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| Name of Model:  Central Place Theory |
| Person who developed the model/theory: (short bio)  In 1933, a German, Walter Christaller laid the groundwork for central place theory |
| Premise: (What is the model supposed to explain?)  He attempted to develop a model that would show how and where central places (hamlets, villages, towns, cities,…) would be functionally and spatially distributed |
| Illustration: (Draw the model or symbols to demonstrate the key ideas) |
| Strengths of this model:   * Can be applied to any central place (shops, etc) not just urban areas * First, he showed that the ranks of urban places do in fact form an orderly hierarchy of central places in spatial balance. * Second, his model implied that places of the same size with the same number of functions would be spaced the same distance apart. * Third, larger cities would be spaced farther from each other than smaller towns and villages. His model confirmed that the general pattern we see on the map is not an accident but a product of specific forces that tend to create regular rank-size patterns   His studies confirm that the distribution of cities, towns and villages in a region is not an accident but is tied to trade areas, population size and distance. |
| Weaknesses of this model:   * In his model, the ideal region would have flat terrain with no physical barriers. * Soil fertility, population distribution, purchasing power, and transportation networks would **all be uniform**. * Finally, he assumed that a constant maximum distance or range of sale of any good or service produced in a central place would exist in all directions from that urban center   + Doesn’t take into account consumer ‘wants’. E.g. Italian restaurants.   + Reputation of certain central services (shops, bars, restaurants) |
| Effectiveness of the model for predicting geographic outcomes. Does it still apply today? When or where and with what modifications?  Doesn’t take into account advances in technology such as internet shopping and better transport links. (e.g: delivery services for consumer items) |