The Cultural Landscape

Preparation for AP Human Geography Examination
Carl Sauer

• American Geographer who was chair at UC Berkeley who developed idea of Cultural Landscape in the 1920s
• Recognized humans as influential in the study of geography
The Cultural Landscape

• Landscape is a reflection of the people who live there and their cultural values. Humans change the landscape to reflect their values, and through “reading a landscape” a geographer can learn more about a group of people.
The Idea of Place

- The Human and Physical Characteristics of a place
  - Human Characteristics - Made-made changes and culturally significant factors to an area
  - Physical Characteristics – Natural defining features about a location
Placelessness

• Through globalization and the diffusion of ideas areas can become indistinguishable from one place to another, losing their unique qualities