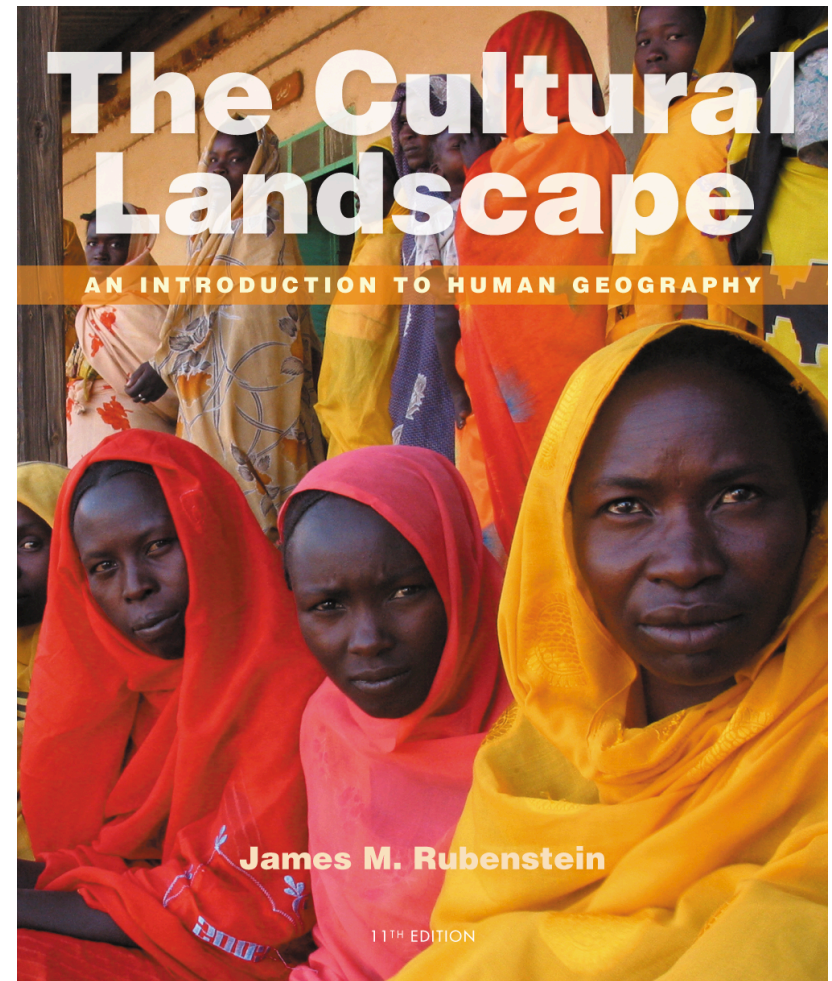


The Cultural Landscape

Eleventh Edition

Languages

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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?

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?

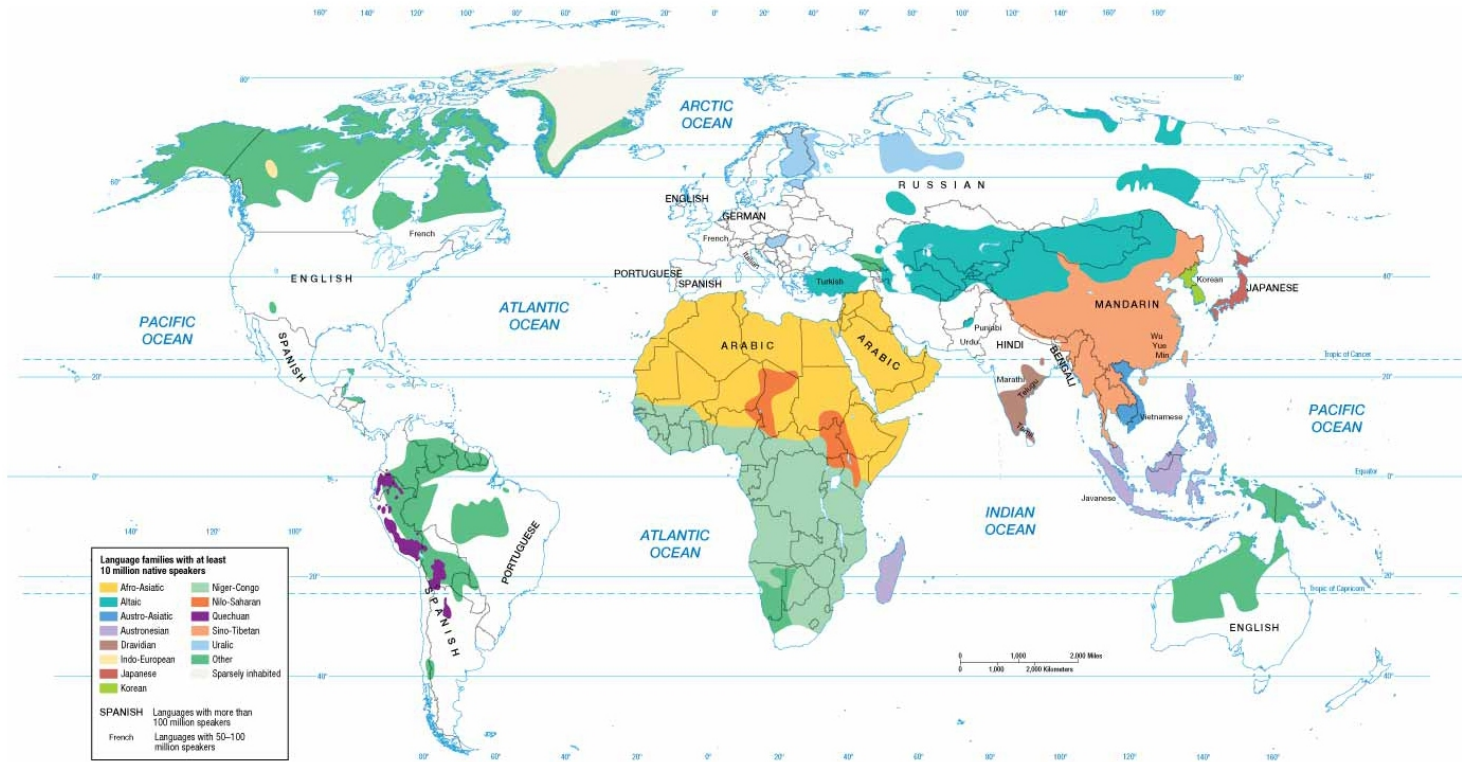
- World's languages organized into:
 - Language Families: collection of languages related through a common ancestral language
 - Language Branches: collection of languages within a family related through a common ancestral language. Differences are not as significant or as old as between families.
 - 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.

