Physical Geography’s Impact
- Determined what crops could be grown, and how successfully
- Influenced the success of animal husbandry
- Determined the daily conditions of transportation, economic exchange, and communication

Political Geography’s Impact
- Geography determined ancient political jurisdictions
- Influenced different traditions and cultural practices that in turn influenced the economic and political structures in certain regions
- Could isolate, expose, or facilitate rebellious populations

Political Geography
- Regions
- Counties (website slide)
- Hundreds and Wapentakes (website slide)
- Boroughs
- Cities
- Towns
- Villages
- Parishes

Gazetteers and Maps
- *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* by John Marius Wilson, 1866-1872
- *Index Villaris* by John Adams, 1690
- *Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers* by Cecil Humphrey-Smith
- Maps: Ordinance Survey maps

Jurisdictions (This is absolutely essential to your further work)
- Note all levels of secular jurisdictions applicable to your search area
  - Parish (or town/city) and county
  - Hundred
- Note all levels of ecclesiastical jurisdiction
  - Parish (peculiars), deanery, arch-deaconry, diocese, province

Names
- Origins and History
  - Begin after the Norman Conquest for the nobility, and then slowly trickle down the English social scale
  - Names were adopted, and dropped, for numerous reasons and several may have been in use before one was settled on
Variations in pronunciation due to dialect and spelling do to no standardization contributed to corruptions and changes.

In Wales, they did not begin to be used until the Unification with England in the mid sixteenth century.

Simultaneous with the development of hereditary surnames was a narrowing of possible Christian and last names.

Sources of names

- Nicknames or bynames, personally descriptive names
- Occupational
- Locative
- Topographical
- Patronymic (or Matronymic)
  - Adding –s, -es, or –son was in common practice in England even if not strictly patronymic practice and it sometimes spread to Wales, where –ap and –ab were also in use as strictly patronymics.
  - -ab and –ap came from mab and map, cognates of mac-, over time they picked up the Welsh f- preceding letter, but that was a soft pronunciation and therefore it eventually became just –ab nad –ap, meaning “son of”.
  - mac- was used in Gaelic speaking areas to mean “son of”.
  - Fitz- from fils de was also used in England the way –mac was used in Ireland and Scotland.
  - Personal names, shortened or with added suffixes, such as Nicholas, Nicholls, Nixon, and Collinson all from Nicholas. These are not necessarily the same as patronymics.

Finding the origin

- P. H. Reaney’s *A Dictionary of British Surnames*
- English Surname Series (more of a historical study of distribution)
- Elizabeth G. Withycombe’s *The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names*
- OED

Historical context

- Learn major historical events
- Learn local historical events
- Both affect the creation and preservation of records
- Both affect an ancestor’s life and choices
- English Civil War(s) 1642-1649 (or 1660)
  - Civil Parish Registers
  - Probates
  - Disruptions