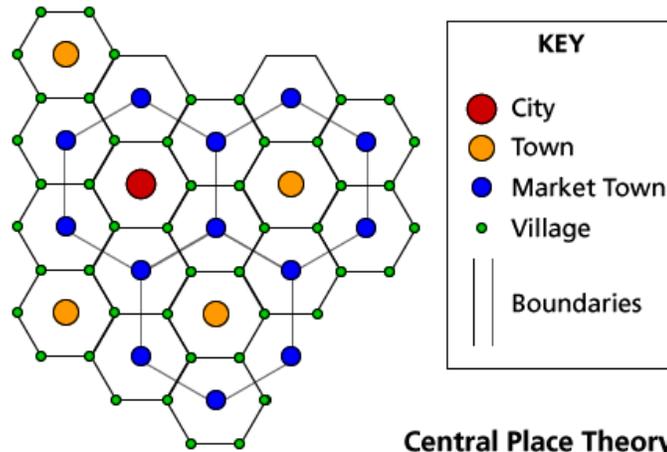


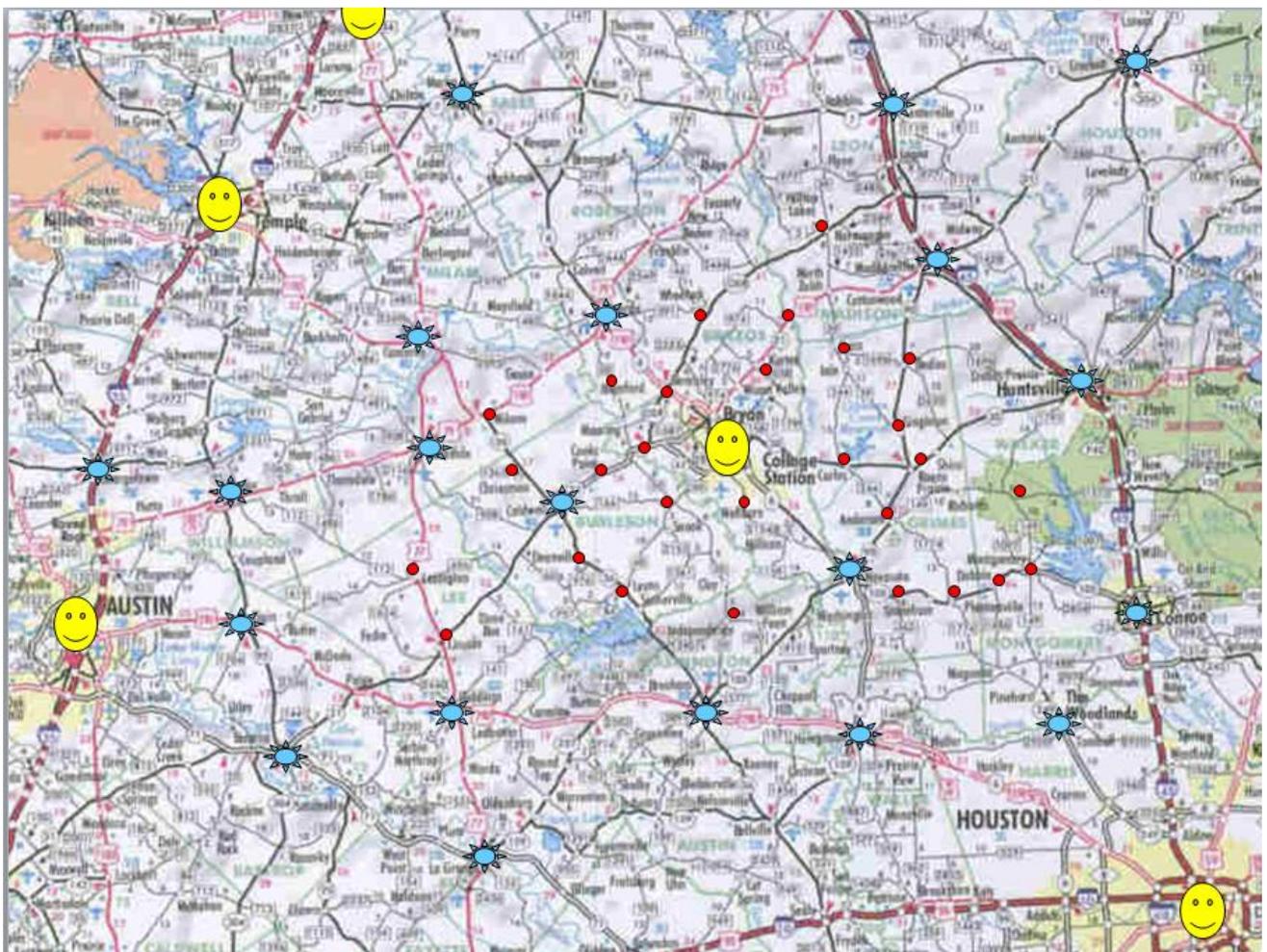
URBAN UNIT—Central Place Theory and Nesting of Settlements

1. To support the concept that communities of different sizes will provided different services. Good discussion when talking about **range** (how far are people willing to travel for a service?).



