

Chapter 05

Languages

Key Issues

- Where are folk languages distributed?
- Why is English related to other languages?
- Why do individual languages vary among places?
- Why do people preserve local languages?

Chapter 05

Key Issue 1:

Where Languages Distributed?

Where Are Languages Distributed?

- *Language* is a system of communication through speech, a collection of sounds that a group of people understands to have the same meaning.
- *Literary tradition* refers to a system of written communication.
- Many countries designate at least one *official language* to be used for official documents and public objects—e.g., road signs and money.

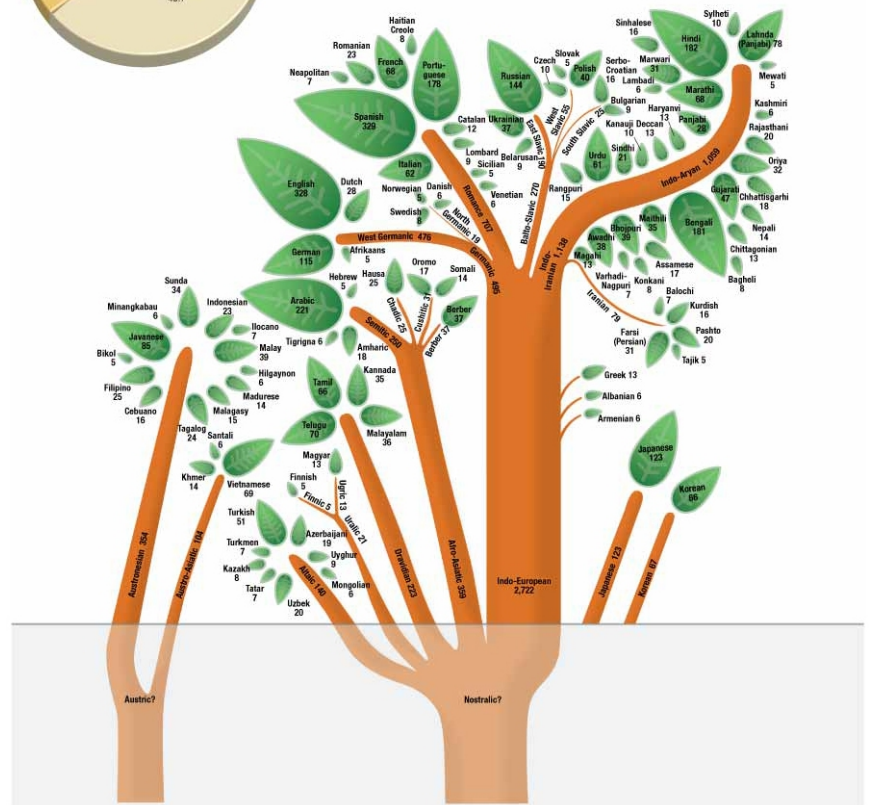
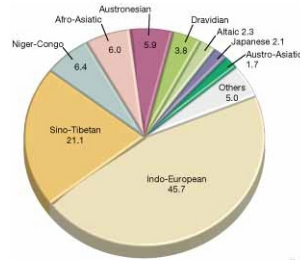
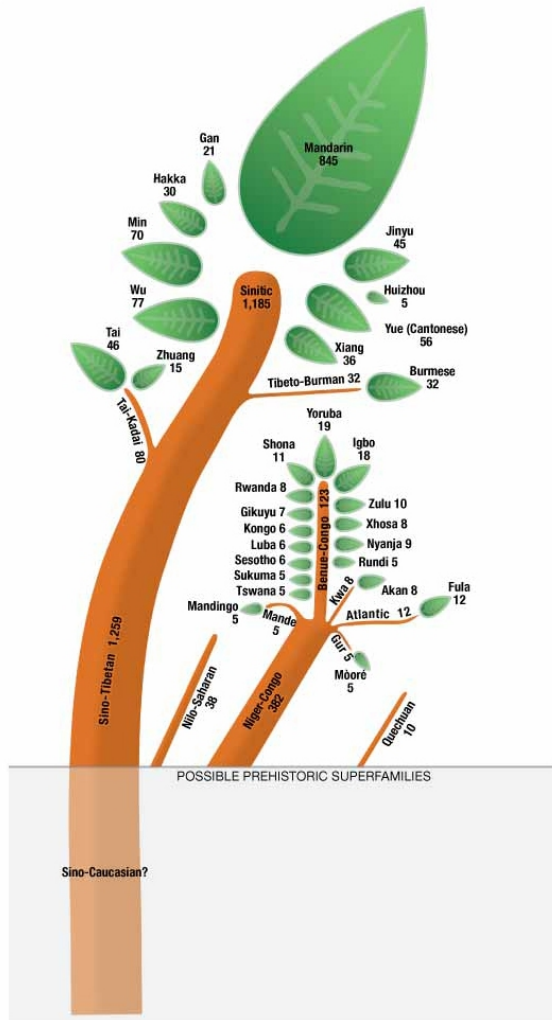
Where Are Languages Distributed?

- World's languages organized into:
 - **Language Families**: collection of languages related through a common ancestral language
 - **Language Branches**: collection of languages within a family related through a common ancestral language. Differences are not as significant or as old as between families.
 - **Language Groups**: collection of languages within a branch that share a common origin in the relatively recent past and display similar grammar and vocabulary.

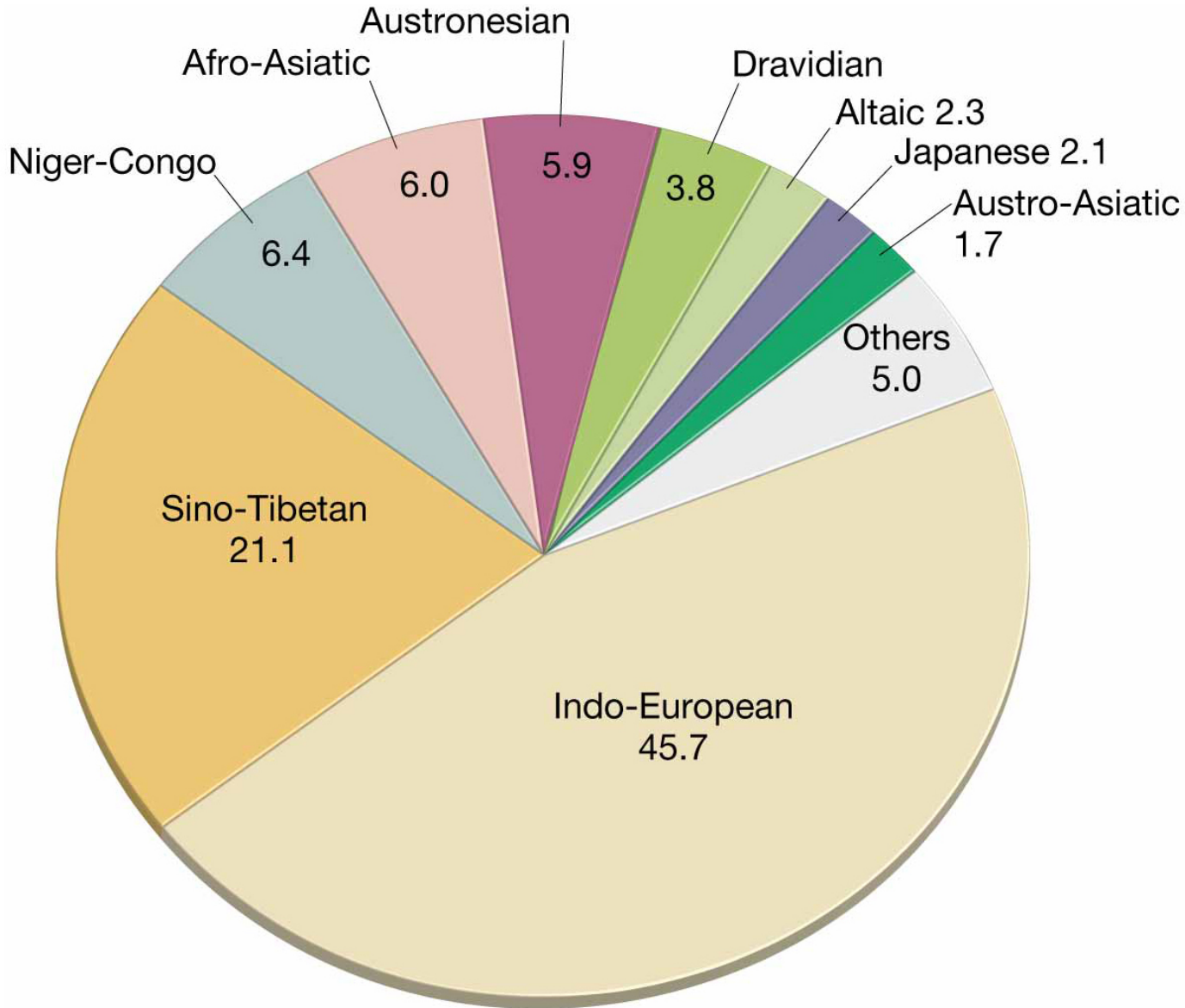
Where Are Languages Distributed?

