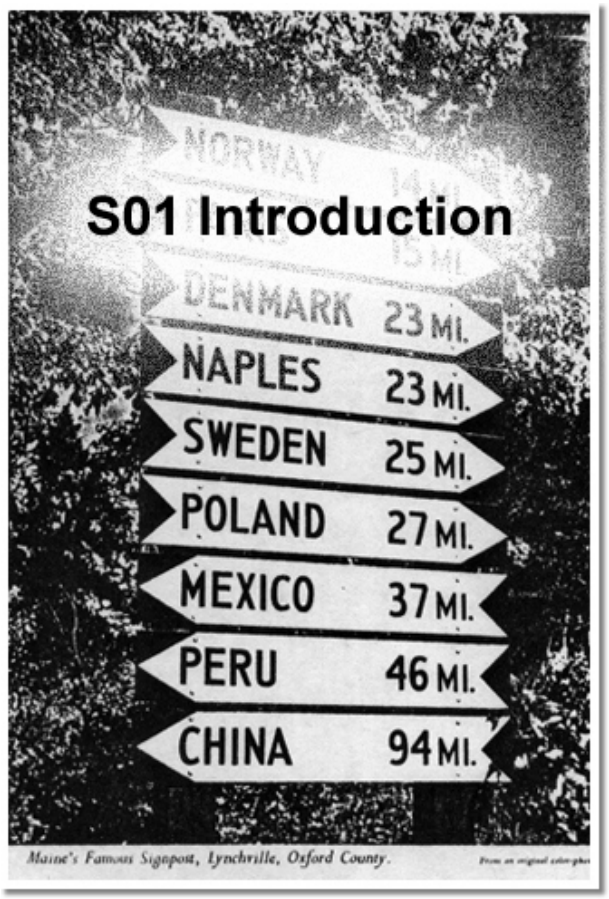

World Travelers Signpost in Lynchville.

Lynchville in Oxford County (Maine, USA), at the junction of State routes 5 and 35,
is the site of this sign which many consider to be a trademark of Maine.
The state abounds in towns having names similar to foreign countries or cities.
There isn't much to the actual community of Lynchville, and this sign may be its chief industry.

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Currently, three training courses on the web are gradually being developed or extended:

- a French-speaking course "introduction à la toponymie", to be found here, developed by Elisabeth Calvarin (Paris) and Henri Dorion (Montréal),
- a Spanish-speaking course developed by PAIGH, and
- this course developed by the International Cartographic Association.

The following books can be used in toponymic education:

> Naftali Kadmon - Toponymy: The Lore, Laws of Language of Geographical Names (2000) New York: Vantage Press.

of the current cartography manuals the book by:

> Kraak et al., Cartography, Visualisation of spatial data (3rd edition, Pearson, 2010, or Guilford Press 2011) has 3 pages on toponymy.

The United Nations sell the following publications which also can be downloaded from the UNGEGN website:

- Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York 2002)
- Manual for the national standardization of geographical names (New York, 2006, available in the 6 UN langusges), and
- Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names (New York, 2007).

The content of this module is based on teaching materials prepared by Ormeling. These teaching materials are also made available under the "documents" section.

In this lesson we try to look at geographical names in general. In this overview you can read about the objectives of the course, and we touch on the main problems and topics which will be covered later in more detail.

The module contains the following chapters:

Introduction
Chapter 1: Confusion because of different ***name variants (allonyms)***
Chapter 2: Confusion because of ***same name*** for different locations ***(homonyms)***

Chapter 3: ***Standardization*** of geographical names
Chapter 4: First awareness of toponymical problems: ***congresses***
Chapter 5: ***Policies*** for standardization and ***attitudes***
Chapter 6: ***International standardization policies***
Chapter 7: ***Counter argument*** against standardization of geographical names

Chapter 8: ***Issues*** in names standardization
Chapter 9: Use of names should be ***predictable***
Chapter 10: ***Names changes*** should be well ***advertised***
Chapter 11: ***Need for standardization*** in related fields
Chapter 12: Place names are ***tools*** and have to be ***handy***!
Chapter 13: ***Types*** of names on the map

When reading through the following pages, you will come across some unusual terms. These terms are hyperlinked to the UNGEGN Glossary of Terminology (pdf). Behind each term a number (#) is given that corresponds to the numbering applied in this glossary, e.g. toponymy (#344).

