KEY TERMS

Annexation (p. 424) Legally adding land area to a city in the United States.
Census tract (p. 412) An area delineated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for which statistics are published; in urbanized areas, census tracts correspond roughly to neighborhoods.
Central business district (CBD) (p. 406) The area of a city where retail and office activities are clustered.
City (p. 424) An urban settlement that has been legally incorporated into an independent, self-governing unit.
Combined statistical area (CSA) (p. 425) In the United States, two or more contiguous core based statistical areas tied together by commuting patterns.
Concentric zone model (p. 410) A model of the internal structure of cities in which social groups are spatially arranged in a series of rings.
Core based statistical area (CBSA) (p. 425) In the United States, the combination of all metropolitan statistical areas and micropolitan statistical areas.
Council of government (p. 426) A cooperative agency consisting of representatives of local governments in a metropolitan area in the United States.
Density gradient (p. 427) The change in density in an urban area from the center to the periphery.
Edge city (p. 427) A large node of office and retail activities on the edge of an urban area.
Filtering (p. 419) A process of change in the use of a house, from single-family owner occupancy to abandonment.
Gentrification (p. 420) A process of converting an urban neighborhood from a predominantly low-income, renter-occupied area to a predominantly middle-class, owner-occupied area.
Greenbelt (p. 429) A ring of land maintained as parks, agriculture, or other types of open space to limit the sprawl of an urban area.
Metropolitan statistical area (MSA) (p. 425) In the United States, a central city of at least 50,000 population, the county within which the city is located, and adjacent counties meeting one of several tests indicating a functional connection to the central city.
Micropolitan statistical area (p. 425) An urbanized area of between 10,000 and 50,000 inhabitants, the county in which it is found, and adjacent counties tied to the city.
Multiple nuclei model (p. 412) A model of the internal structure of cities in which social groups are arranged around a collection of nodes of activities.
Peripheral model (p. 427) A model of North American urban areas consisting of an inner city surrounded by large suburban residential and business areas tied together by a beltway or ring road.
Primary census statistical area (PCSA) (p. 425) In the United States, all of the combined statistical areas plus all of the remaining metropolitan statistical areas and micropolitan statistical areas.
Public housing (p. 420) Housing owned by the government; in the United States, it is rented to residents with low incomes, and the rents are set at 30 percent of the families’ incomes.
Redlining (p. 420) A process by which banks draw lines on a map and refuse to lend money to purchase or improve property within the boundaries.
Rush hour (p. 433) The four consecutive 15-minute periods in the morning and evening with the heaviest volumes of traffic.
Sector model (p. 411) A model of the internal structure of cities in which social groups are arranged around a series of sectors, or wedges, radiating out from the central business district (CBD).
Smart growth (p. 429) Legislation and regulations to limit suburban sprawl and preserve farmland.
Social area analysis (p. 412) Statistical analysis used to identify where people of similar living standards, ethnic background, and lifestyle live within an urban area.
Sprawl (p. 428) Development of new housing sites at relatively low density and at locations that are not contiguous to the existing built-up area.
Squatter settlement (p. 417) An area within a city in a less developed country in which people illegally establish residences on land they do not own or rent and erect homemade structures.
Underclass (p. 421) A group in society prevented from participating in the material benefits of a more developed society because of a variety of social and economic characteristics.
Urban renewal (p. 420) Program in which cities identify blighted inner-city neighborhoods, acquire the properties from private owners, relocate the residents and businesses, clear the site, build new roads and utilities, and turn the land over to private developers.
Urbanized area (p. 424) In the United States, a central city plus its contiguous built-up suburbs.
Zoning ordinance (p. 429) A law that limits the permitted uses of land and maximum density of development in a community.