GIS: Mapping Census Data

Presented by:
The Center for Family and
Demographic Research



What is GIS?

- Geographic Information Systems
- Many of the mapping software programs are developed through ESRI
 - http://www.esri.com/
 - ESRI website has data sets, free GIS programs, and information on which GIS system would be best for you



Why Would We Use GIS?

- Model neighborhoods and social behavior
- Numerous fields of study use GIS
 - Biologists, land use planners, humanitarian assistance
 - Crime statistics model information on burglaries, robberies, sex crimes, other major incidents
- Key for sociologists may be finding the patterns
 - GIS looks at distribution of features on a map instead of just an individual feature – which allows us to see if patterns emerge



Types of GIS Programs

- Google Earth
 - Fun to try, lots of different possibilities
 - Explore space, sea, just about anything
 - Unfortunately, free version does not allow us to import data.
 Therefore, we cannot analyze census data.
 - But if you have access to the professional version, this is a nice user friendly program.
 - Example
- ArcGIS
 - ESRI system
 - Probably considered the leader in GIS software



Census Data

- Geographical hierarchy of the census
- U.S.
 - Region
 - Division
 - State
 - » County
 - » County Subdivision
 - » Place
 - » Census tract
 - » Block Group
 - » Census Block



Census Data

Short Form

- Household relationships, sex, race/Hispanic origin, age, tenure (home owned or rented)
- Everyone gets this form

Long Form

- Social characteristics, marital status, place of birth/citizenry/year of entry, educational attainment, labor force status, occupation
- About one in six people get the long form, but this varies depending on size of area



American FactFinder Maps

- One of the simplest ways to map census data is through American Fact Finder
- http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en
- Drawback is limited to specific characteristics

