

Mode of Spatial Thinking	Examples at Various Geographical Scales			
	Proximal	Local	Regional	Global
0. Location –	left/right/front/back etc.	street address	survey systems	latitude/longitude
a. Condition –	temperature, rain, smell, shade, pavement, signs	soil type, ownership, land use, crop yield, population density	state name, language, geologic province	continent or ocean, country, crustal plate
b. Connection –	doorway, stairway, elevator, sidewalk	bicycle path, bus line, sewer, railroad, TV cable, newspaper	river, road, electric wire, tax payments, missile in flight	wind, trade, internet, war, treaty, chokepoint
1. Comparison –	wall color, building height, size of lawn to mow	crowded vs. empty places, apartment vs. house neighborhood	forest, desert, or grassland, family income	elevation, size of country, demographic variables
2. Aura (influence) –	personal space in crowd, spacing of outfielders	noise from dance hall, soot from smokestack	city, port, gold mine, power plant, unstable regime across border	core area of empire, nuclear missile silo
3. Region –	rooms, play areas, snack area in store	languages on signs, airphoto of community	geologic province, land uses on satellite image	biomes, religions, language families
4. Hierarchy –	rooms in building, clerk/manager in store	house numbers in street, streets in neighborhood	nested watersheds, states in country	countries in continent, gulfs or seas in ocean
5. Gradient – (transition)	route through house, noisy end of park	slope, rich to poor, commercial to residential	city center to rural, land use rings (Von Thunen)	rainfall/vegetation in Africa, crop selection in Russia
6. Analog –	place settings on table, fronts/back of classrooms	major highway junctions, malls and parking lots	CBDs and suburbs, river mouths, courthouse areas	hurricane-prone areas, areas of desertification
7. Pattern – (arrangement)	newspaper boxes on sidewalk, chairs in room, shrubs in yard	buildings on a block, street patterns, crime hot spots	stream patterns, UFO sightings, central place theory	global wind patterns, rainforest vegetation
8. Association – (correlation)	bedroom and sleeping, stoplights and intersections	hills and larger houses, highway exits and malls	agriculture and soil/slope, cities and Fall Zone	malaria and mosquitoes, ocean currents and hurricanes
X. Spatio-temporal				
a. Change –	seasonal leaf color, building on old photo gone	vegetation succession, open field to suburb	election victory, industrialization	political borders after war or treaty
b. Movement –	trip to cafeteria, football play	river flow, earthquake, commuting, shopping trip	cold front, vacation, refugee movement	ocean circulation, plate tectonics, oil trade
c. Diffusion –	puddle of spilled milk, mowed area of yard	expanding urbanized area, oil spill, smoke plume	clothing style, hybrid corn, invasive species	homo sapiens, influenza, agriculture, soft drinks