For exercises and an overview of relevant documents (and literature) on this topic see respectively the "Exercises" and/or the "Documents" section of this module.

The complete module can be downloaded here.

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INTRODUCTION

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What happens to a Spanish truck driver who has to deliver oranges from Valencia, Spain to Aachen, Germany? Under what name versions will his destination be referred to during his trip?

In Spain Aachen is known under the name Aguas Gran, in France under the name Aix-la-Chapelle, in Northern Belgium and the Netherlands under the name Aken). Locate the signpost on the map.

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1. CONFUSION BECAUSE OF DIFFERENT NAME VARIANTS (ALLONYMS)

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Here you can see allonyms of two cities in the former Soviet Union:

ЕРЕВАН:

Erevan (Fr)
Yerevan (Eng)
Jerevan (It)
Jerewan (W.Ger)
Jerewan (E.Ger)
Jereván (Hun)
...

© Encarta World Atlas

КУЫБЫШЕВ:

Kouibychev (Fr)
Kuybyshev (Eng)
Kujbyšev (It)
Kuibyschew (W.Ger)
Kuibišew (E.Ger)
Kujbisev (Hun)
...

*now: Samara

What is an allonym?

Each of two or more toponyms employed in reference to a single topographic feature.

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2. CONFUSION BECAUSE OF SAME NAME FOR DIFFERENT LOCATIONS (HOMONYMS)

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Stratford upon Avon (UK)
Stratford upon Avon (Australia)
Stratford upon Avon (New Zealand)

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Birmingham (UK)
Birmingham (Alabama, USA)
Birmingham (Iowa, USA)
Birmingham (Michigan, USA)
Birmingham (Ohio, USA)

Batavia (historical name for Jakarta)
Batavia (San Luis Province, Argentina)
Batavia (California, USA)
Batavia (Illinois, USA)
Batavia (New York, USA)
Batavia (Saramacca, Suriname)

What is a homonym?

Each of two or more identical toponyms denoting different topographic features.

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3. STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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National standardization:

Establishing on a national basis for each geographical object one single name version as the official version

International standardization:

Establishing, on a national basis for each geographical object one single name version *in each script* as the official version

Major aim: avoiding ambiguity and confusion, and therefore gaining time

Subsidiary aims: avoiding political conflict, e.g.:

- *Macedonia*: The UN-approved official name of the country is Former Yugoslav Republic Of Madeconia, or FYROM.

- *Arabian Gulf / Persian Gulf*: Because of its controversial nature, some mapping companies leave the gulf without name (Google, see first image below), others opt for the traditional name also endorsed by the UN, but display it in small letter (Bing, see second image).

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- *East Sea / Sea of Japan*: one of the things in which North and South Korea agree: the name of the sea between Korea and Japan should be changed.

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4. FIRST AWARENESS OF TOPONYMICAL PROBLEMS: CONGRESSES

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During the first international geographical congress held in Antwerp, 1871, a local names policy, that is the use of locally official names instead of exonyms was already decided for international maps.

During the 7th International Geographical Congress, held in Berlin, 1899 it was decided that an international map series, the International Map of the World 1:1 million,would be produced, using the local names policy. This principle was reconfirmed during the International conference on the International Map of the World on the millionth scale, held in Bonn, 1962.

During the 3rd UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, held in Bangkok in 1961, it was decided to set up an agency for the implementation of international standardization of names, spellings and transliteration within the UN (For volume 2 of the Report of the conference, pp 312-314, see the UNSD website, or click here).

***UNCSGN**: 1967 Geneva (First) United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: every country should have a names authority to draft a standardized list of geographical names on its territory; submit it to UN, and then all other UN member states would adhere to it.*

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5. POLICIES FOR STANDARDIZATION AND ATTITUDES

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Owner-controlled policy:
person/institution in charge of a geographical object decides on the spelling of its name

Conservationist policy:
the name version as it has come down to us should be preserved (even if that causes discrepancies between spelling and pronunciation)

Do you know where these English towns or counties are located? And can you pronounce them?

- Worcestershire - pronounce as 'Woostershire' [click to hear]
- Leicester - pronounce as 'Lester' [click to hear]
- Norwhich - pronounce as 'Norrich' [click to hear]

Attitudes towards geographical names:

- Geographical names are *linguistic reference tools*, so they can be streamlined, spelled as they sound
- Geographical names are *proper names*, part of our cultural heritage. As proper names do not change, so geographical names should not be altered but be preserved.