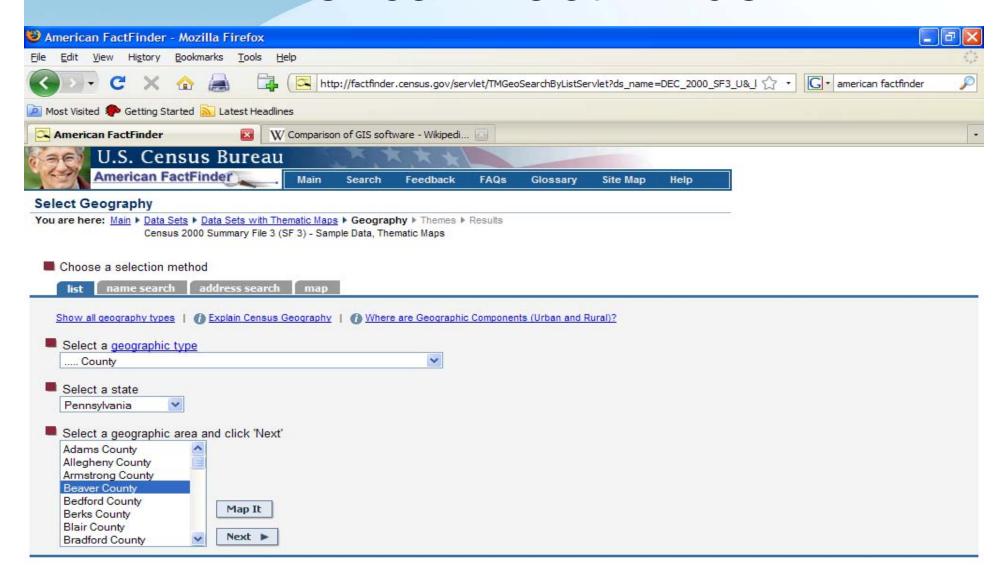


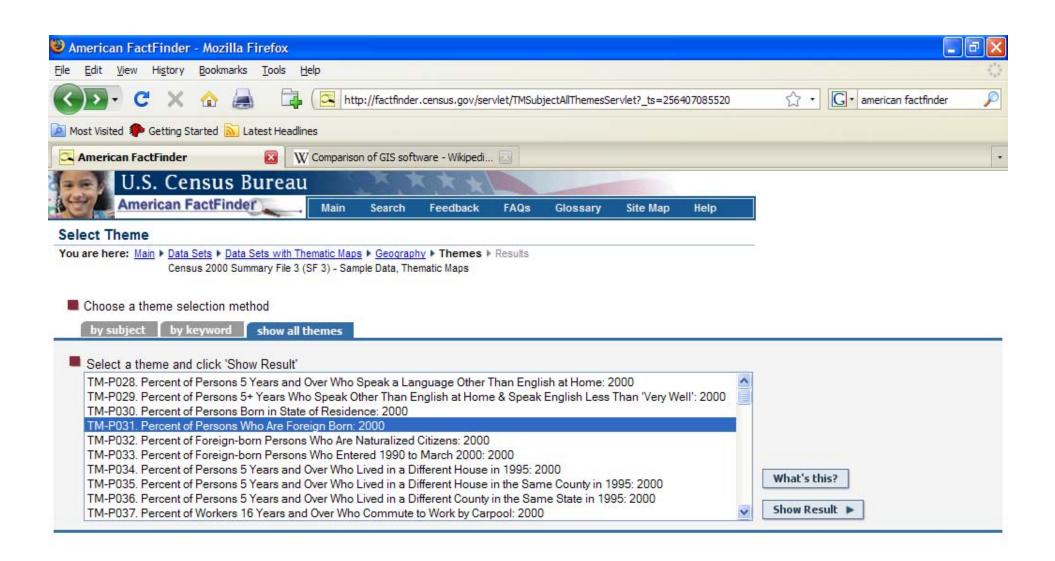
American FactFinder Maps

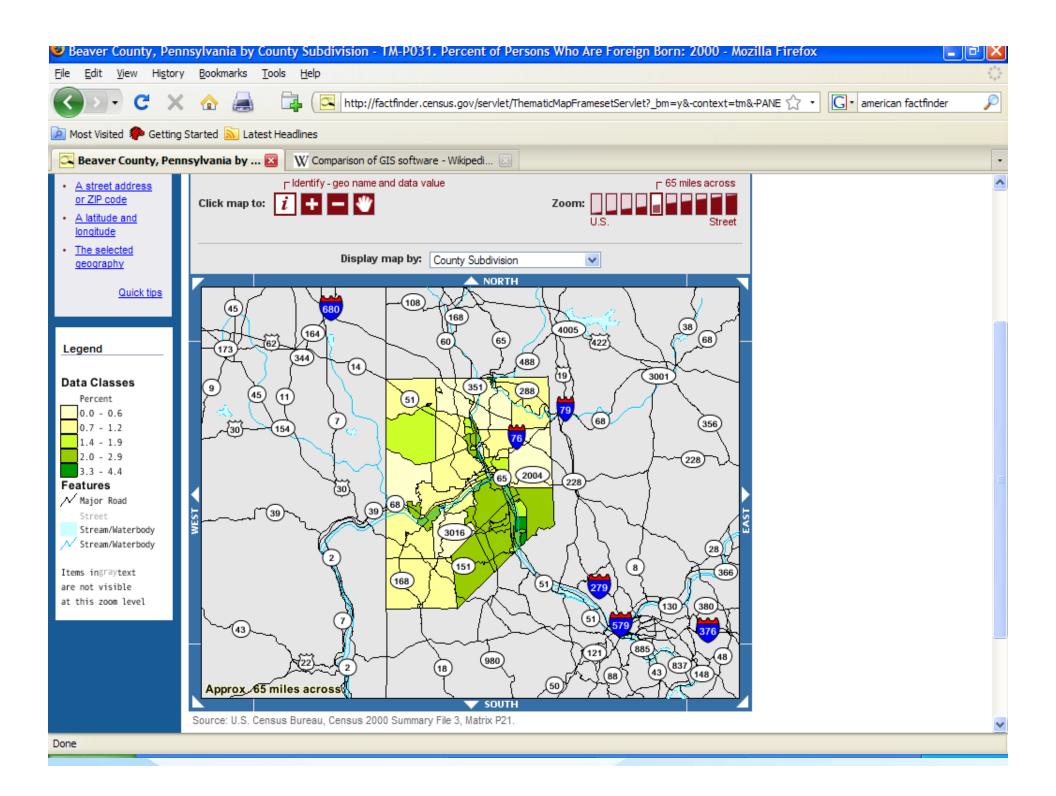
- How to make the map
 - Select Data Sets on left hand side of AFF website
 - Select your dataset, here I will use the Decennial Census
 - Select the type of summary file you would like to use
 - Select Thematic Maps
 - Then select your geographic type

