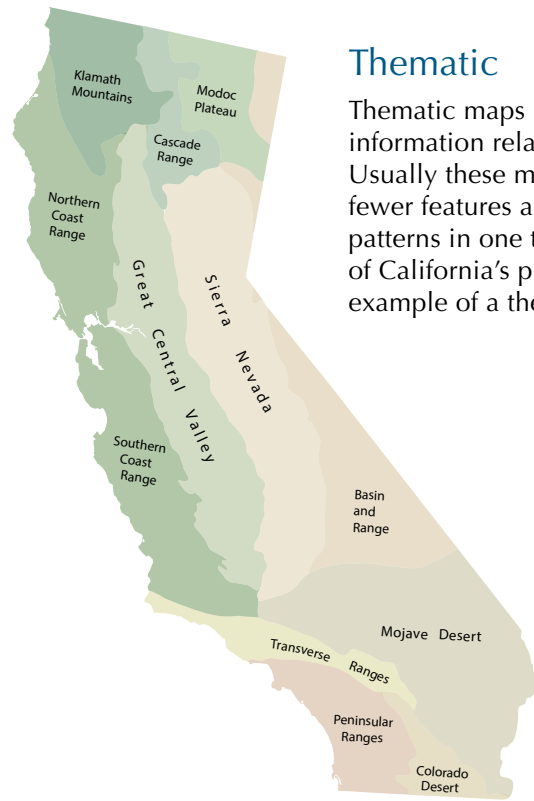


Types of Maps



General Reference

General reference maps use symbols to show the exact locations of things on the Earth. For example, where the red line is drawn for the highways shows you the exact location where you would find the road in real life. This map of California is an example of a general reference map.



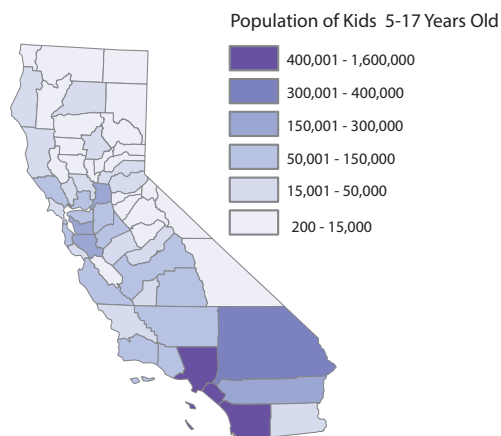
Thematic

Thematic maps use symbols to show information related to a specific theme. Usually these maps will show locations of fewer features and emphasize variation and patterns in one type of feature. This map of California's physiographic regions is an example of a thematic map.

Types of Thematic Maps

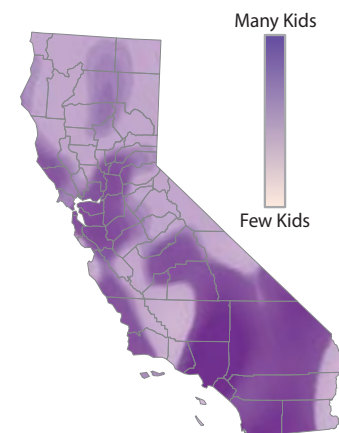
- Choropleth
- Isopleth
- Dot Distribution
- Graduated Symbol
- Color Patch

All five thematic maps show where kids from 5-17 years of age live in California. However, each map uses a different technique to show that distribution.



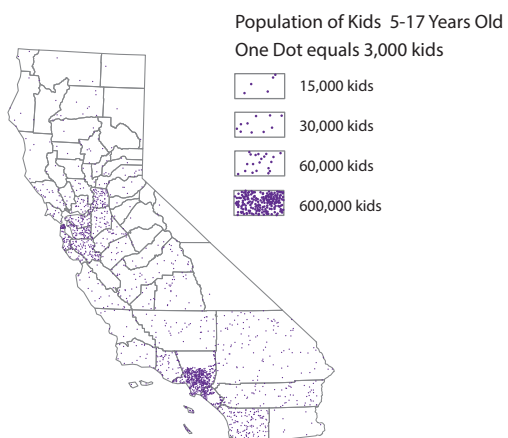
Choropleth

- Each county is given a different shade of color to indicate the number of kids. It makes it easy to see which counties have the most kids.
- The symbol (shade) covers an entire bounded area (in this case a county), but it does not mean that kids live everywhere inside the boundaries of that area.



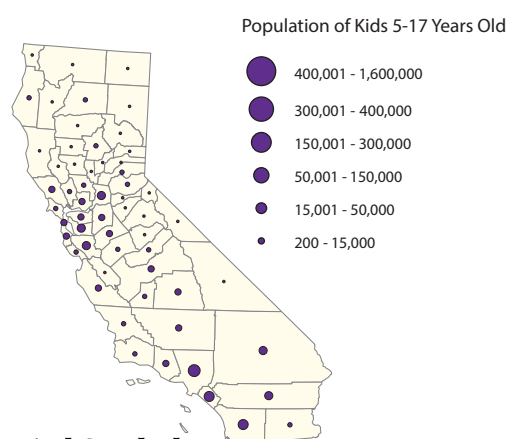
Isopleth

- This map also uses different shades to show the distribution of kids across the entire state.
- The symbol (shade) varies continuously, so the boundaries between counties do not have an impact.



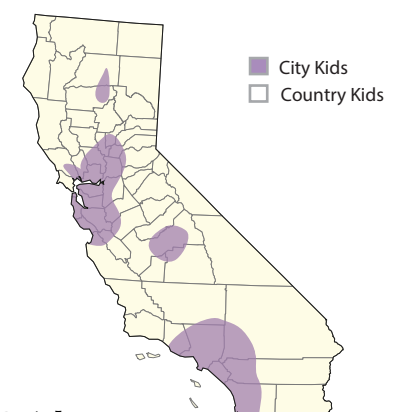
Dot Distribution

- Each dot represents a specific number of kids.
- The dots show the general location of the kids, not the exact location, but this map shows the distribution of kids across the state in a very precise way.



Graduated Symbol

- The size of a symbol (in this case a circle) represents the number of kids living in each county.
- The size of the symbol is proportional to the number of kids in the county.



Color Patch

- This map uses colors to show the general location of different groups of kids (for example "city kids" and "country kids").
- This map does not show how many kids are in each group, just where each group is located.