

## 2.5 Thematic Maps

TECHTREK

myNConnect.com For additional examples of thematic maps

Maps and Graphs

**Main Idea** Thematic maps focus on specific topics, such as the population density or economic activity in a region or country.

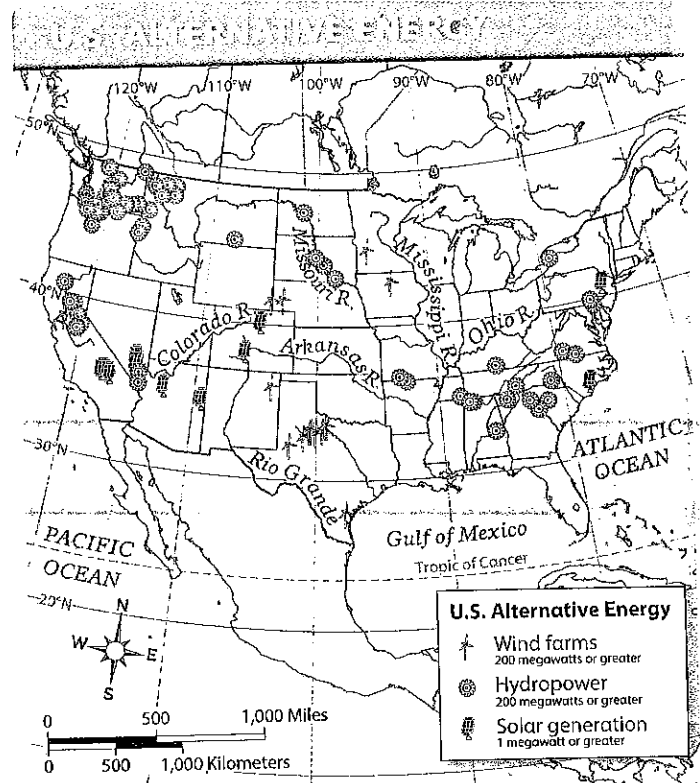
Suppose you wanted to create a map showing the location of sports fields in your community. You would create a thematic map, which is a map about a specific **theme**, or topic.

## Types of Thematic Maps

Thematic maps are useful for showing a variety of geographic information, including economic activity, natural resources, and population density. Common types of thematic maps are the point symbol map, the dot density map, and the proportional symbol map.

## Before You Move On

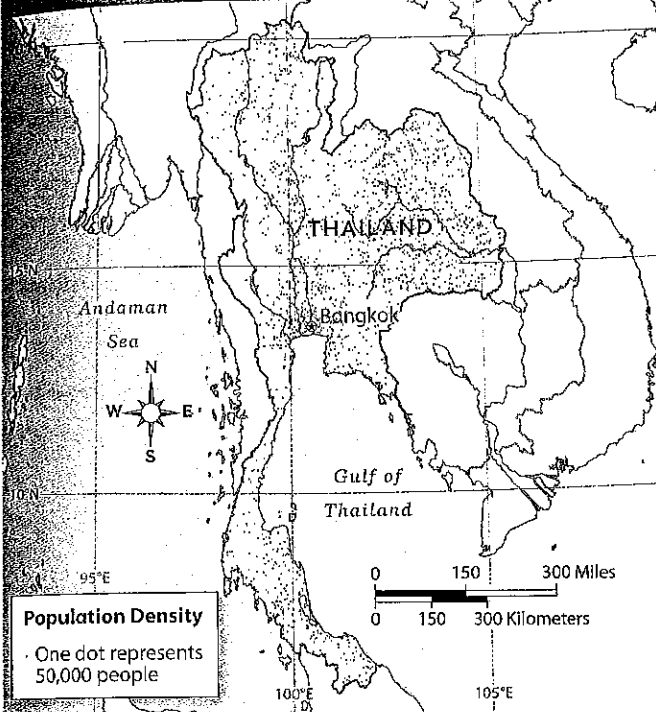
**Make Inferences** Look through this textbook and identify another example of a thematic map. Why did you choose this map?



**U.S. Alternative Energy**  
 This map shows the locations of wind farms, hydropower plants, and solar generation facilities in the United States. The symbols represent the size of the energy source.

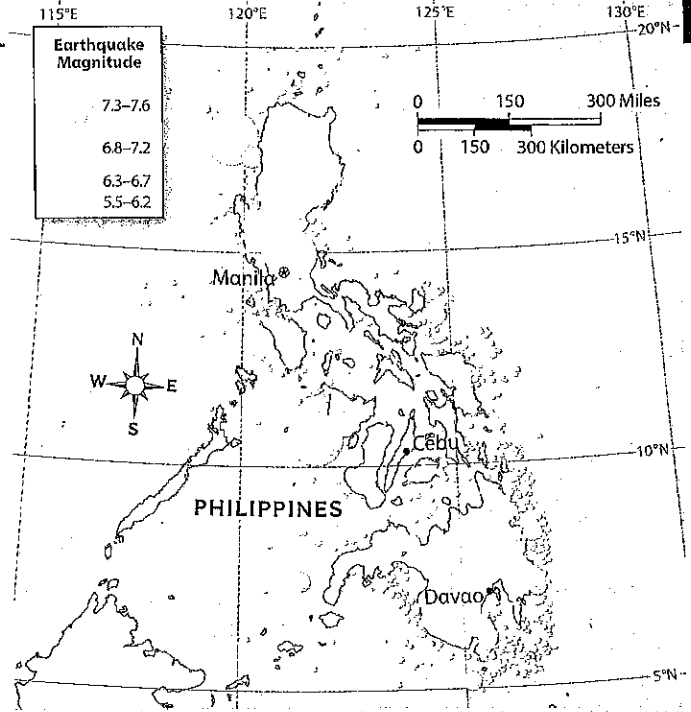
**Critical Viewing** Solar panels in the Nevada desert absorb light from the sun and turn it into energy. Why might Nevada be a good location for solar fields?

## THAILAND'S POPULATION DENSITY



**DOT DENSITY MAP** This type of map uses dots to show how something is distributed in a country or region. Each dot represents a certain amount. For example, the dots on this map show population density in Thailand.

## PHILIPPINES EARTHQUAKES



**PROPORTIONAL SYMBOL MAP** This type of map uses symbols of different sizes to show the size of an object. For example, the size of the circles on this map show the severity of earthquakes in the Philippines.

## ONGOING ASSESSMENT

### MAP LAB

- Place** According to the map, which area of the United States has the most wind farms?
- Make Inferences** In the Philippines, where are people most at risk for severe earthquakes? What do these places have in common?
- Create Sketch Maps** Create a thematic map for your neighborhood or community. Focus on the location of schools, gas stations, and grocery stores. Be sure to include a title and a legend that explains the symbols.