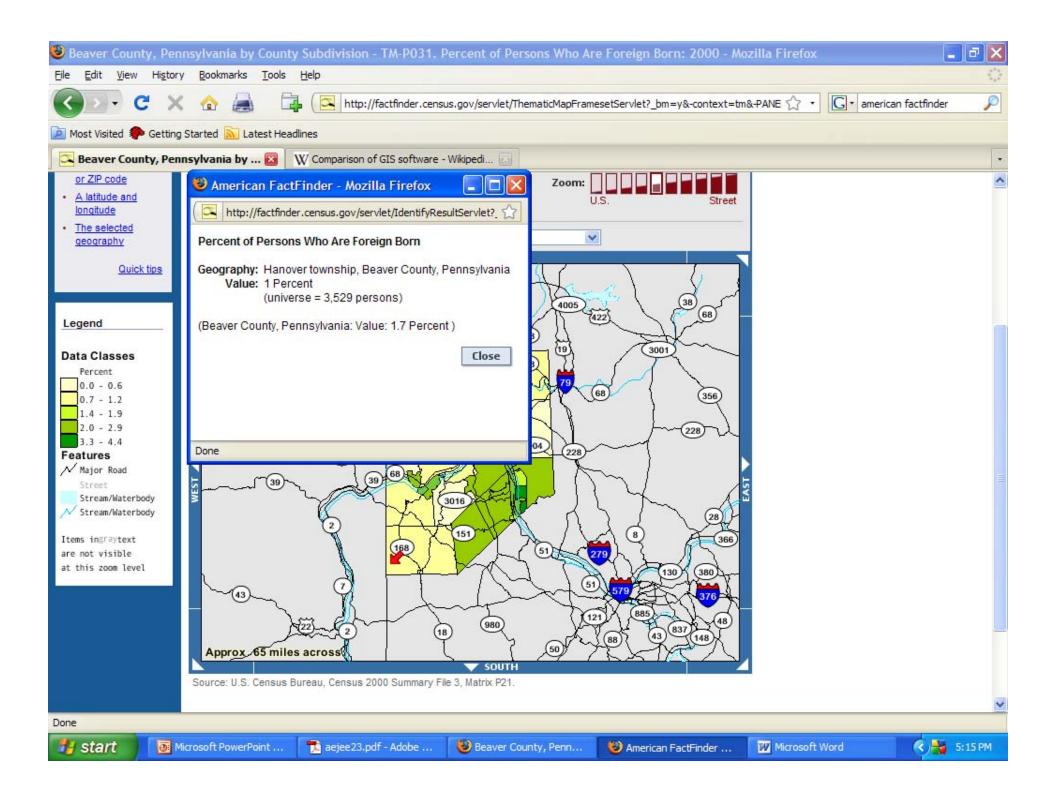


American Fact Finder









ArcExplorer – Education Edition

- Numerous GIS programs
 - ArcExplorer has free versions of GIS programs
 - Software can be downloaded at <u>http://www.esri.com/software/arcexplorer/download-education.html</u>
- Data Sources
 - Stored data from ESRI
 - Examples for today's workshop came from the Education Edition of ArcExplorer
 - Data can be found in data folder of the program file. This is good data to practice on as it has census information already acquired through the ESRI system.
 - Data you acquired from external datasets