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6. INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION POLICIES

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Starting from the local names policy:

1) the *source* country decides on a conversion system from one script to another, or	the source country might not have the means to produce a standard
2) the *receiver* country decides, or	there are more than 160 receiver countries and we do not want 160 versions of each geographical name
3) both *source* country and *receiver* countries try to work out one joint standard for each writing system	cooperation of source country and receiver countries might work out best

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7. COUNTER ARGUMENT AGAINST STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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In order to pronounce a name, we need to know in which language it is spelled.

Language	*Pronunciation of letter -c-*	*Spelling of sound -sh-*
Spanish	k or th	ch
Italian	k or ch	sci
French	k or s	ch
Czech	ts	š
Turkish	j or dzj	ç
German	s	sch
Dutch	k or s	sj

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8. ISSUES IN NAMES STANDARDIZATION

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1) Follow UN Recommendations or not

2) Use Modern names or traditional names

3) Use generally accepted names or local dialect names

4) Should place names be affected by spelling rules?

5) How to decide what name variants to select for multilingual areas?

6) Can countries speaking the same language cooperate in standardization?

7) Should diacritical signs be used integrally? (follow the Roman Alphabet Rule or not?)

8) Should we differentiate name spellings for use by different age groups or for different cartographical products?

9) Should we transliterate or transcribe names from foreign scripts?

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9. USE OF NAMES SHOULD BE PREDICTABLE

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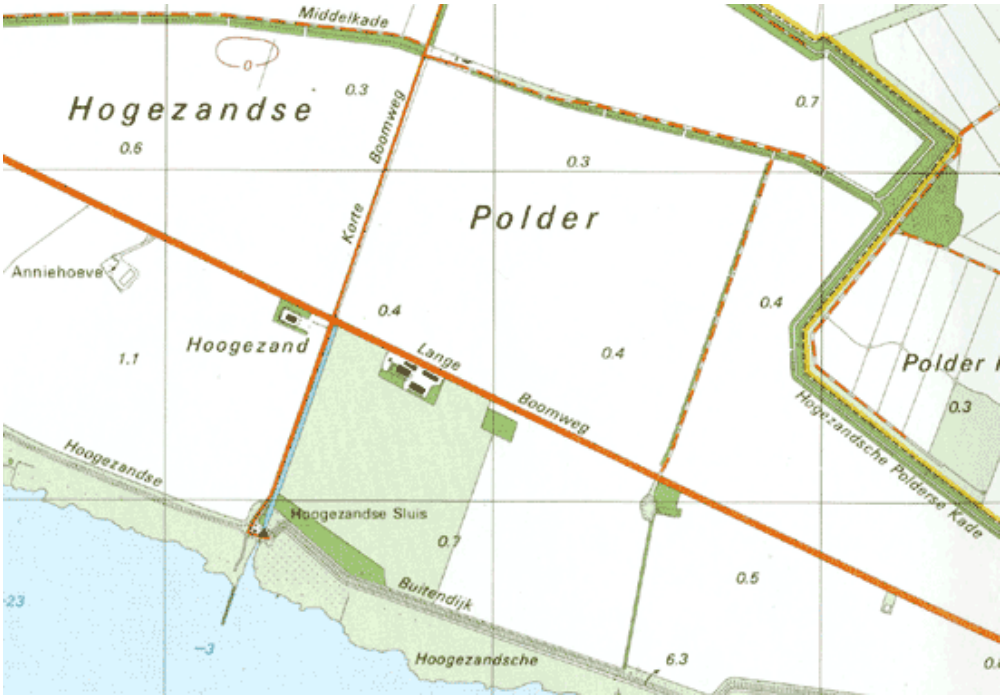
Take a look at this Dutch topographic map! You see the surroundings of a farm called Hoogezand. The polder, the road, the dike and the canals are named after this central feature. The proper spelling of these adjectives cause a lot of troubles to topographers. See how many different versions you can find!