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. Most # of native speakers



Where Are Languages Distributed?

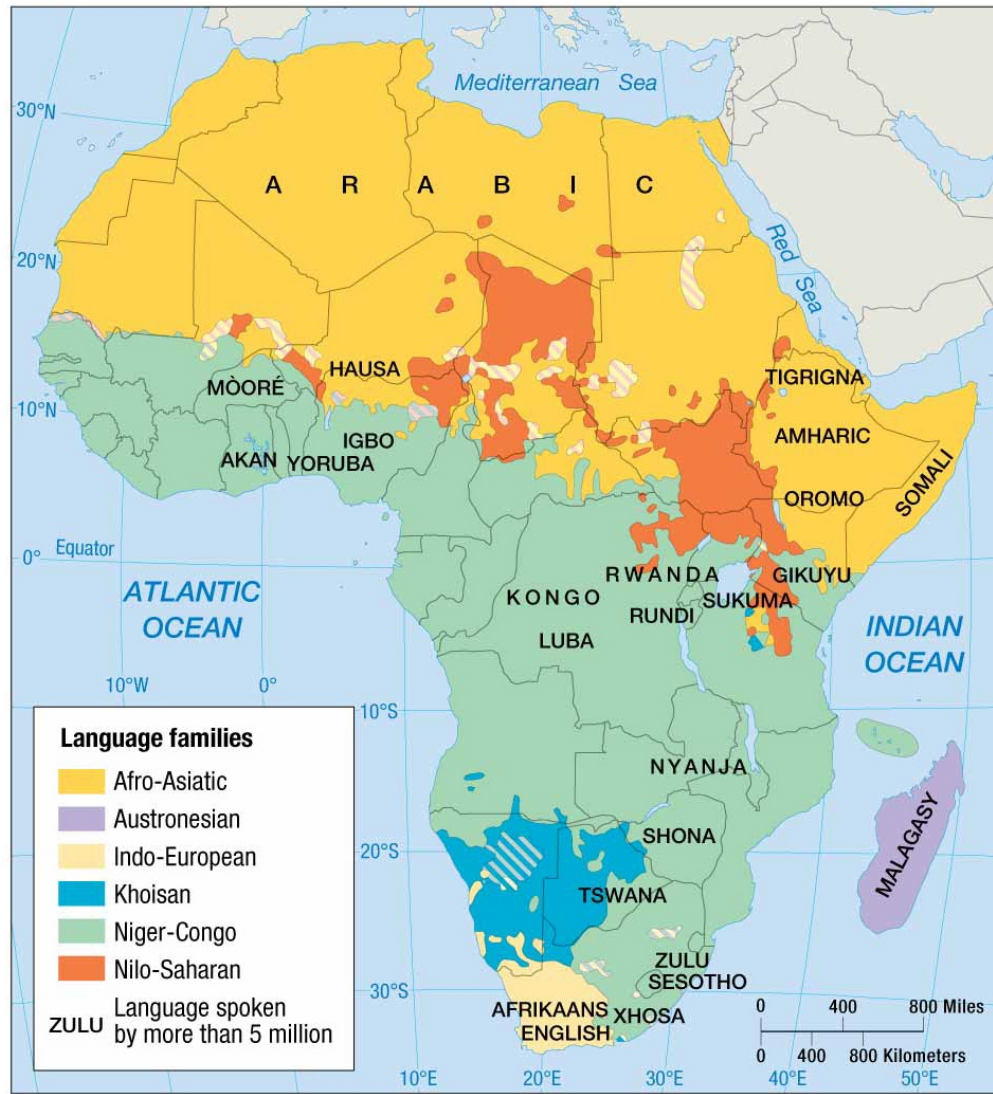
- Other Asian Language Families
 - Several other language families spoken by large numbers of people in East and Southeast Asia.
 - Isolation on islands and peninsulas contributed to overall independent development.
 - Austronesian
 - Austro-Asiatic
 - Tai Kadai
 - Japanese
 - Korean

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?