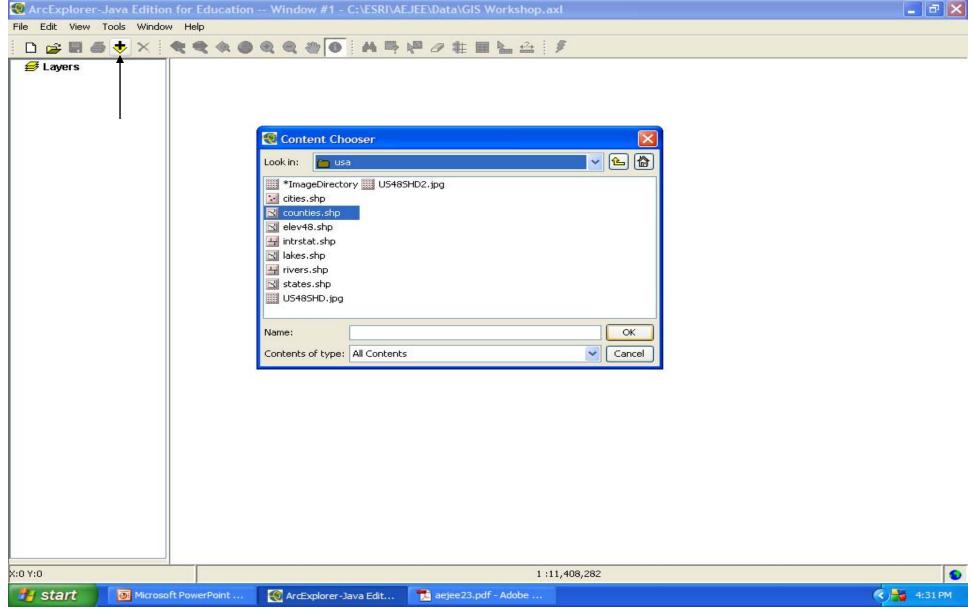


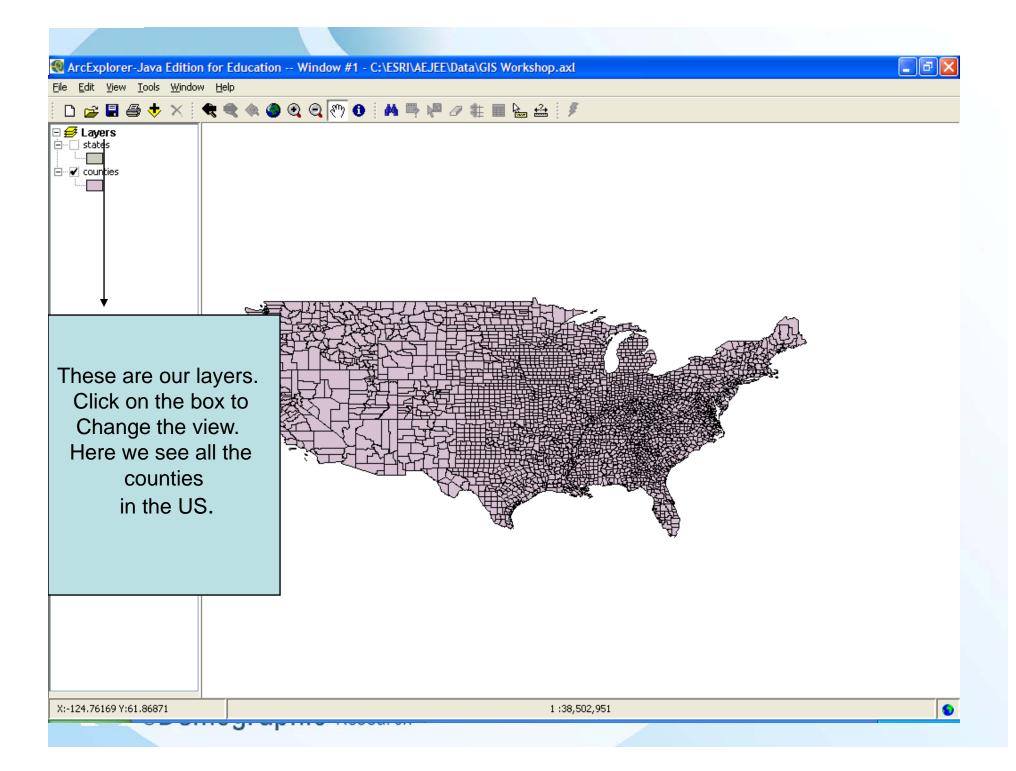
Creating Layers

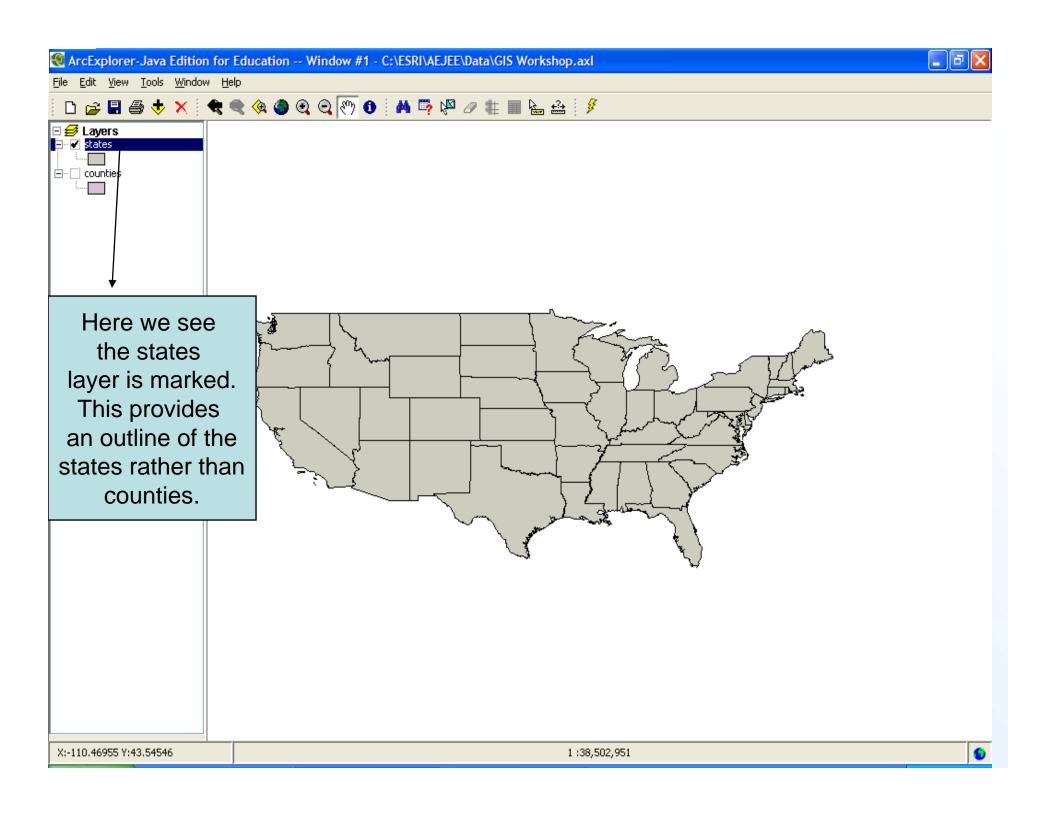
- Create a new layer for each geographical location you want to analyze.
- Your amount of layers depends on the type of data you have available.
- Our examples will use layers from the state level and the county level