- Classification of Languages
 - 2/3 of the world's population speak a language that belongs to the Indo-European or Sino-Tibetan language family.
 - 2 to 6 percent of the world's population speak a language that fits into one of seven other language families.
 - Remainder of population speaks a language belonging to one of 100 smaller families.

Classification of Languages



Classification of Languages



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Where Are Languages Distributed?

- **Distribution of Language Families**
 - The two largest language families are...
 1. **Indo-European**
 - Predominate language family in Europe, South Asia, North America and Latin America.
 2. **Sino-Tibetan**
 - Encompasses languages spoken in the People's Republic of China and several smaller countries in Southeast Asia.
 - » No single Chinese language
 - » Mandarin is the most-used language in the world and the official language of both the People's Republic of China and Taiwan.

Distribution of Language Families



Where Are Languages Distributed?

- Other Asian Language Families
 - Several other language families spoken by large numbers of people in East and Southeast Asia.
 - Isolation on islands and peninsulas contributed to overall independent development.
 - Austronesian
 - Austro-Asiatic
 - Tai Kadai
 - Japanese
 - Korean

Where Are Languages Distributed?

- Languages of Southwest Asia and North Africa and Central Asia
 - Two largest language families are...
 1. Afro-Asiatic
 - Arabic is major language.
 - » Official language in 24 countries of S.W. Asia and North Africa
 - » One of the six official languages in U.N.
 2. Altaic
 - Altaic language with most speakers is Turkish.
 - Altaic language became official language of several countries that gained independence when Soviet Union broke up—e.g., Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan.

Where Are Languages Distributed?

- African Language Families
 - More than 1,000 distinct languages have been documented.
 - Several thousand dialects recognized.
 - Most lack a written tradition.
 - Niger-Congo
 - Swahili
 - First language of 800,000 people
 - Official language of Tanzania
 - Spoken by 30 million Africans
 - » Language used to speak with outsiders from different villages

Africa's Language Families



Chapter 05

Key Issue 2:

Why is English Related to Other Languages?

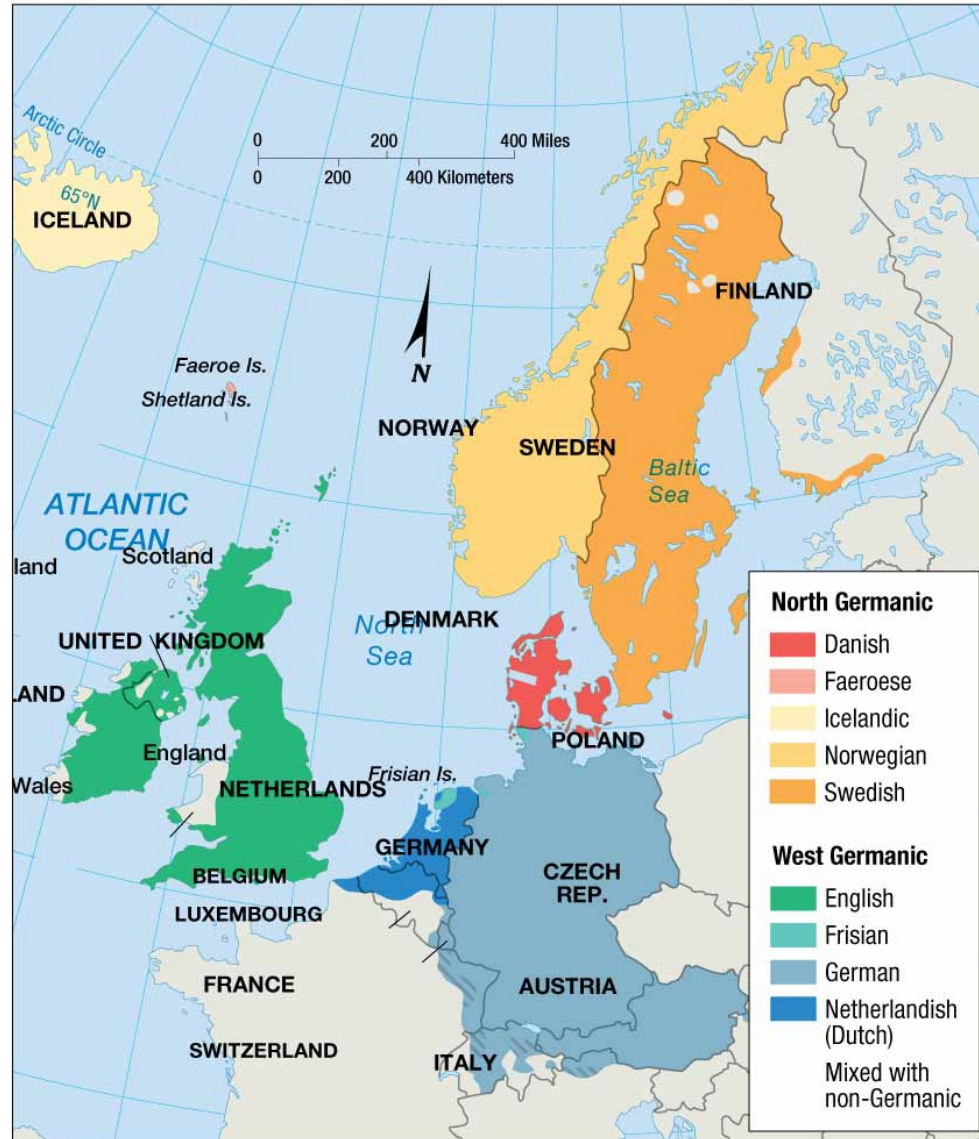
Why Is English Related to Other Languages?

- **Distribution of Indo-European Branches**
 - Four most widely spoken branches
 1. **Germanic branch**
 - Spoken primarily in northwestern Europe and North America
 - Divides into High and Low Germanic subgroups
 - » English is classified in the Low Germanic group
 2. **Indo-Iranian branch**
 - Spoken primarily in South Asia
 - Most speakers of the language branch
 - Subdivided into eastern group (Indic) and western group (Iranian)