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10. NAMES CHANGES SHOULD BE WELL ADVERTISED

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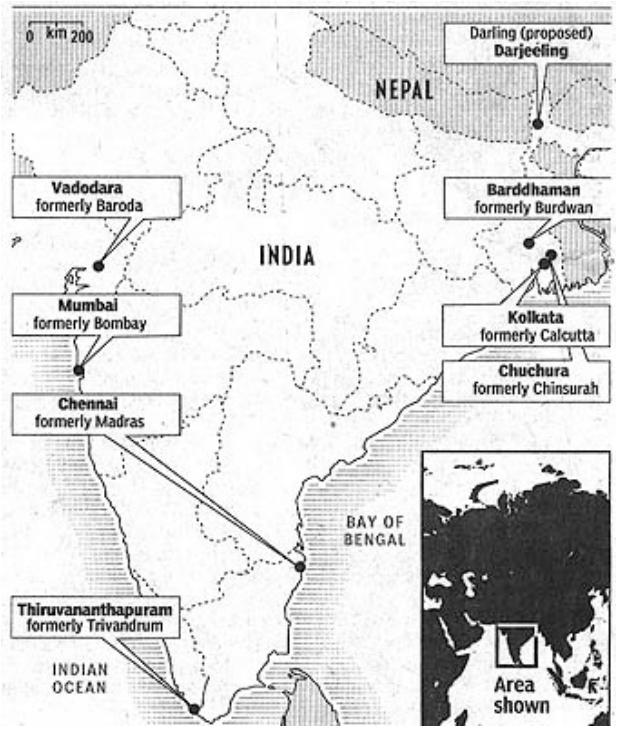
- Which are the two biggest cities in India officially?
- No, it's not *Bombay* and *Calcutta*. Officially they are supposed to be called **Mumbai** and **Kolkata**!



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11. NEED FOR STANDARDIZATION IN RELATED FIELDS

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- Which is more: 五 or 〇 ?

WESTERN	0	½	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	50	100	500	1000
ROMAN			I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	L	C	D	M
ARABIC-TURKISH	•	١/٢	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩	١٠	٥٠	١٠٠	٥٠٠	١٠٠٠
MALAY—PERSIAN	•	١/٢	١	٢	٣	۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	١٠	۵٠	١٠٠	۵٠٠	١٠٠٠
EASTERN ARABIC	০	১/২	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	৫০	১০০	৫০০	১০০০
HYDERBAD ARABIC	٥	١/٢	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩	١٠	٥٠	١٠٠	٥٠٠	١٠٠٠
INDIAN (Sanskrit)	०	१/२	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९	१०	५०	१००	५००	१०००
ASSAMESE	০	১/২	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	৫০	১০০	৫০০	১০০০
BENGALI	০	১/২	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	৫০	১০০	৫০০	১০০০
GUJARATI	૦	૧/૨	૧	૨	૩	૪	૫	૬	૭	૮	૯	૧૦	૫૦	૧૦૦	૫૦૦	૧૦૦૦
KUTCH	૦	૧/૨	૧	૨	૩	૪	૫	૬	૭	૮	૯	૧૦	૫૦	૧૦૦	૫૦૦	૧૦૦૦
NAVANAGAR	૦	૧/૨	૧	૨	૩	૪	૫	૬	૭	૮	૯	૧૦	૫૦	૧૦૦	૫૦૦	૧૦૦૦
NEPALESE	०	१/२	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९	१०	५०	१००	५००	१०००
TIBETAN	๐	๑/๒	๑	๒	๓	๔	๕	๖	๗	๘	๙	๑๐	๕๐	๑๐๐	๕๐๐	๑๐๐๐
MONGOLIAN	᠐	᠑/᠒	᠑	᠒	᠓	᠔	᠕	᠖	᠗	᠘	᠙	᠑᠐	᠕᠐	᠑᠐᠐	᠕᠐᠐	᠑᠐᠐᠐
BURMESE	၀	၍	၁	၂	၃	၄	၅	၆	၇	၈	၉	၁၀	၅၀	၁၀၀	၅၀၀	၁၀၀၀
THAI-LAO	๐	๑/๒	๑	๒	๓	๔	๕	๖	๗	๘	๙	๑๐	๕๐	๑๐๐	๕๐๐	๑๐๐๐
JAVANESE	ꦐ		ꦑ	ꦒ	ꦓ	ꦔ	ꦕ	ꦖ	ꦗ	ꦘ	ꦙ	ꦑꦐ	ꦕꦐ	ꦑꦐꦐ	ꦕꦐꦐ	ꦑꦐꦐꦐ
ORDINARY CHINESE JAPANESE-KOREAN	〇	半	一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十	十五	百	百五	千
OFFICIAL CHINESE-JAPANESE	零	半	壹	貳	參	肆	伍	陸	柒	捌	玖	拾	拾伍	佰	佰伍	仟
COMMERCIAL CHINESE			〡	〢	〣	〤	〥	〦	〧	〨	〩	十	𠄘十	〡百	𠄘百	〡千
KOREAN		반	일	이	삼	사	오	육	칠	팔	구	십	오십	백	오백	천훈
GEORGIAN			ა	ბ	გ	დ	ე	ვ	ზ	ჱ	თ	ი	ლ	მ	ჽ	ჾ
			ჵ	ჶ	ჷ	ჸ	ჹ	ჺ	჻	ჼ	ჽ	ჾ	ჿ	ᏀᏁ	ᏂᏃ	ᏄᏅ
ETHIOPIAN	◆		፩	፪	፫	፬	፭	፮	፯	፰	፱	፲	፳	፴	፭ ፩	፲ ፩
	·			፳	፴	፵		፷	፸	፹	፺					
HEBREW			א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	נ	ק	תק	
				כ	ל	מ		ס	ע	פ	צ		ר	ש	ת	תר	תש	תת