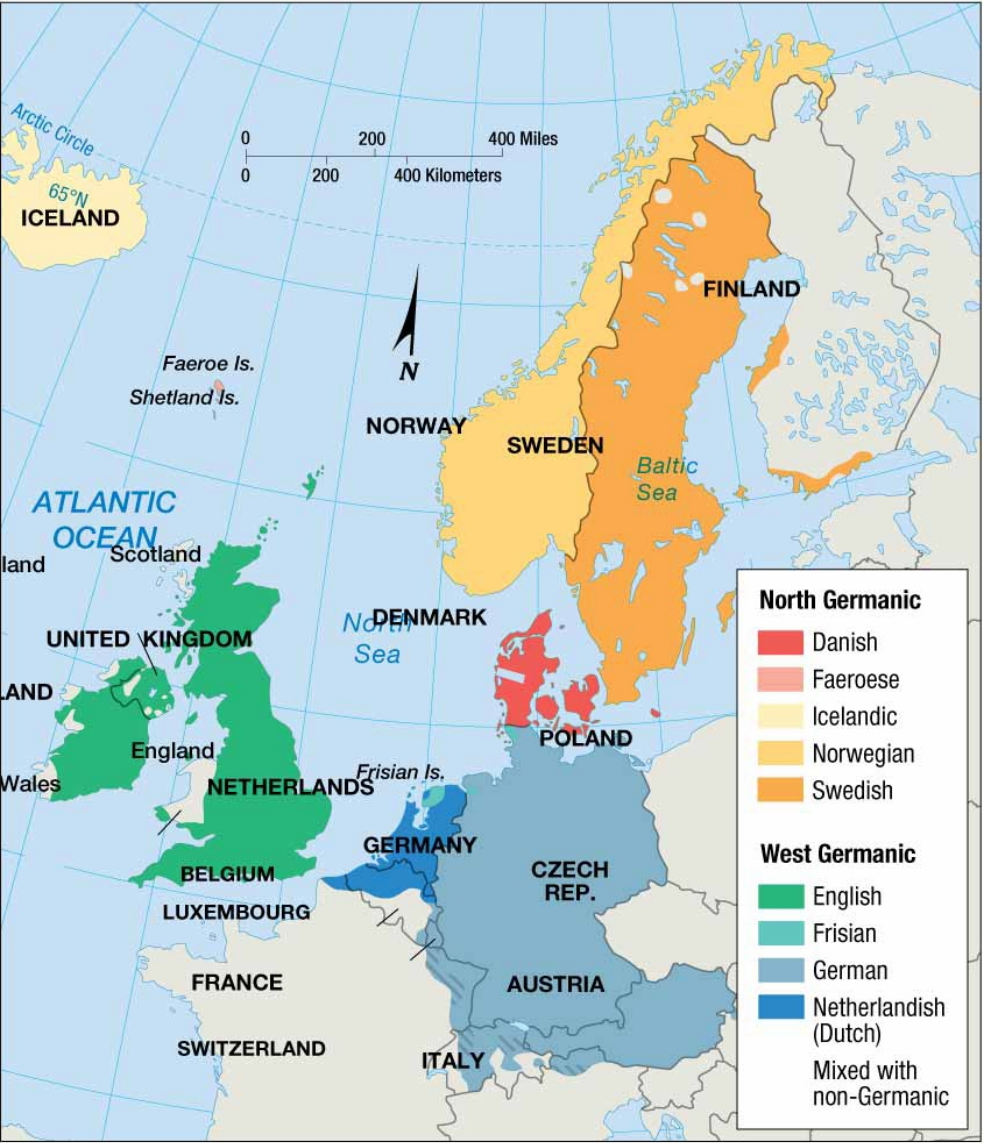
- African Language Families
 - More than 1,000 distinct languages have been documented.
 - Several thousand dialects recognized.
 - Most lack a written tradition.
 - Niger-Congo
 - Swahili
 - First language of 800,000 people
 - Official language of Tanzania
 - Spoken by 30 million Africans
 - » Language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



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)





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

- | | | | | |
|------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Portuguese | French/Langue d'oïl | Lombard | Sicilian | Ladin |
| Galician | French/Langue d'òc (Occitan) | Venetian | Sardinian | Friulian |
| Spanish | Italian | Ligurian | Corsican | Romanian |
| Catalán | Piemontese | Napoletano-Calabrese | Romansh | Not Romance languages |

Why Is English Related to Other Languages?