The IndoEuropean Language Family



The Germanic Language Family



Language Families in India



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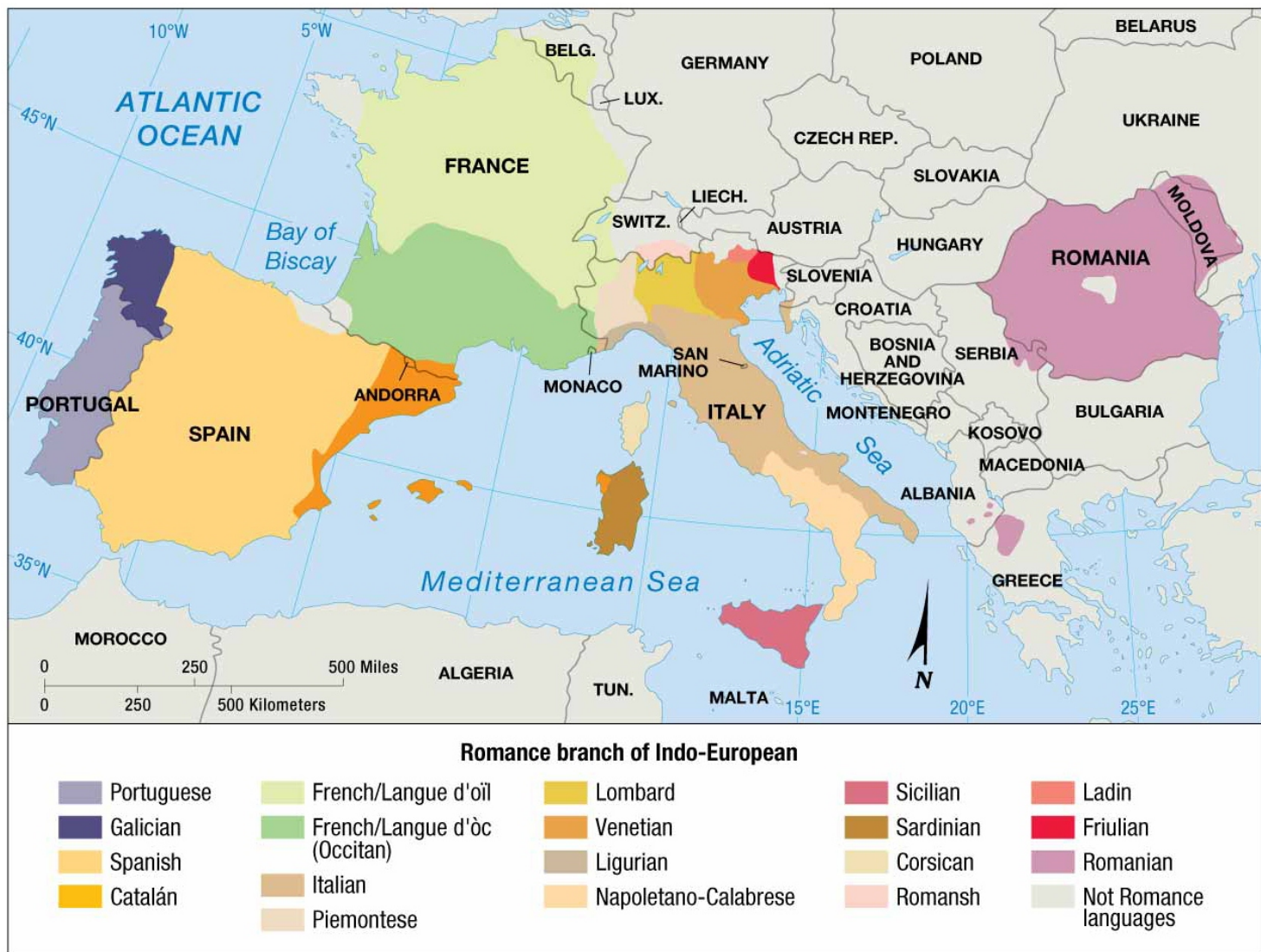
Why Is English Related to Other Languages?

- Distribution of Indo-European Branches
 - Four most widely spoken branches
 - 3. Balto-Slavic branch
 - Spoken primarily in Eastern Europe
 - Divided into...
 - » *East Slavic and Baltic Groups*: most widely used language is Russian followed by Ukrainian and Belarusian.
 - » *West and South Slavic Groups*: most spoken west Slavic language is Polish followed by Czech and Slovak, while the most widely spoken south language is Serbo-Croatian.

Why Is English Related to Other Languages?

- Distribution of Indo-European Branches
 - Four most widely spoken branches
 4. Romance branch
 - Spoken primarily in southwestern Europe and Latin America
 - Most widely used are Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Italian.
 - » Regions where spoken languages tend to correspond to the political boundaries of Spain, Portugal, France, and Italy

Romance Branch of Indo-European Family



Why Is English Related to Other Languages?

- Origin and Diffusion of Language Families
 - Modern English has evolved primarily from the language spoken by three Germanic tribes invading the British Isles.
 1. Angles- from southern Denmark
 2. Jutes- from northern Denmark
 3. Saxons- from northwestern Germany
 - Over time, others invaded England and their languages influenced the basic English.
 - Vikings from present-day Norway
 - Normans from present-day Normandy in France spoke French.

Invasions of England



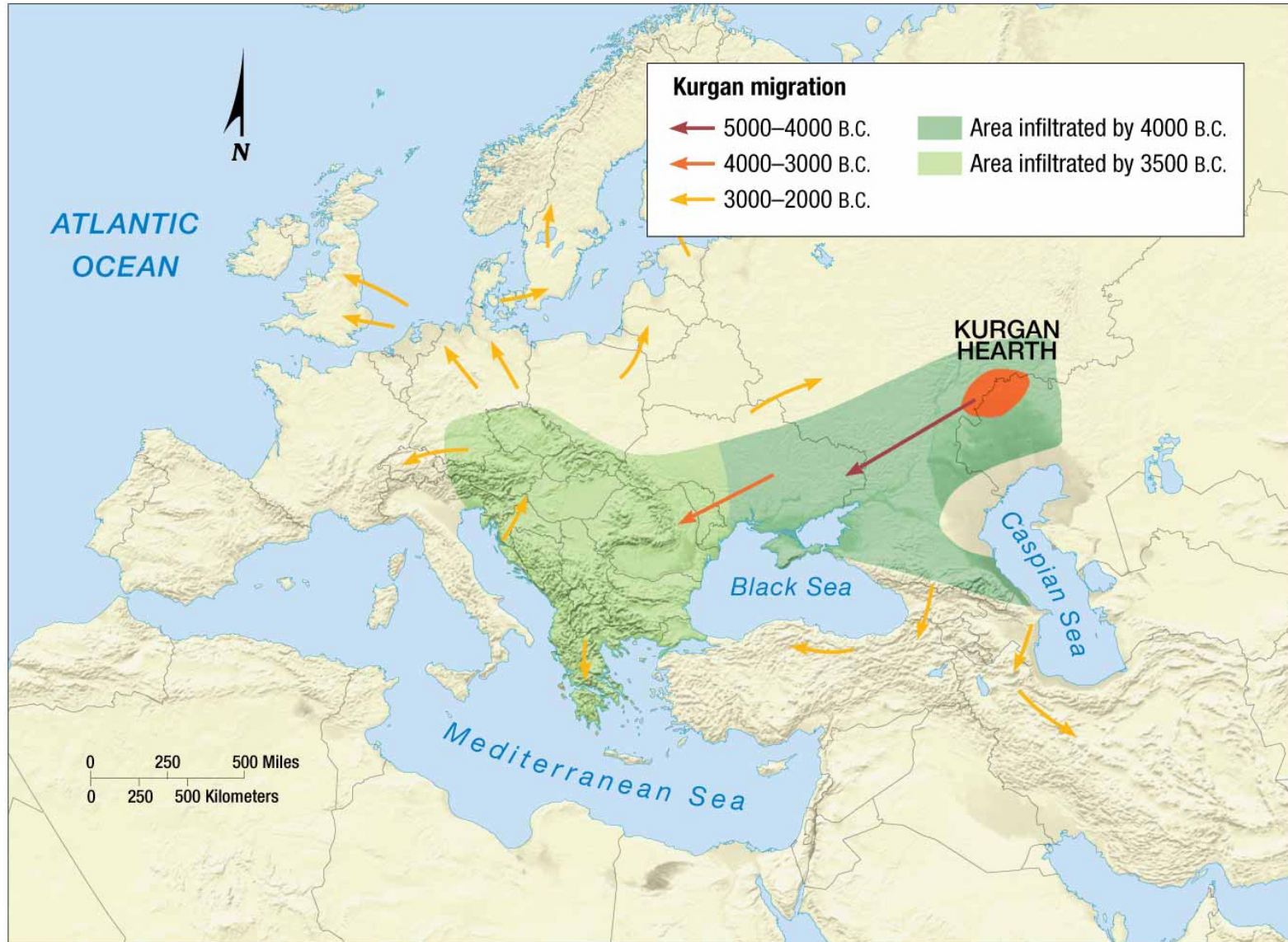
Why Is English Related to Other Languages?

- Origin and Diffusion of Language Families
 - English diffuses across the world.
 - English language migrated with the people of England when they established colonies over four centuries.
 - English is an official language in most former British colonies.
 - Diffusion to North America
 - First successful colony was Jamestown, VA, in 1607.
 - Defeat of France by England secured English as the dominant language in North America.
 - United States responsible for diffusing English to several places—e.g., Philippines.

Why Is English Related to Other Languages?

