

Tools to Organize and Analyze the Past: Spatial Scales

What's the **BIG** deal?

- Four tools that historians use to organize information include significance, social institutions, temporal frames (time), and spatial scales (space).
- Historians and geographers use different spatial scales or “containers” to organize their investigations of human activities.
- Different sizes of spatial scales or “containers” allow us to compare events and analyze how they connect to each other and to the environment.
- People give names to geographic features such as rivers, mountains, and land masses (e.g. continents, countries). It is important not to confuse names given to label geographic features with the geographic feature itself.
- Studying ancient history using modern maps and names is often an inaccurate way of looking into the past.