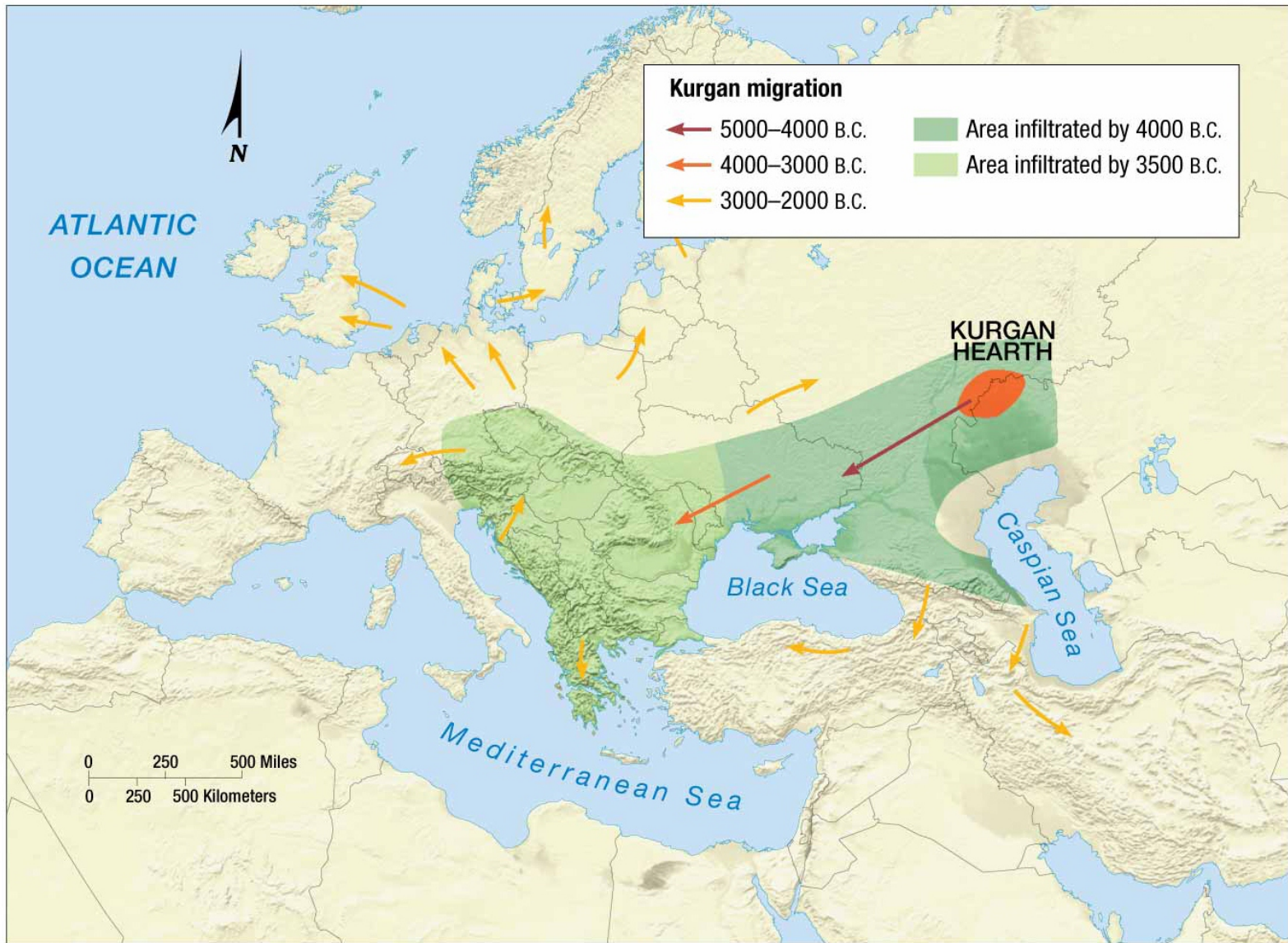
- Origin and Diffusion of Language Families
 - Modern English has evolved primarily from the language spoken by three Germanic tribes invading the British Isles.
 1. Angles- from southern Denmark
 2. Jutes- from northern Denmark
 3. Saxons- from northwestern Germany
 - Over time, others invaded England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

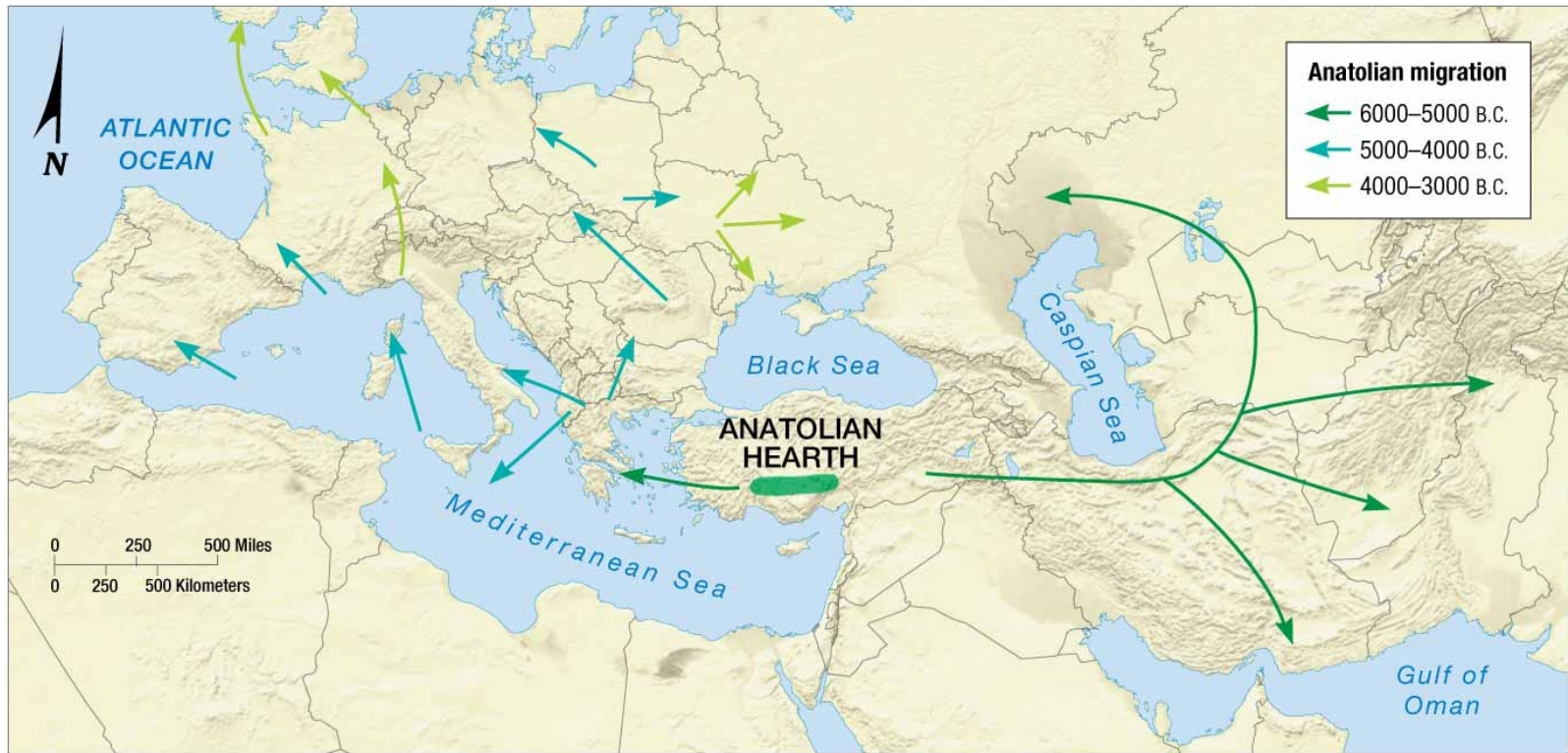
Why Is English Related to Other Languages?