- Origin and Diffusion of Language Families
 - Indo-European
 - It is theorized that Germanic, Romance, Balto-Slavic, and Indo-Iranian languages all stemmed from a common ancestral language.
 - Proto-Indo-European
 - Linguists and anthropologists continue to debate when and where the Proto-Indo-European language originated and how it diffused.
 - Two Theories
 1. Nomadic Warrior Hypothesis
 2. Sedentary Farmer Hypothesis

Nomadic Warrior Theory – Kurgan peoples



Sedentary Farmer Theory of Diffusion



According to this theory, language diffused along with Agricultural innovations – diffusing west into Europe and east into Asia

Chapter 05

Key Issue 3:

Why Do Individual Languages Vary among Places?

Why Do Individual Languages Vary among Places?

- Dialects of English

- A *dialect* is a regional variation of a language distinguished by distinctive vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation.
- Boundaries of where regional words are used can be mapped; such a word usage boundary is known as an *isogloss*.
- Large number of speakers and widespread distribution in the United States has contributed to the existence of a large number of English dialects.

Why Do Individual Languages Vary among Places?

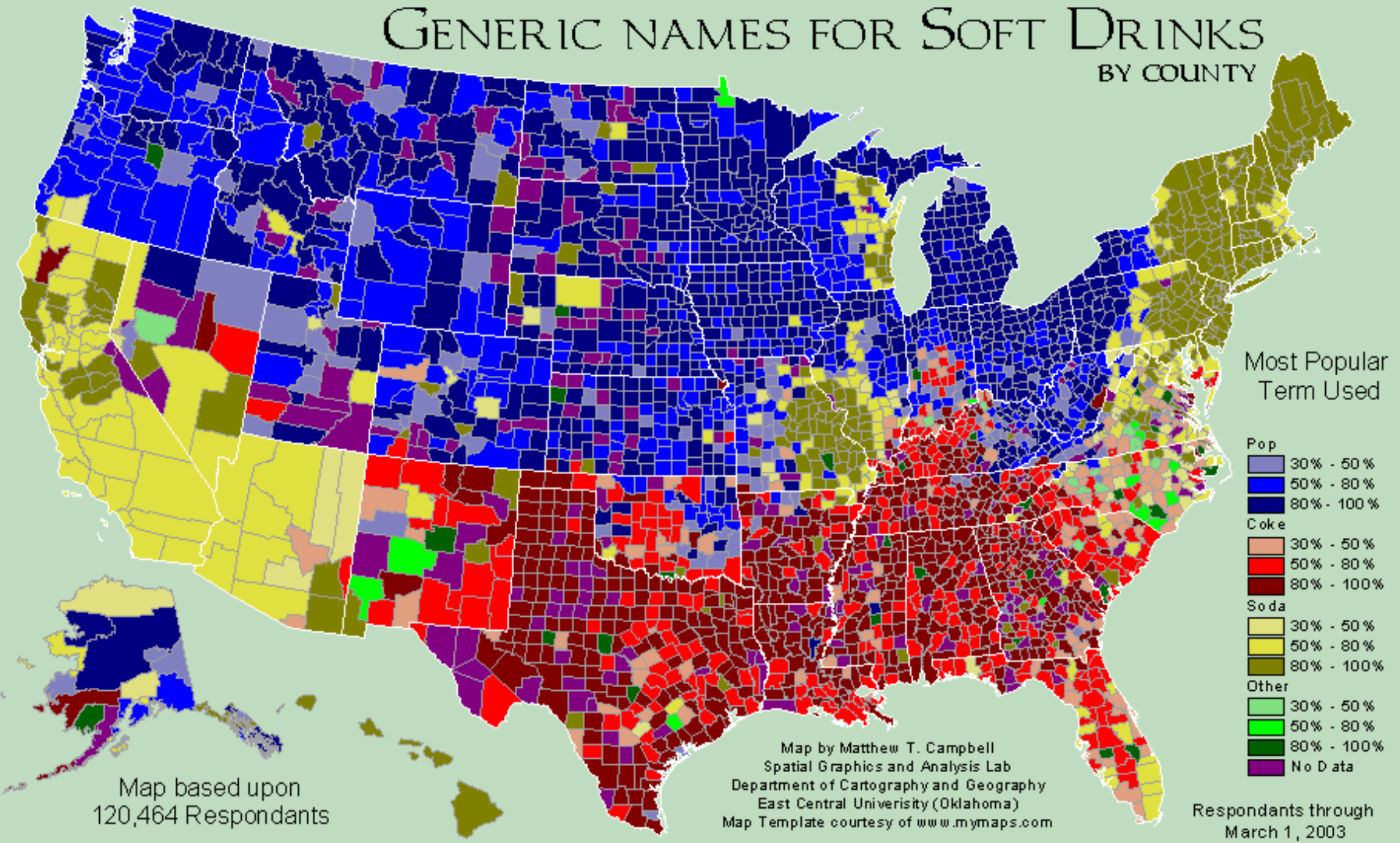
- **Dialects in the United States**
 - The 13 original colonies can be grouped into three dialect regions.
 1. **New England**
 - Inhabited by settlers from England
 2. **Southeastern**
 - About ½ came from southeastern England, while the others represented a diversity of social-class backgrounds.
 3. **Midlands**
 - Most diverse group—e.g., Quakers from north of England, Scots and Irish, German, Dutch, and Swedish migrants.

Why Do Individual Languages Vary among Places?

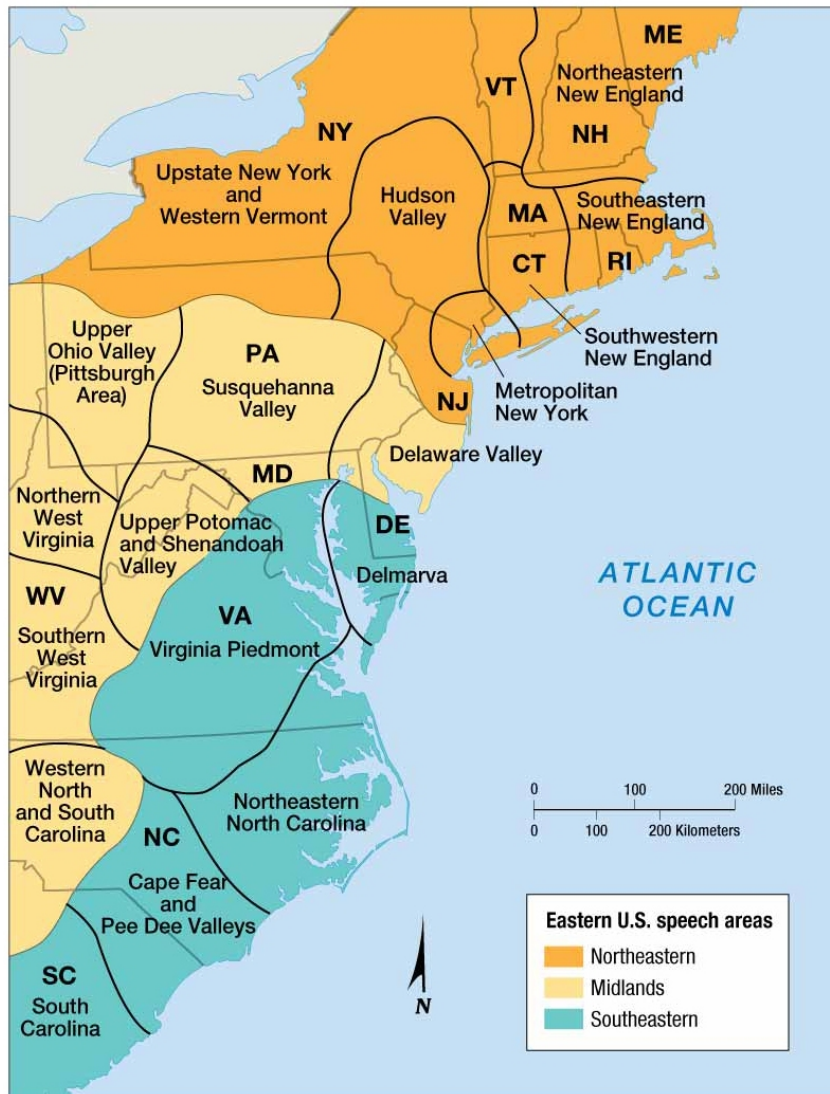
- Current Dialect Differences in the East
 - Some English words are specific to a dialect.
 - Rural life
 - Food
 - Objects from daily activities
 - Language differences tend to be greatest in rural areas because of limited interaction with people from other dialect regions.
 - Mass media has reduced the number of regionally distinctive words.