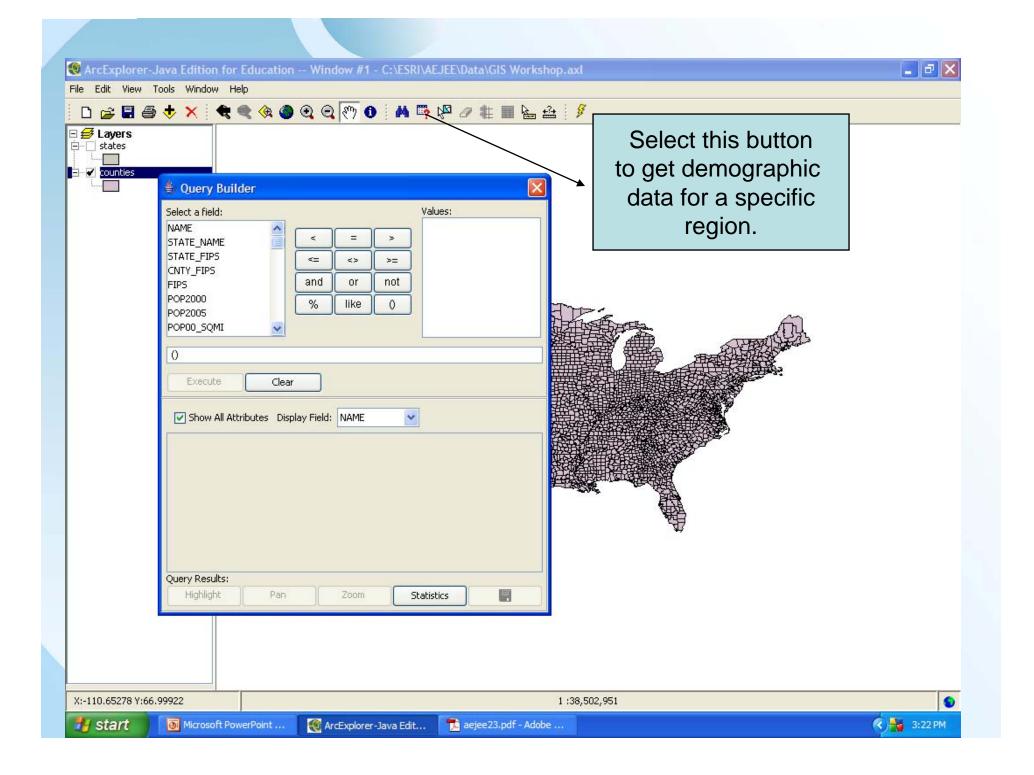


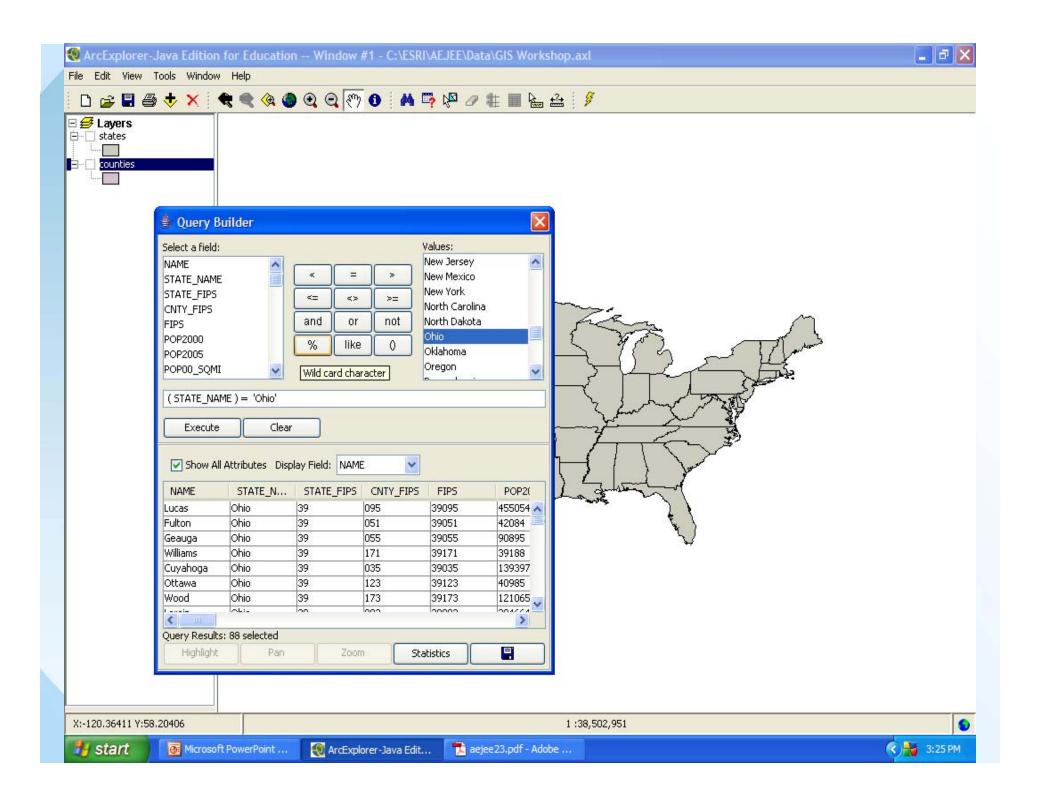