- 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





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**

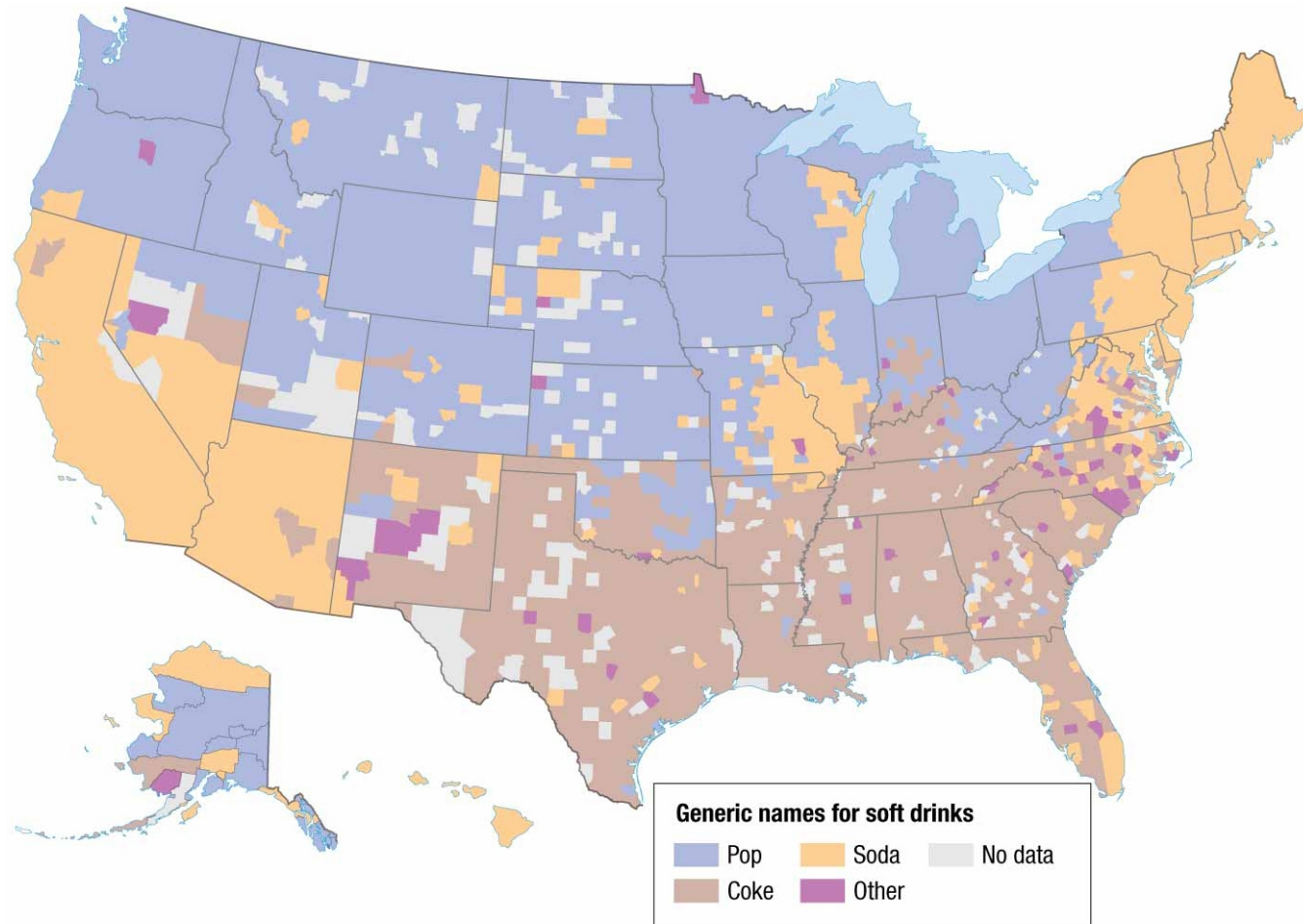
- About ½ came from southeastern England, while the others represented a diversity of social-class backgrounds.