Soft-Drink Dialects

GENERIC NAMES FOR SOFT DRINKS BY COUNTY

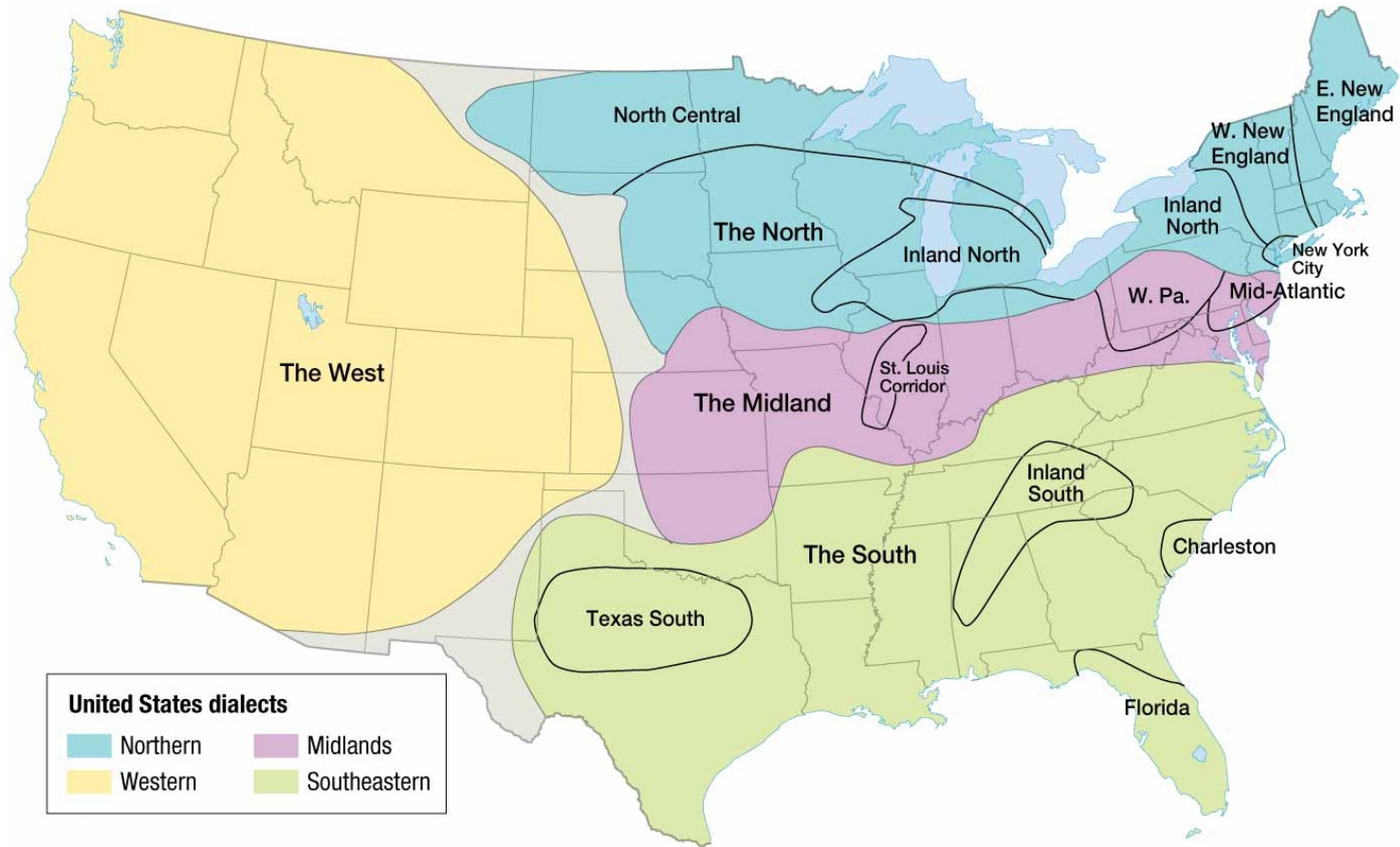


Dialects in the Eastern US



The most comprehensive classification of dialects in the United States was made by Hans Kurath in 1949.

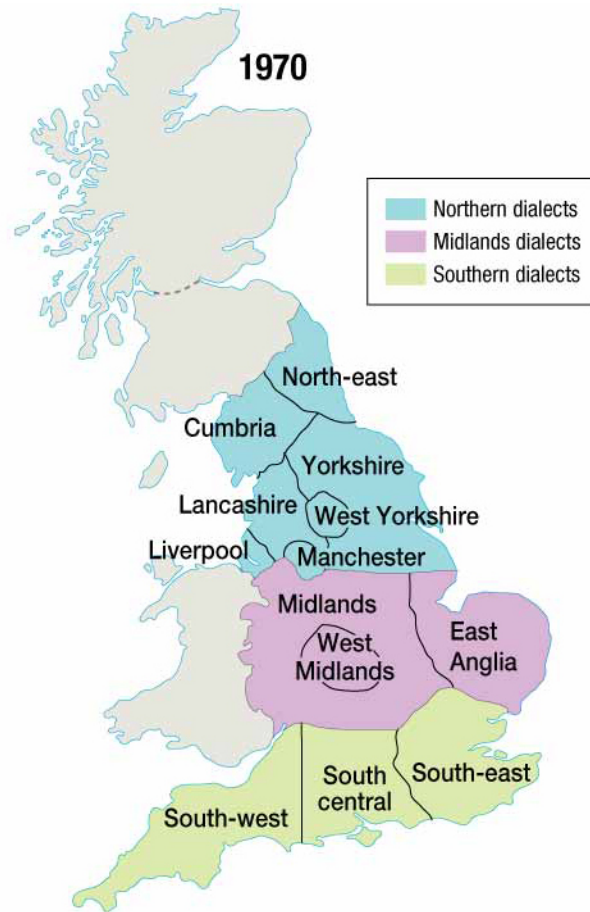
Dialects and Subdialects – four major regions



Why Do Individual Languages Vary among Places?

- Dialects in the United Kingdom
 - Languages with multiple dialects may recognize one as the *standard language* that is widely recognized as the most acceptable for government, business, education, and mass communication.
 - Ex. England's is known as *British Received Pronunciation (BRP)*.

Dialects in England



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Isoglosses between England's dialects

Why Do Individual Languages Vary among Places?

- **British and American English Dialects**
 - English language is noticeably different than English spoken in England in three ways.
 1. **Vocabulary**
 - Settlers in America encountered many new objects and experiences not present in England.
 - Climate and geography differ significantly between England and America.
 2. **Spelling**
 - Noah Webster sought to make English used in America distinct from England to reduce cultural dependence by changing spellings of words in his dictionary.
 3. **Pronunciation**
 - Chief cause was limited interaction between speakers of varying dialects.

Comparing British and American English



BRITISH American

PETROL Gas

LORRY Truck

SLEEPING POLICEMAN Speed
Bump

CAR PARK Parking Lot

CAR JOURNEY Road Trip

ZEBRA CROSSING Crosswalk

MOTORWAY Freeway

SALOON Sedan

PETROL STATION Gas Station

BONNET Hood

WINDSCREEN Windshield

BOOT Trunk

REVERSING LIGHTS Back-up
Lights

EXHAUST PIPE Tail Pipe

DUAL CARRIAGEWAY Divided
Highway

NUMBER PLATE License Plate

FLYOVER Overpass

MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK
Parking Garage

CAT'S EYE RAISED Pavement
Marker

CARAVAN/CAMPERVAN RV
PAVEMENT Sidewalk

ESTATE CAR Station Wagon

MANUAL CAR Stickshift Car

GEAR STICK Stick

INDICATORS Turn Signal

TRAFFIC LIGHTS Stoplight

AMBER LIGHT (TRAFFIC
LIGHTS) Yellow Light

Why Do Individual Languages Vary among Places?

- Distinguishing between Languages and Dialects
 - Dialect or language
 - Increasingly difficult to determine whether two languages are distinct or whether they are dialects of the same language.
 - Several languages in Italy that have been traditionally classified as dialects of Italian are now viewed by *Ethnologue* as distinct enough to merit consideration as a new language.
 - Examples include Emiliano-Romagnolo, Liguri, Lombard, and Sicilian.

Chapter 05

Key Issue 4:

Why Do People Preserve Local Languages?

Why Do People Preserve Local Languages?

- Language Diversity

- Difficulties can arise at the boundary between two languages.