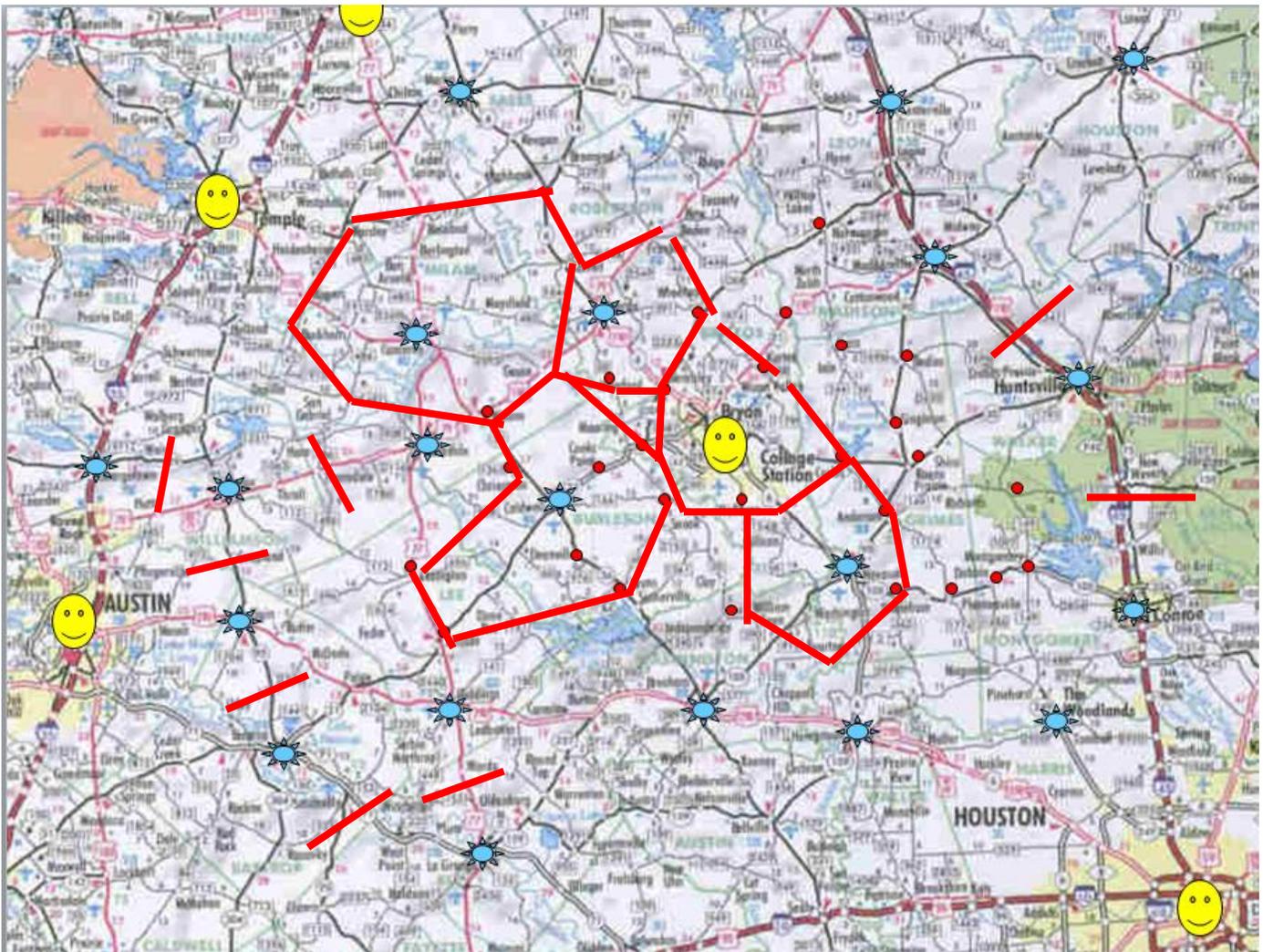
Central Place Theory

2. Look at your area on a highway map and have the students color cities/towns/communities with different colors/symbols to represent the “size” of community. This is a good opportunity to work with a road map and discuss how towns of different size are shown on the map—**ALL CAPS, Bold Letters**, smaller print, etc. [I do this quick and easy on a Smart Board but you can do it on a photocopy of your area.]



☺ City ⚡ Town ● Village

3. Now try to connect the dots and draw hexagons.



4. Discussion questions:

- Does a nesting pattern emerge? Is it perfect? [probably not—but think about the distance apart]
- What might influence this pattern? [physical features, accessibility, population density, etc.]
- Does your region support the Central Place Theory?
- Would this look different in the Northeast? South? West? Etc. (What about in other parts of the world outside of the US?)

Note: In my part of the world, the settlements are **about 15 miles apart**. Why?

- Horses can travel about 20 to 30 miles a day (average over a 6 week time period on flat terrain in good climate conditions); so think about a round trip in a day.
- Stagecoaches could travel 15-30 miles depending on the terrain and the availability of water or about 12 miles apart.
- Pony Express stations were located about 10 miles apart “the distance a horse could travel at a gallop before tiring.” Changing stations were about 20-25 miles apart in the beginning but later they located them 12-15 miles apart.
- A horse and buggy will travel from 8 to 12 miles in a day—depending on the type of buggy/carriage, the weight of the people and cargo, the terrain, etc.

[Sources: Stage coaching in Texas, Texas Almanac, <http://texasalmanac.com/topics/history/stagecoaching-texas>]

Legends of America: Stagecoaches of the American West, <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-stagecoach.html>

The Pony Express https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pony_Express

Legends of America: Pony Express Stations <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-ponyexpressstations.html>]

Extension: Think about the function of the various sizes of settlement in the past. What about today? [rural schools, churches, community centers, markets/grocery stores, etc.]