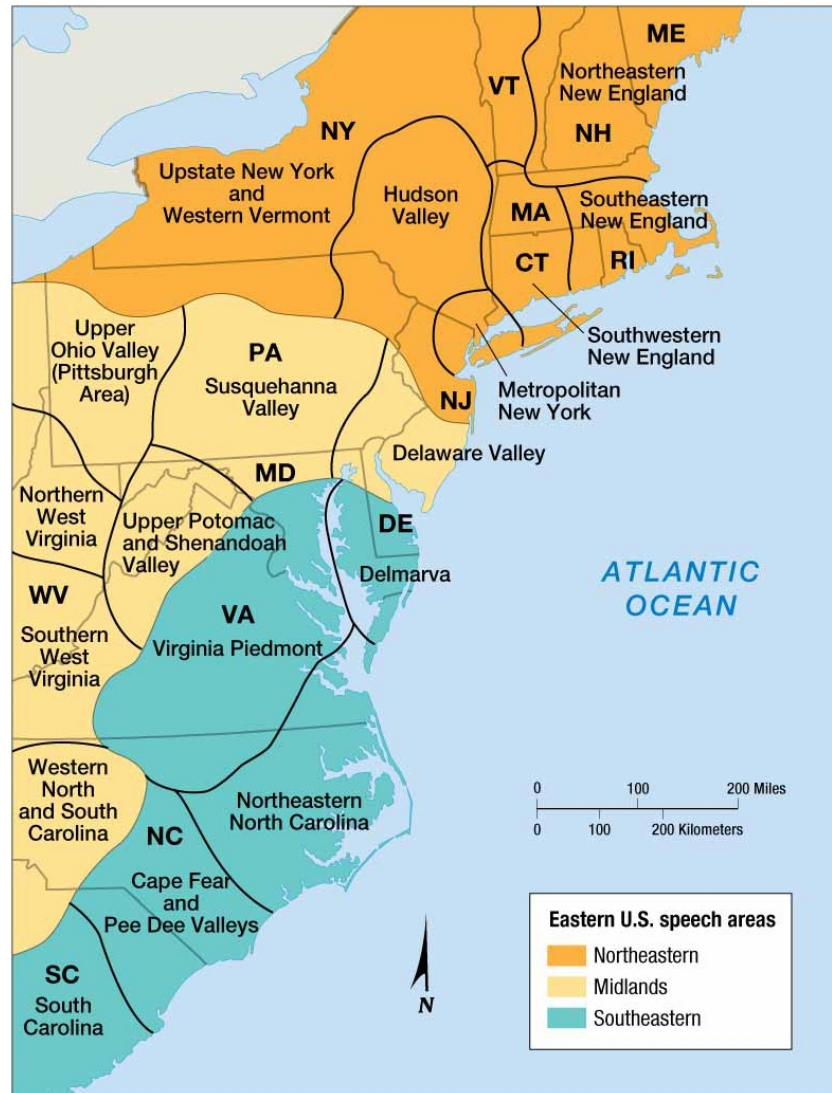
3. **Midlands**

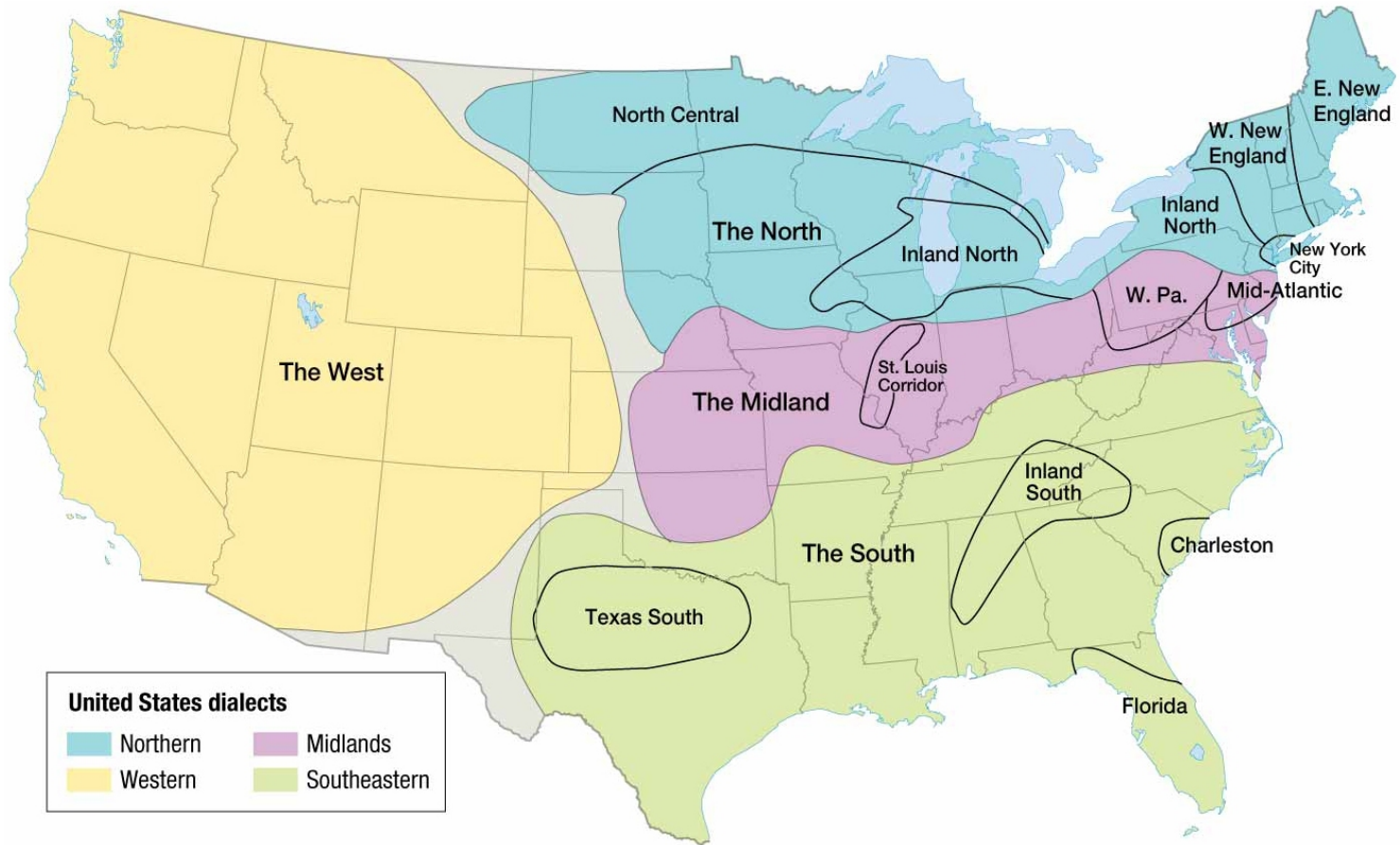
- Most diverse group—e.g., Quakers from north of England, Scots and Irish, German, Dutch, and Swedish migrants.