- Varying degrees of difficulties

- Belgium

- » Southern Belgians (Walloons) speak French.

- » Northern Belgians (Flemings) speak Flemish.

- » Pressure from Flemish speakers led to the division of Belgium into two independent regions with each controlling their own cultural affairs, public health, road construction, and urban development.

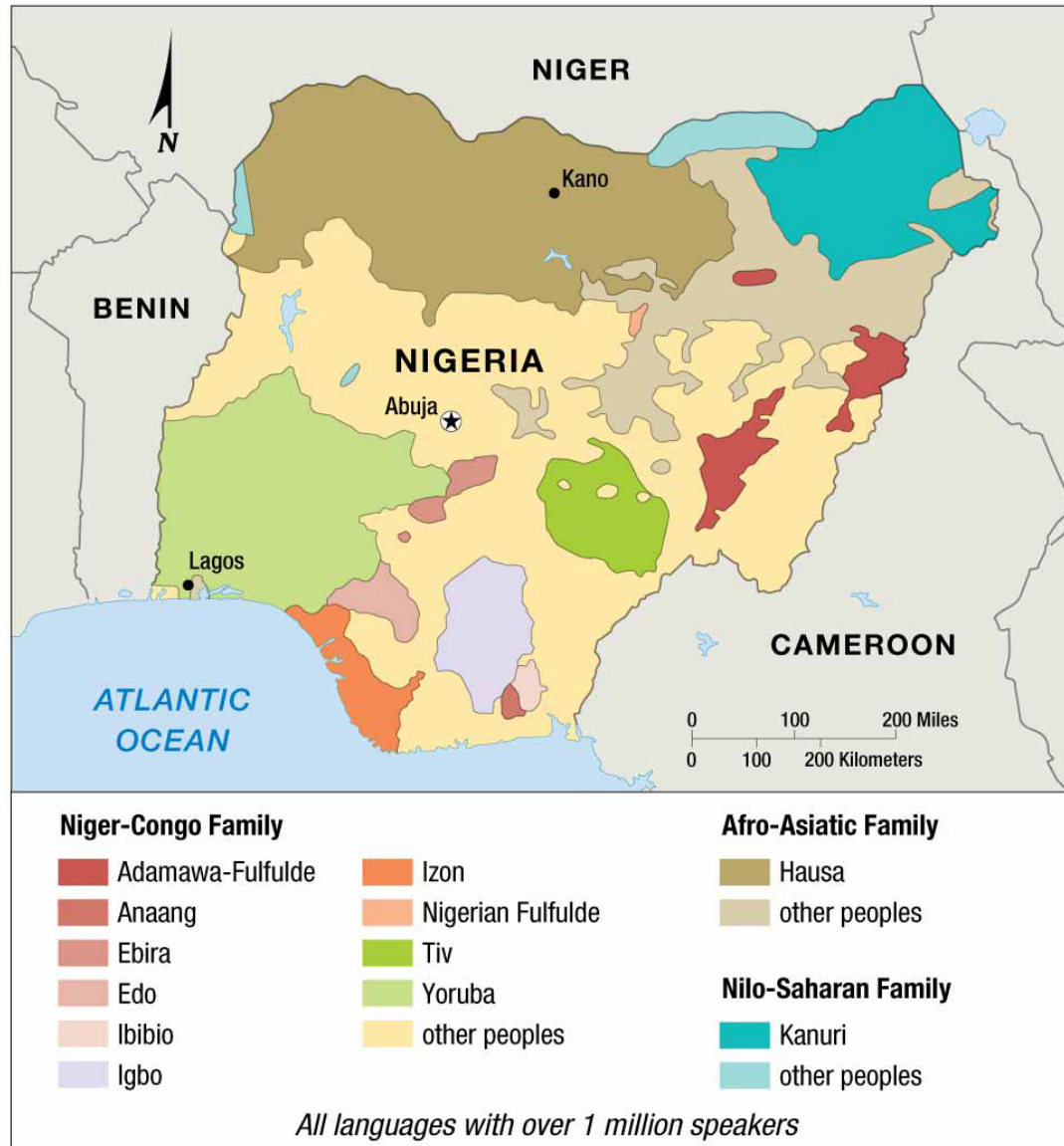
- Switzerland

- » Cont'd on next slide.

Languages in Belgium



Languages in Nigeria



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Why Do People Preserve Local Languages?

- Language Diversity
 - Difficulties can arise at the boundary between two languages.
 - Varying degrees of difficulties
 - Switzerland
 - » Peacefully exists with multiple languages.
 - » Switzerland attributes success to decentralized government, in which local authorities hold most of the power, and decisions are frequently made on a local level by voter referenda.
 - » Four official languages—German (65%), French (18%), Italian (10%), and Romansh (1%)

Languages in Switzerland



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Why Do People Preserve Local Languages?

- Isolated Languages

- An *isolated language* is one unrelated to any other and therefore not attached to any language family.

- Arise from lack of interaction with speakers of other languages.

- Ex. Basque in Europe

- Only language currently spoken that survives since the period before the arrival of Indo-European speakers.

- First language of 666,000 people in the Pyrenees Mountains of northern Spain and southwestern France.

- » Mountain chain serving as a natural barrier to diffusion helped them preserve their language.

- Ex. Icelandic

- Language has changed less than any other Germanic language.

Why Do People Preserve Local Languages?

- Extinct and Revived Languages
 - An *extinct language* is one that is no longer spoken or read in daily activities by anyone in the world.
 - Presently, 473 languages nearly extinct
 - 46 in Africa
 - 182 in Americas
 - 84 in Asia
 - 9 in Europe
 - 152 in Pacific
 - Ex. Native Americans
 - 74 languages extinct in the United States that were once spoken by Native Americans.

Why Do People Preserve Local Languages?

- Preserving Endangered Languages: Celtic
 - Linguists expect hundreds of languages will become extinct during the twenty-first century.
 - Only about 300 languages are said to be safe from extinction.
 - Celtic Language
 - Significant to English speakers because of its primacy in the British Isles.
 - Survives only in remote parts of Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, and on the Brittany peninsula of France.
 - Celtic speakers must work hard to preserve their language in face of diffusion by others who have greater political and economic strength.

An unchanging Language: Icelandic



Reviving an extinct language - Hebrew



Preserving Welsh – an endangered language



Preserving Irish – an endangered language



Preserving Breton— an endangered language



Preserving Scottish— an endangered language



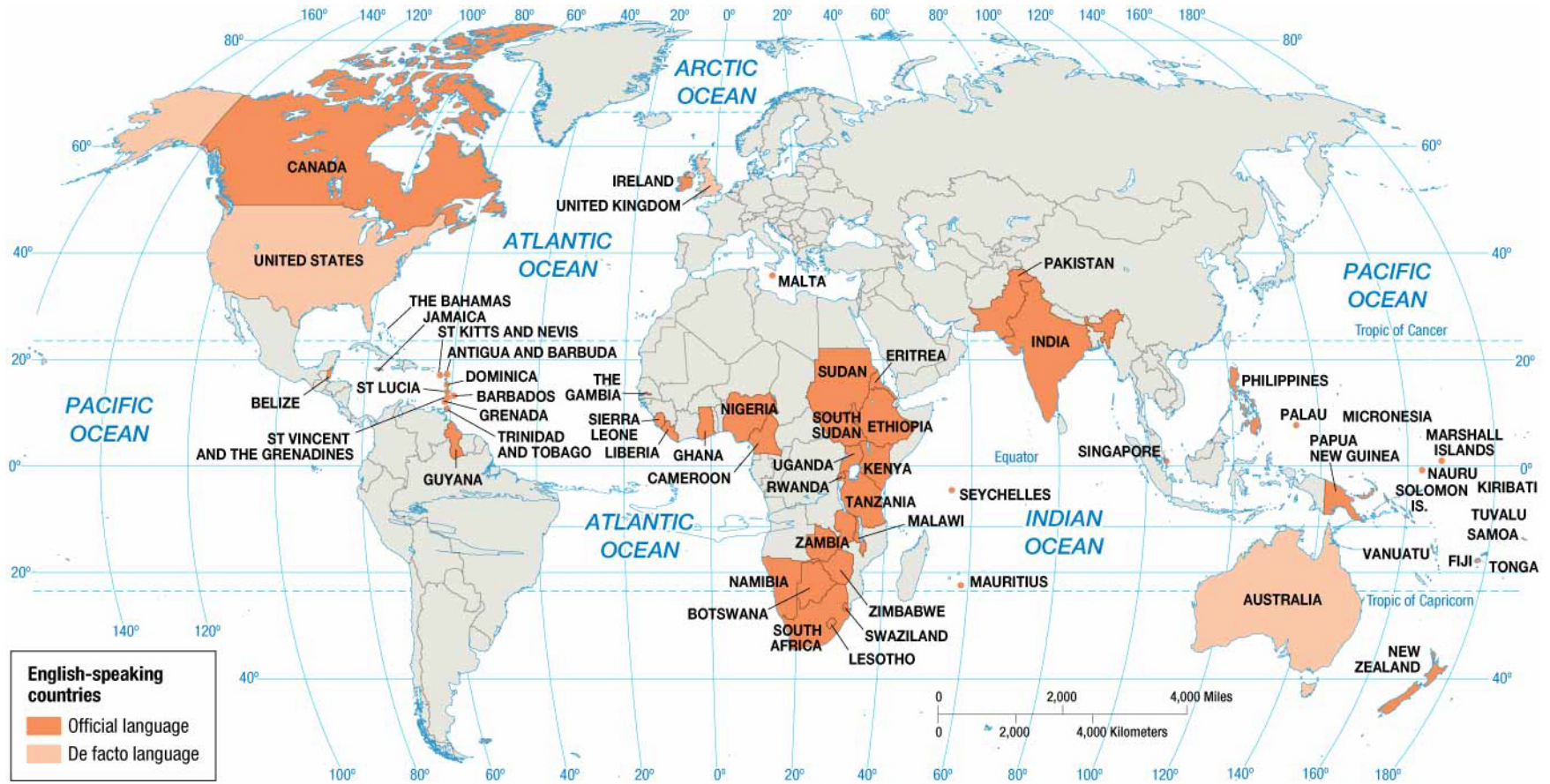
The sign over the door says that this is a florist.