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12. PLACE NAMES ARE TOOLS AND HAVE TO BE HANDY!

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Church of St Mary in the hollow of the white hazel trees, near the fierce whirlpool and the Church of St Tysilio, by a red cave.

This name was a tongue-in-cheek invention of the mid 19th century designed to attract much-needed traffic to a declining railway station and freight-yard on the island of Anglesey in North Wales. A tailor from Menai Bridge is credited with the invention (Source: Sounds of Wales).

Of course a name that long can not be put on a normal name shield, nor incorporated on a map.

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13. TYPES OF NAMES ON THE MAP

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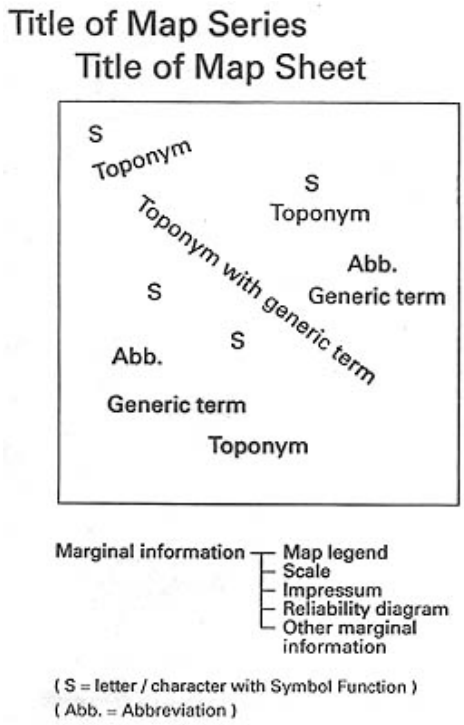
Not all the names on a map are geographical names or toponyms. Within the map face, toponyms can either consist of specific terms only (such as London or Thames) or be combined with **generic terms** (#112), like "City of London" or "River Thames".

Generic terms can also be used individually (in designations like cemetery, ferry, sports field or factory) and abbreviated individually used generic terms occur as well (like FM for Farm, PH for Public House or Pub). Apart from those there are also letters or characters with a symbol function (like S for school, P for Post Office).



Map sheet		average number of words per map sheet
Title of Map Series		5
Title of Map Sheet		5
Marginal information	— Map legend	50
	— Scale	2
	— Impressum	10
	— Other marginal information	100
Map face	— Toponyms	1000
	— Generic designations — Generic terms	100
	— Generic designations — Abbreviations	100
	— Generic designations — Letter-symbols	100

Outside the map face, in the margin of the map, the title of the map series and of the specific map sheet will be indicated, and marginal information, such as the legend, scale indicator, imprint, reliability diagram and other marginal information will be incorporated.

