Types of Thematic Maps

All five thematic maps show where people live in Oregon, but each map uses a different way to show that distribution.

**Color Patch**
- This map draws boundaries around different groups of people (for example, urban residents and rural residents)
- The map does not show how many people are in each group, just where each group is located

**Isopleth**
- This map shows a continuous distribution of population
- Because we do not know how many people live in every single place in Oregon, we take an average of two cities in an area to estimate the number of people in that area

**Dot Density**
- One dot equals a certain number of people
- If dots are close together, lots of people live in one area
- If dots are spread out, not very many people live in one area

**Choropleth**
- Each county is shaded a color to show density or number of people per square mile
- The symbol covers an entire county, but it does not mean that people live everywhere inside the county

**Graduated Circle**
- One circle represents how many people live in that county
- The size of the circle is proportional to the number of people that live in a county - the more people that live in a county, the larger the circle