Eilean Iarmain is the Scottish name for the village of Isleornsay, Scotland

Why Do People Preserve Local Languages?

- Global Dominance of English
 - A *lingua franca* is a language of international communication.
 - Ex. English
 - First language of 328 million people
 - Spoken fluently by another ½ to 1 billion people.
 - Official language in 57 countries
 - People in smaller countries learn English to participate more fully in the global economy and culture.
 - Other Examples
 - Swahili in East Africa
 - Hindi in South Asia
 - Indonesian in Southeast Asia
 - Russian in former Soviet Union.

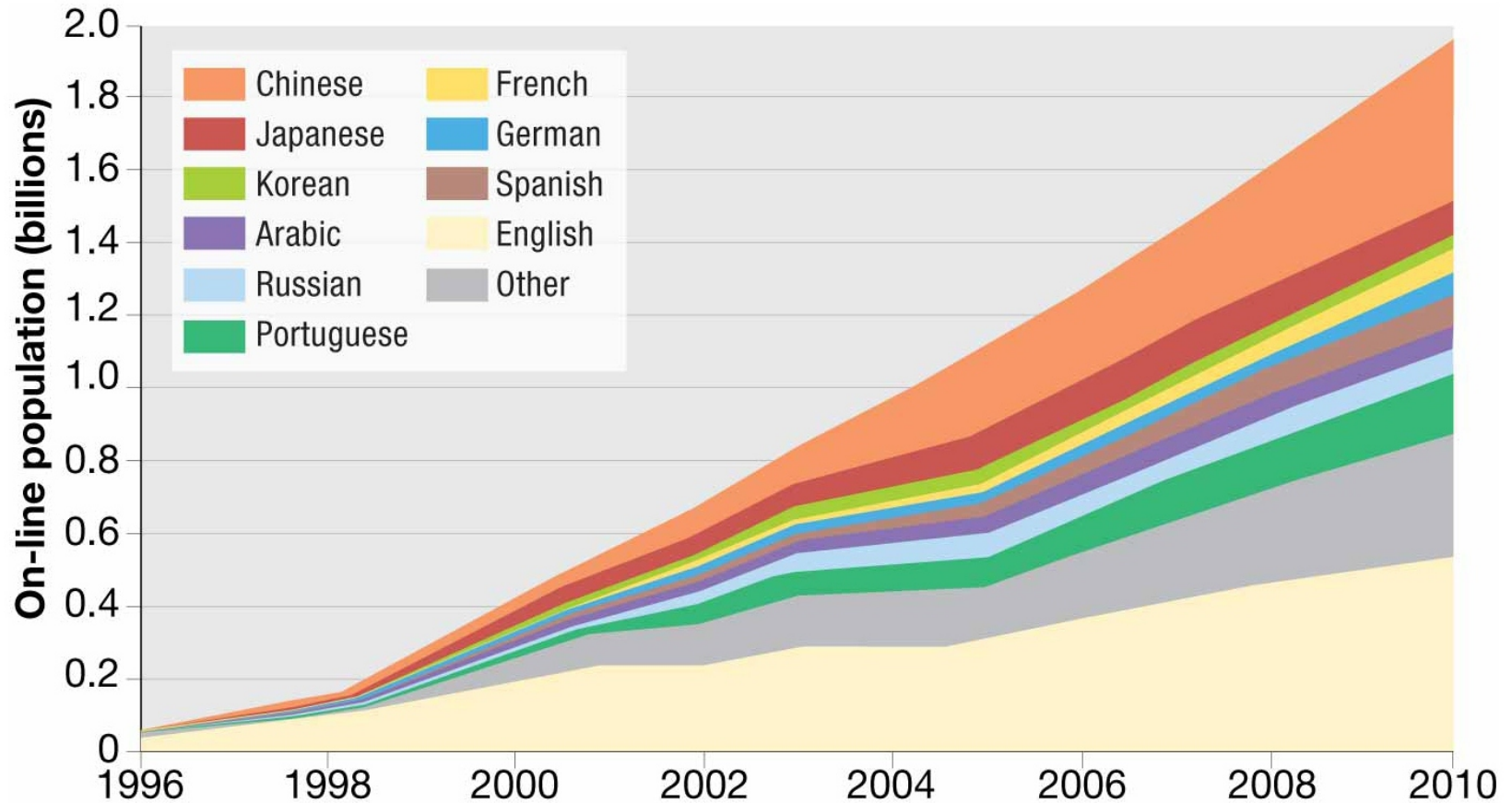
English speaking countries – 56 nations



Why Do People Preserve Local Languages?

- Global Dominance of English
 - English on the Internet
 - Majority of content on Internet is in English.
 - Dominance of content in English is waning.
 - » Percentage of English-language online users declined from 46 percent in 2000 to 27 percent in 2010.
 - Mandarin will likely replace English as the most-frequently used online language before 2020.

Languages of Online Speakers



Why Do People Preserve Local Languages?

- Global Dominance of English

- Expansion Diffusion of English

- Recent growth in the use of English is an example of expansion diffusion—the spread of a trait through the snowballing effect of an idea.
 - Expansion has occurred in two ways with English.
 1. English is changing through diffusion of new vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation.
 2. English words are fusing with other languages.
 - » Ex. Words, such as cowboy, hamburger, jeans, and T-shirt were allowed to diffuse into French.
 - » Ex. English words have spurred the creation of English-like words to replace traditional Spanish words, such as *parquin* (Spanglish) for *estacionamiento* (Spanish)

Spanglish – Spanish + English!



Franglais— French + English!



Denglish – German + English!