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.







United States dialects

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Northern | ■ Midlands |
| ■ Western | ■ Southeastern |

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)*.

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.

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.

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.



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%)



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?

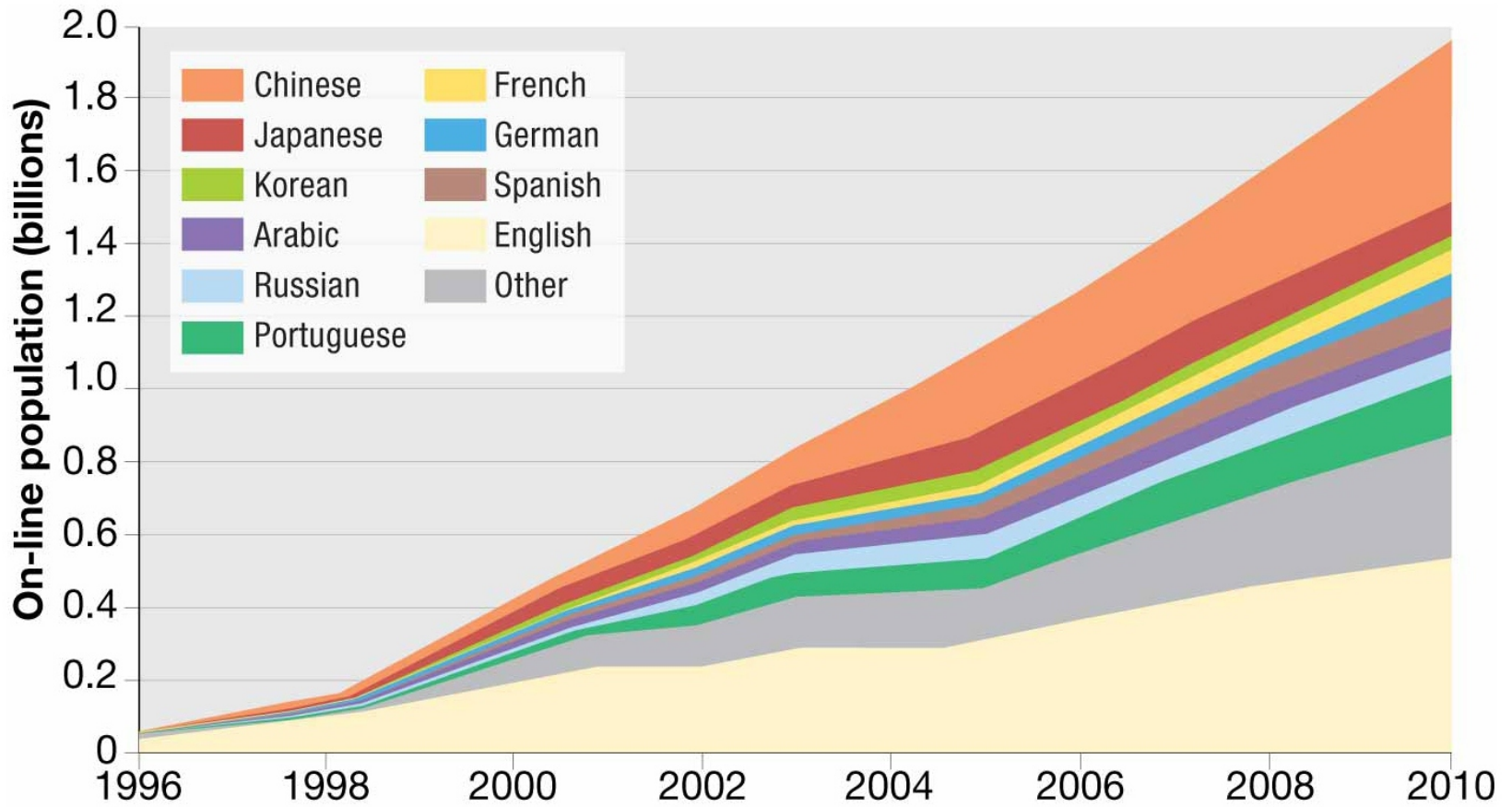
- Preserving Endangered Languages: Celtic
 - Linguists expect hundreds of languages will become extinct during the twenty-first century.
 - Only about 300 languages are said to be safe from extinction.
 - Celtic Language
 - Significant to English speakers because of its primacy in the British Isles.
 - 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.