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AVAILABLE EXERCISES

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Exercise 1: Familiar names

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EXERCISE 1: FAMILIAR NAMES

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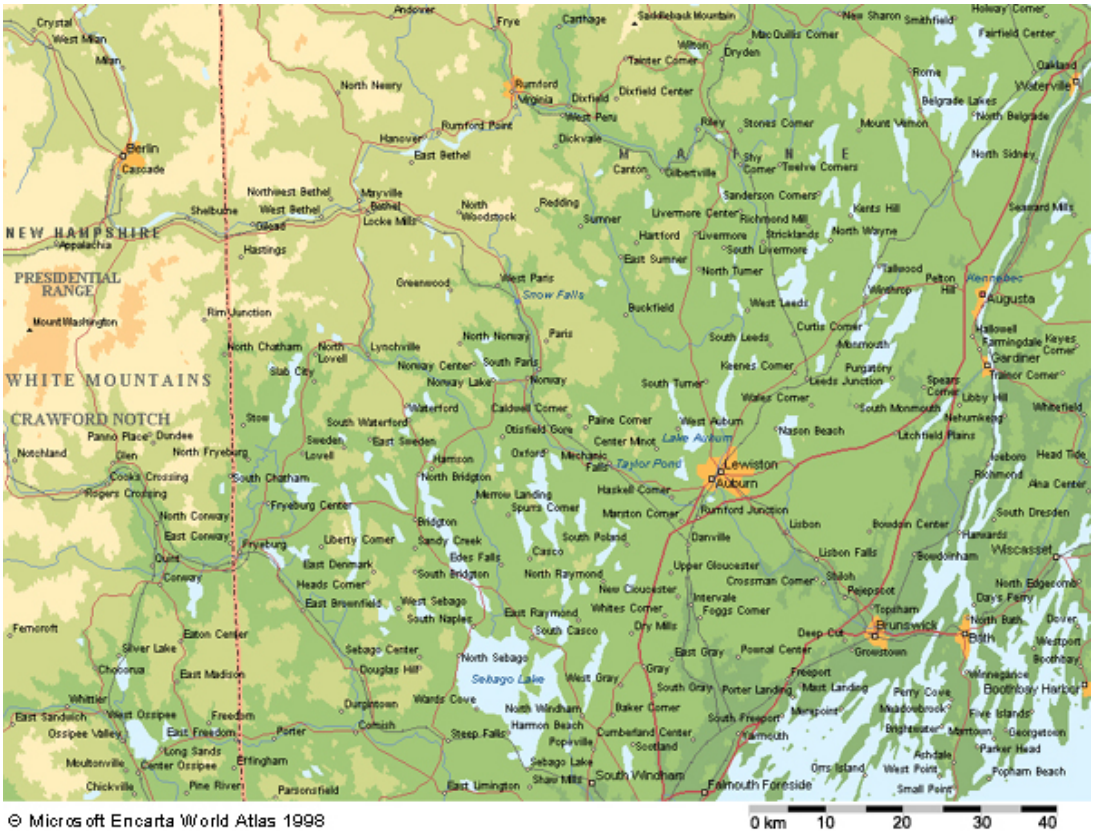
You may remember the front page of this introductory chapter. There we mentioned the World Travellers Signpost. Now it's your turn to find six of those settlements on the map, which resemble well-known cities and countries.



Click here for larger version.

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EXERCISE 1: FAMILIAR NAMES- *ANSWERS*

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Click here to see the answers.

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DOCUMENTS AND LITERATURE

Available documents:

- D01-01: Ormeling, F.J. (2012). *ICA Toponymy Webcourse*. Working paper E/CONF.101/33, Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 31 July to 9 August 2012.
- D01-02: Ormeling, F.J. (2003). *Introduction, What is at issue?* Pp 11-17 in F.Ormeling e.a. Training Course on Toponymy Enschede, Frankfurt am Main, Berlin 2002. Mitteilungen des BKG Band 28, Frankfurt am Main 2003.

Literature:

- Kraak *et al*., (2010). *Cartography, Visualisation of spatial data* (3rd edition, Pearson, or Guilford Press 2011) has 3 pages on toponymy.
- Kadmon, N. (2000). *Toponymy: The Lore, Laws of Language of Geographical Names*. New York: Vantage Press.
- United Nations - Vol. II - *Proceedings and Technical Papers of the 3rd UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East*. Bangkok (1961), United Nations Publication, Vol. II, 64.I.17. (1965), E/CONF.36/3., pp 312-314 (URL / pdf).

Online resources:

- UNGEGN | United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The United Nations sell the following publications which also can be downloaded from the UNGEGN website:

- Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York 2002) / pdf
- Manual for the national standardization of geographical names (UN - Ecosoc, New York, 2006 ST/ESA/STAT/SERM/88 Sales No. E.06.XVII.7 ISBN 92-1-161490-2, available in the 6 UN languages) / pdf
- Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names (New York, 2007) / pdf
- Resolutions adopted at the nine UN Conferences on the standardization of geographical names (English (pdf) / French (pdf)

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