



GST 104: Cartographic Design Lab Series

Lab 7: Make Your (Even Better!) Best Maps Yet!

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Introduction

This lab is part of a series of lab exercises designed through a grant initiative by the National Information, Security & Geospatial Technologies Consortium (NISGTC), funded by the United States Department of Labor in partnership with the Department of Education under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program (TAACCCT).

For the final lab in this course, you will make your best (even better!) maps yet. Using the new cartographic techniques you have learned in this course, you will design new maps of a common theme.

Your instructor may require that you provide screen captures, lab reports and/or exported files. Please check with your instructor for the requirements specific to your class.

This lab includes the following task: Make your best (even better!) maps yet.

Objective: Make your best (even better!) maps yet

Use your map-making knowledge to make the best maps you have ever made. You will make two maps of a common theme and both maps may be a thematic or a general reference map type covered during this course.

The maps are not allowed to be of the same map type, meaning that each map must display very different types of information (e.g. one map shows a dot density, while the other shows percentages of ladybug mortality per county or is a general reference map showing the locations of land mines).

The two maps also cannot display the exact same focus dataset(s). Additionally, you will review the maps you made in *Lab 1*, compare them with the maps you make for this lab, and write a reflection piece discussing how you feel your cartographic skills have grown throughout the course.

1 Create Two Cartographically Well-Designed Maps of the United States

You will create **2 maps, 1 lab report, and 1 reflection paper** for this lab. This following list is the requirements for the maps.

1. Log into the computer, using the information provided in the Lab Settings section.
2. A collection of geospatial data has already been downloaded for you to use. The data is located on the lab machine at: *Shared Drive\GST 104\Labs 1 & 7*. You are not required to use all of the data available in the lab folder. Instead, you should pick from the available data for the files that will best show what you are trying to present. You are also welcome to use any data found in any of the other lab folders.

Remember, both maps must share a common theme, but may not share a common variable.

3. Design two maps total. At least one (or both) must be a *thematic* (dot density/choropleth/graduated symbol) map.
 - The second map can be a general reference map.
 - Both maps must share the same theme using up to an 8 ½" by 11" page for each map.
 - The maps that you create should be designed with respect to all map design guidelines covered in this course.
 - Maps should have a reasonable amount of complexity. It is strongly suggested that you add ancillary text and/or pictures that explain the data being mapped.

You may not use any pre-created base maps, all symbology on the map must be designed by you.

4. Write a detailed report outlining the design decisions you made when creating each map.
5. Review the previous "*Best Maps Yet*" you made in *Lab 1*, and compare them with the maps you make for this lab. Write a reflection piece about how you feel your cartographic skills have grown throughout the course.

Conclusion

As you have learned throughout this semester, cartography is an important, creative process used to display spatial and non-spatial information. Creating cartographically well-designed maps requires iteration, persistence, patience, and attention to detail. When you apply these newly learned skills to creating maps, you will be rewarded with a great map.