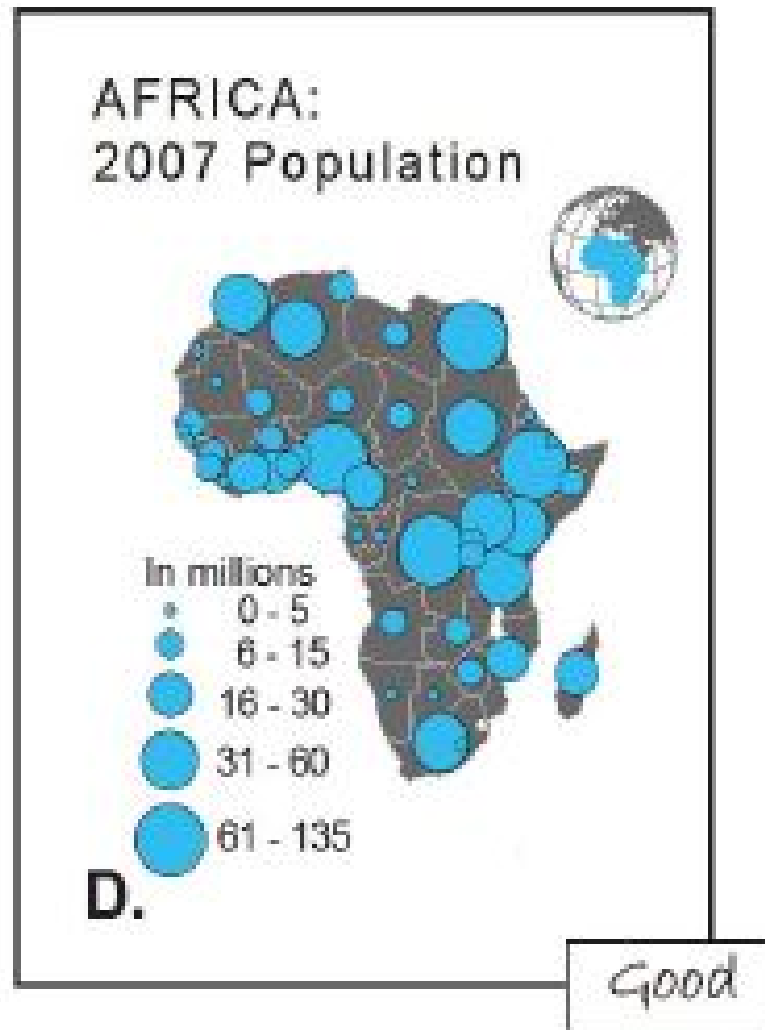
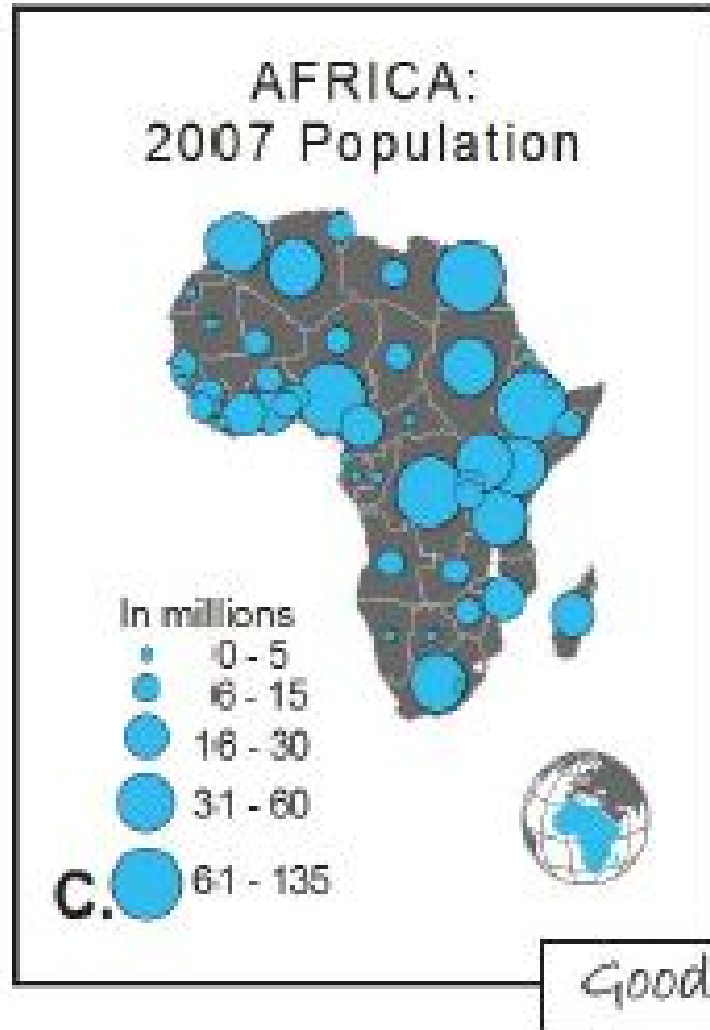


Balance

Organization of the map and other elements on the page layout



Balance



Balance Guidelines

- ❑ Centrally located elements have less weight than those to one side
- ❑ Objects in the upper half appear heavier than those in the lower half
- ❑ Objects on the right side appear heavier than those on the left side
- ❑ Weight appears to increase with increasing distance from the center
- ❑ Isolated elements have more weight than grouped elements
- ❑ Larger elements have greater visual weight
- ❑ Red is heavier than blue
- ❑ Bright colors are heavier than dark
- ❑ Regular shapes seem heavier than irregular shapes
- ❑ Compact shapes have more visual weight than unordered, diffuse shapes
- ❑ Forms with a vertical orientation seem heavier than oblique forms

- Arnheim, 1969