Adding the Lavers

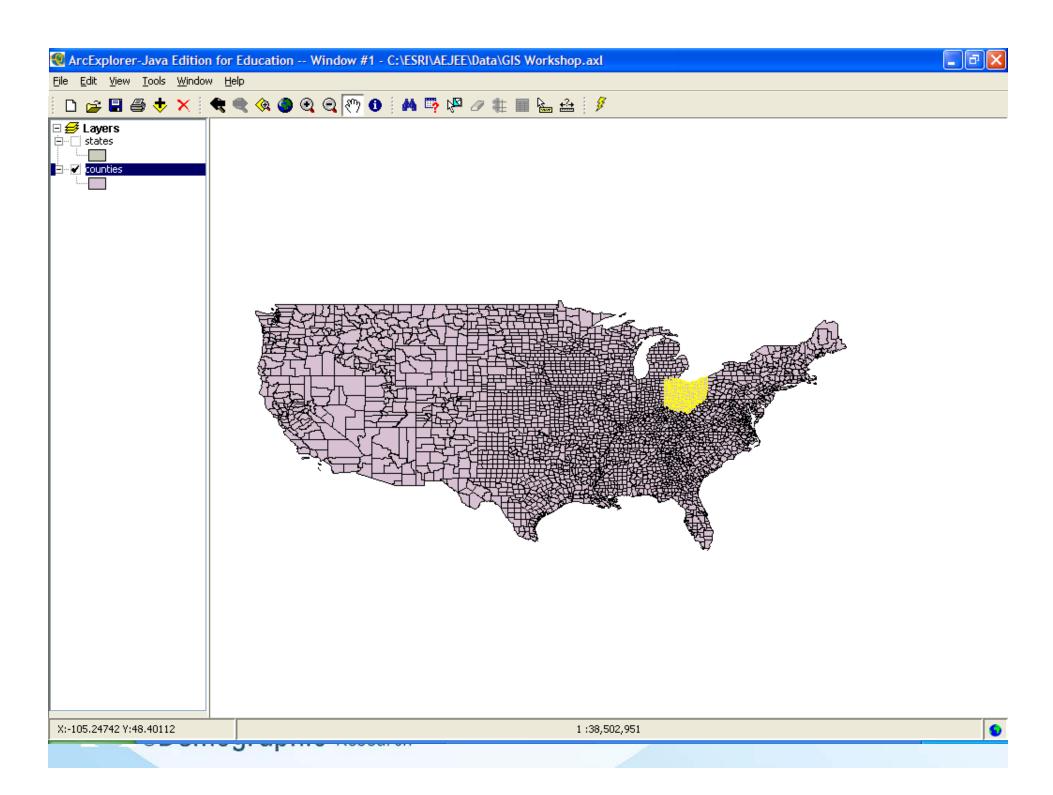


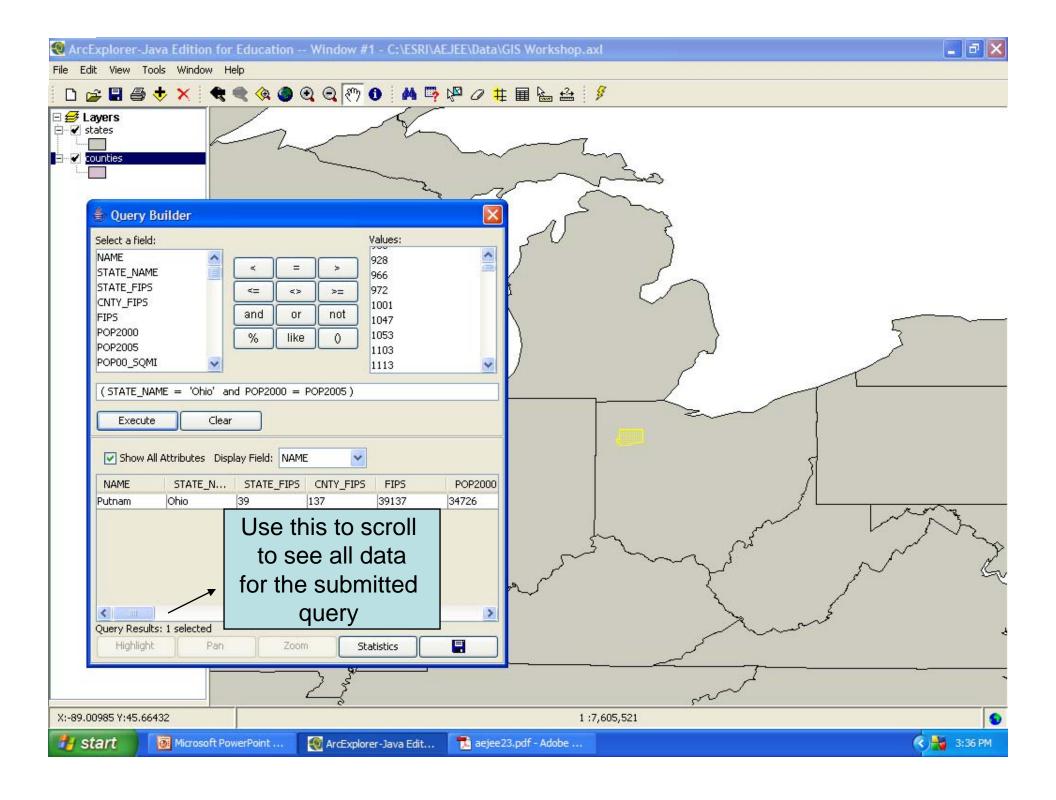


