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| **KEY TERMS** | **DEFINITIONS, DIAGRAMS, EXAMPLES** |
| Language | -“Language is a system of communication through speech, a collection of sounds that a group of people understands to have the same meaning.”  -**literary tradition: a system of written communication**  -many languages lack a literary tradition which makes it hard to document the distribution of the language  -**official language: language used by the government for laws, reports, and public objects (road signs, money, stamps)**  -“Geographers look at the similarities among languages to understand the diffusion and interaction of people around the world.”  -language is a source of pride and a symbol of cultural unity  -there is estimated to be 7,299 languages; only ten languages are spoken by at least 100 million people; approx. 100 languages are spoken by at least 5 million; 70 spoken by between 2 million and 5 million people; remaining 6,000 or more languages are spoken by fewer than 2 million people |
| Origin and Diffusion of English | -English is spoken fluently by one-half billion people  -official language in 50 countries; 2 billion people live in a country where English is the official language  -diffused as a result of migration by the people of England; English is official language in most of the former British colonies  -English first diffused from England to North America in the 17th century  -British took control of Ireland in 17th century, South Asia in the mid-18th century, the South Pacific in the late 18th and early 19th century, southern Africa in the late 19th century  -the Germanic tribes called the Angles, Jutes, and Saxons invaded the British Isles; modern English has evolved primarily from languages spoken by these tribes  -Vikings from present day Norway invaded England and added their languages to the basic English that was being spoken  -the Norman invasion in 1066 brought French into the mix and eventually partially combined with English to give us words like celestial and equestrian; while the words sky and horse, come from Germanic roots |
| Dialect | -a regional variation of a language distinguished by distinctive vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation  -“Geographers are especially interested in differences in dialects, because they reflect distinctive features of the environments in which groups live.”  -one dialect may be recognized as the **standard language: a dialect that is well established and widely recognized as the most acceptable for government, business, education, and mass communication**  -**British Received Pronunciation (BRP)** is well known b/c it is commonly used by politicians, broadcasters, and actors |
| Dialects in England | -five major regional dialects emerged when English again became the country’s dominant language after the Normandy invasion: Northern, East Midland, West Midland, southwestern, and Southeastern or Kentish  -dialect used by upper-class residents in London and Cambridge and Oxford became the standard language for writing and speech throughout England  -today’s dialects in England can be grouped into three main ones: Northern, Midland, and Southern |
| Differences in American and British English | -isolation is a big reason for the differences between British and American English; the two dialects developed independently in the 18th and 19th centuries  **Vocabulary**  -different because settlers in America encountered many new objects and experiences  **Spelling**  -“Spelling diverged from the British standard because of a strong national feeling in the United States for an independent identity.”  -Noah Webster created the first comprehensive American dictionary and grammar books; he argued that spelling and grammar reforms would help establish a national language, reduce cultural dependence on England, and inspire national pride  **Pronunciation**  -“One prominent difference between British and U.S. English is the pronunciation of the letters *a* and *r.*”  -Americans pronounce unaccented syllables with more clarity |
| Dialects in the U.S. | -“Major differences in U.S. dialects originated because of differences in dialects among the original settlers.”  -distinctive elements brought over by the original settlers continued to dominate  -New England Colonies: primarily Puritans from East Anglia in southeastern England, with some from the north of England  -Southeastern Colonies: most settlers came from southeast England  -current distinctions in the American Southeast and New England result from the establishment of independent and isolated colonies in the 17th century  -Middle Atlantic Colonies: more diverse settlers; the dialect of these colonies differed significantly because most of the settlers came from the north of England rather than the south or from other countries  -isogloss: a word-usage boundary that can be constructed for each word; they are determined by collecting data directly from people particularly natives of rural areas  -“Two important isoglosses separate the eastern United States into three major dialect regions, known as Northern, Midlands, and Southern.”; northern boundary runs across Pennsylvania and the southern one runs along the Appalachian Mountains |
| Pronunciation Differences | -Southern dialects are known for making words like *half* and *mine* into two syllables  -New England accent is well known for dropping the */r/* sound; reflects the relatively high degree of contact between New Englanders and speakers from the south of England  -“The mobility of Americans has been a major reason for the relatively uniform language that exists throughout much of the West.” |

Summary: Minimum of 3 complete sentences, in your own words.

English originated in the British Isles after the German and Norman invasions. Today we have a much different dialect of English in the United States rather than in England because of isolation. Within the U.S. there are regional differences in dialects that have emerged based a variety of factors, especially from what area of England the colonists that settled in America came from.