»Happy Birthday
Mr. President«

ICH BIN EIN BERLINER

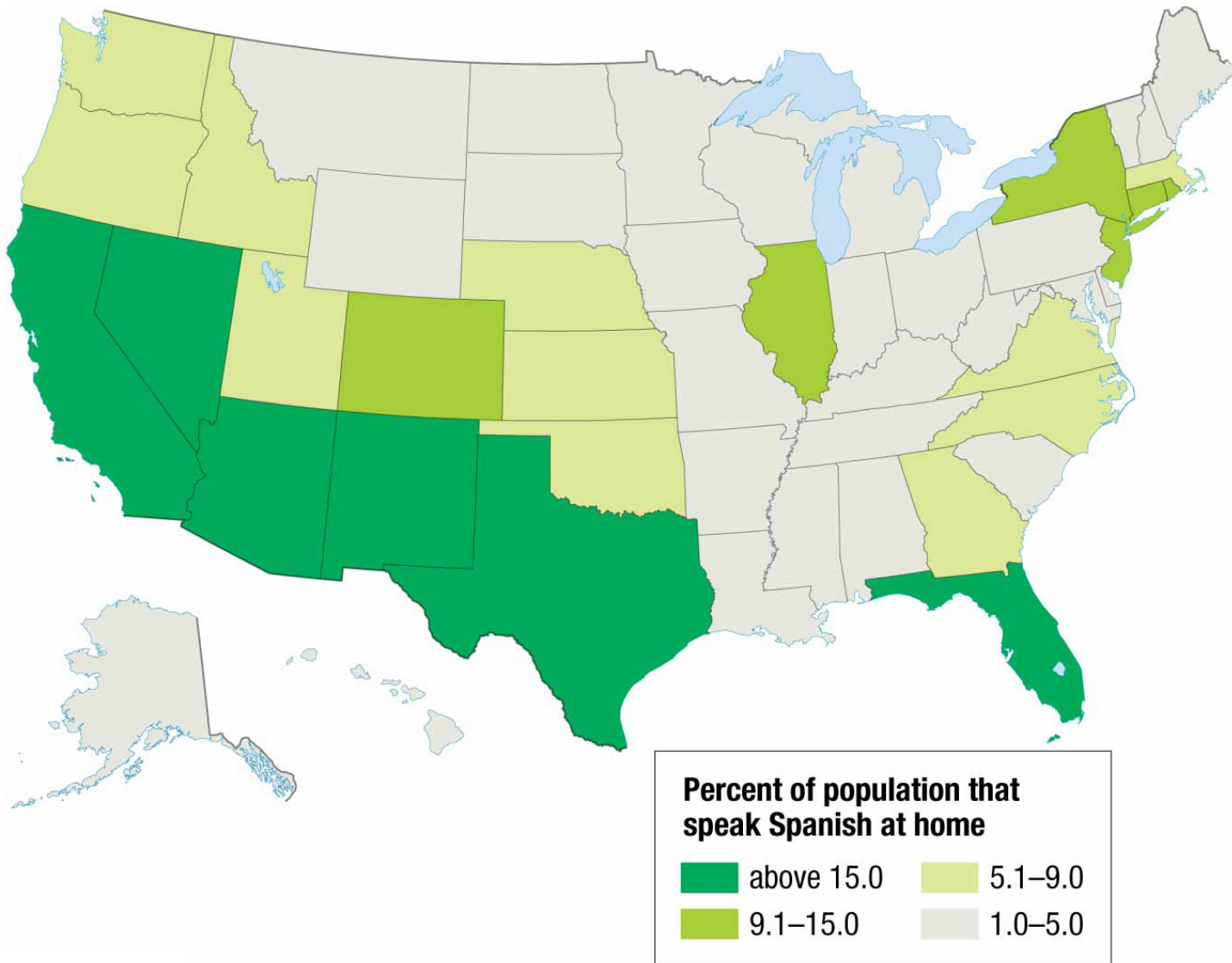
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The Entertainment Radio

... 6-9 Uhr "Info-Line" News im 15-Minuten-Takt ... 9-12 Uhr "Business-Line" Börse, Gold & Lebensstil ... 14-17 Uhr "Berlin-Berlin" Trends, Tips & Kulturkritik

Why Do People Preserve Local Languages?

- Spanish and French in the United States and Canada
 - Spanish
 - Increasingly important language in recent years in United States because of large-scale immigration from Latin America.
 - Some communities now issue public notices, government documents, and advertisements in Spanish.
 - Radio stations and TV now broadcast in Spanish in places where most of the 35 million Spanish speakers live.
 - In reaction, 30 states and number of localities have laws making English the official language.
 - Some courts have judged these laws to be unconstitutional restrictions on free speech.

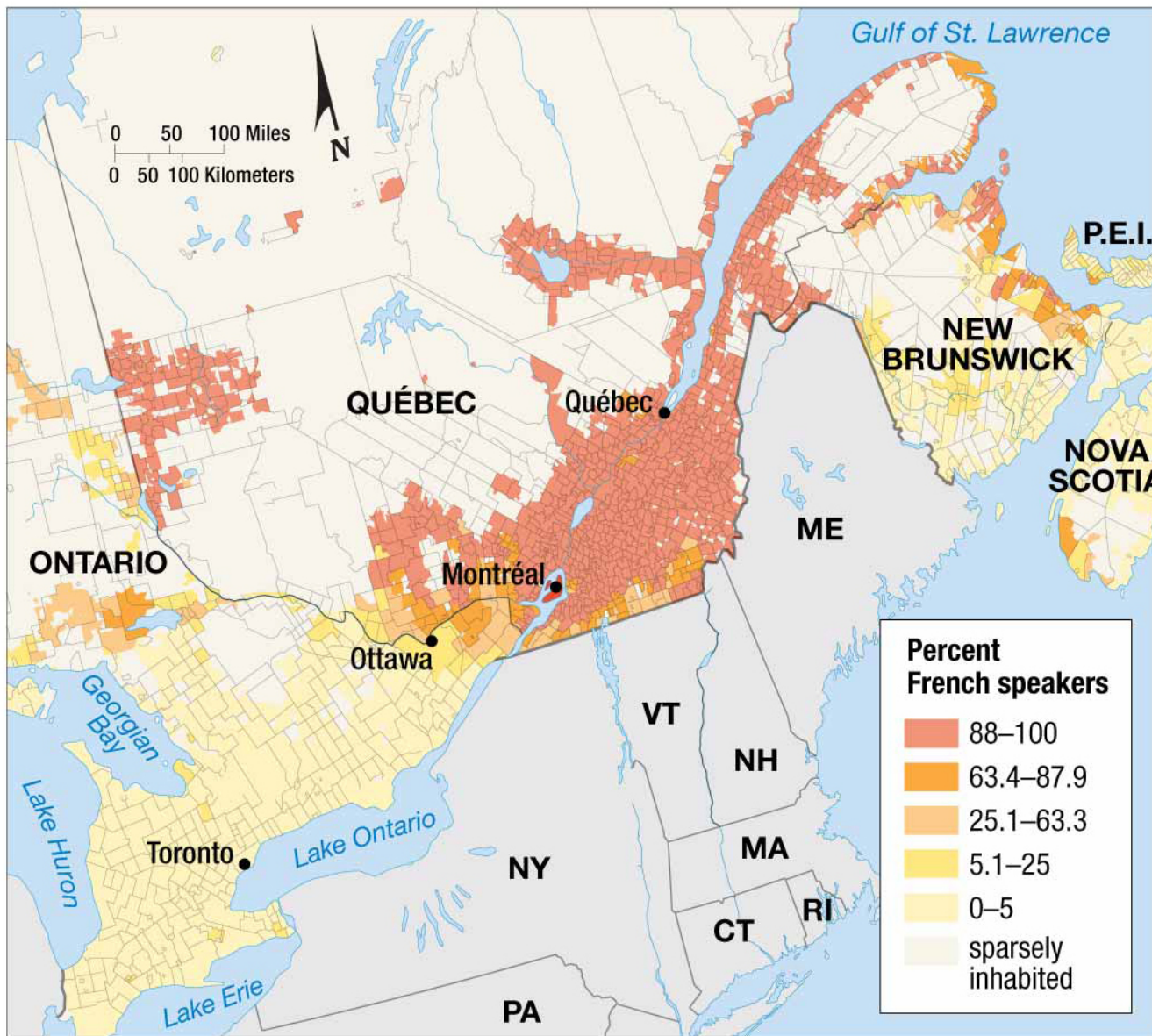
Spanish speakers in the United States



Why Do People Preserve Local Languages?

- Spanish and French in the United States and Canada
 - French
 - Québec government has made the use of French mandatory in many daily activities.
 - Québec faces challenges integrating a large number of immigrants from Europe, Asia, and Latin America who don't speak French.
 - Immigrants prefer to use English as the lingua franca because of its greater global usage.

Canada's French-English Languages



French is the first language of 81% of Canadians living in Quebec province, but only 8% of Canadians living elsewhere in Canada.

Summary

- Languages can be classified as belonging to particular families. Some families are divided into branches and groups.
- English is in the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family. Because nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of all humans currently speak a language in the same family, English is related to other languages.
- Languages vary among places because of the regional influence on language that stems from isolation.

Summary

- People preserve local languages, because a culture's identity is intimately intertwined with its local language.