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.

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.



Why Do People Preserve Local Languages?

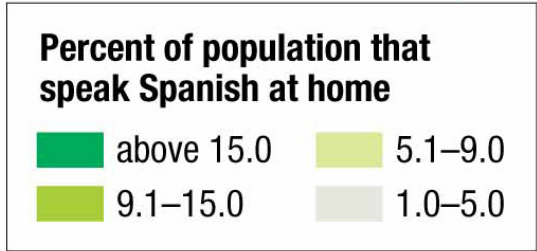
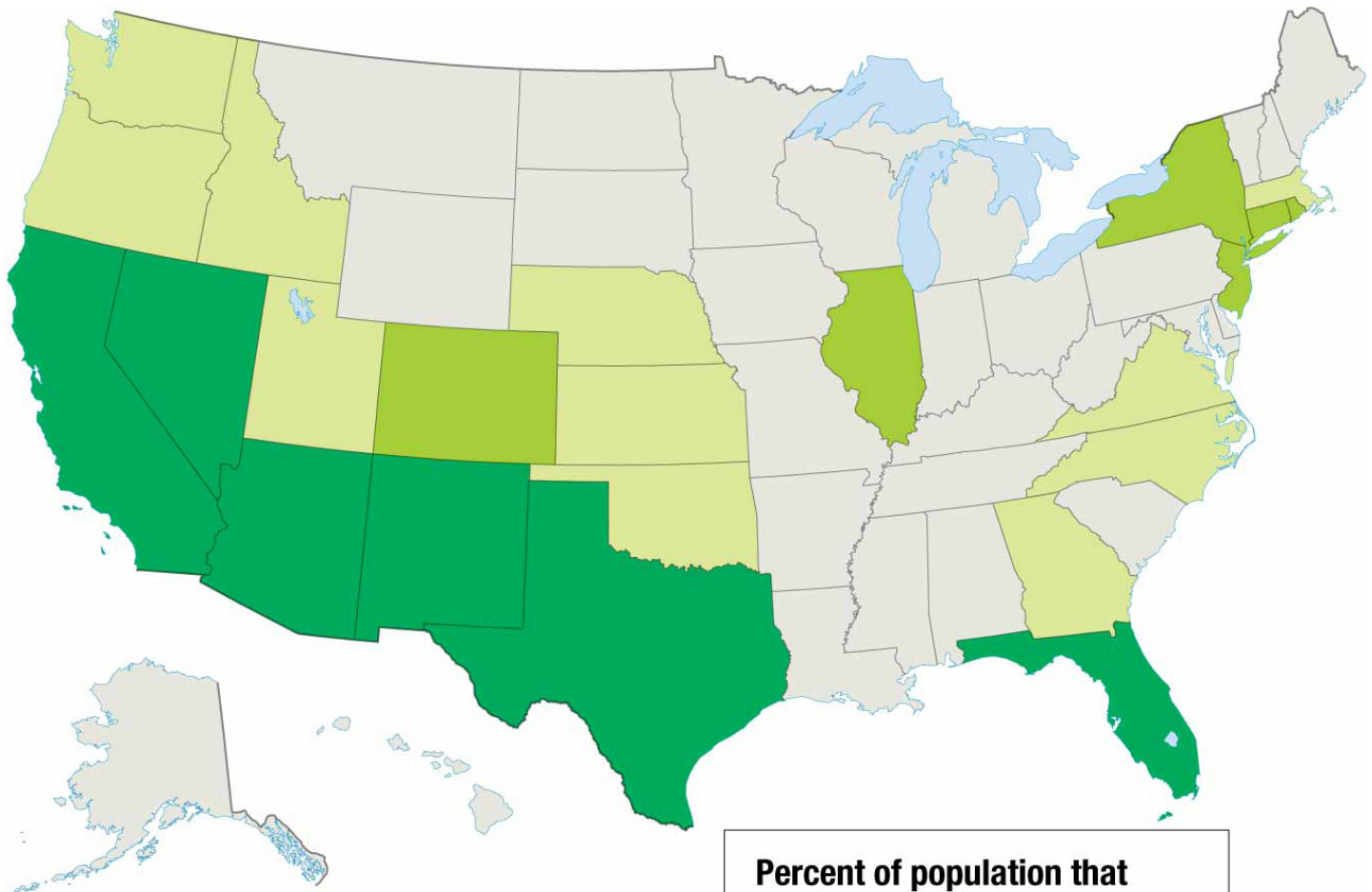
- Global Dominance of English
 - Expansion Diffusion of English
 - Recent growth in the use of English is an example of expansion diffusion—the spread of a trait through the snowballing effect of an idea.
 - Expansion has occurred in two ways with English.
 1. English is changing through diffusion of 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)



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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.



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.

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.