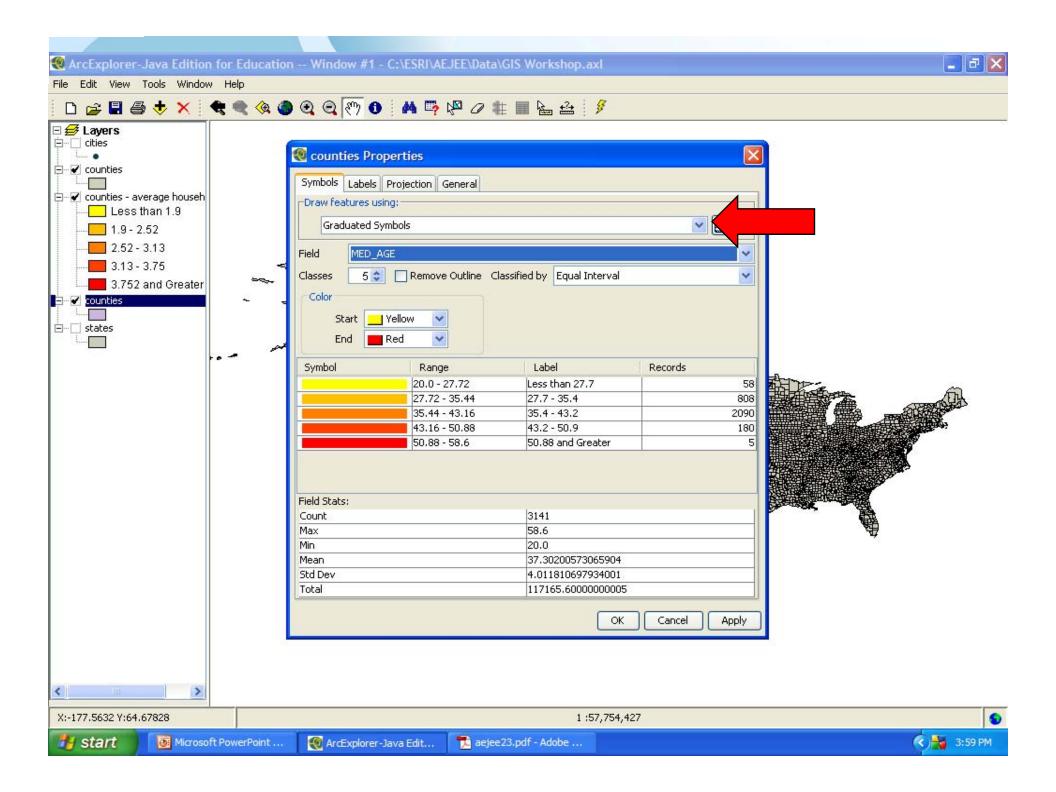


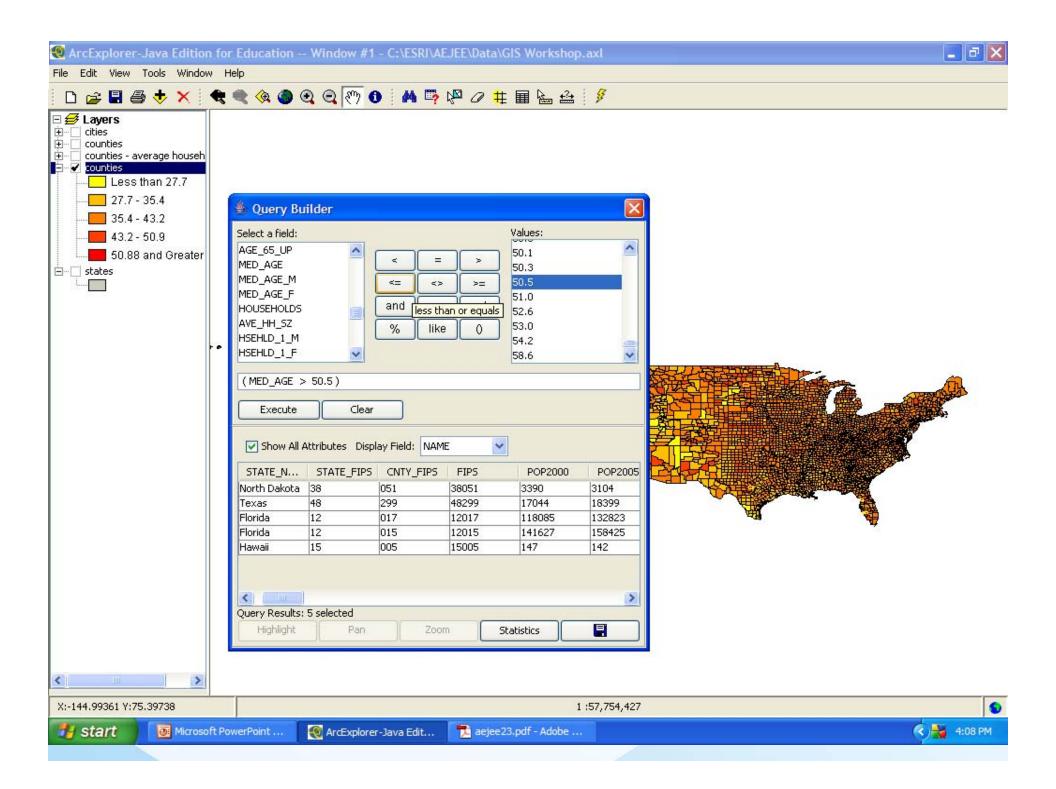


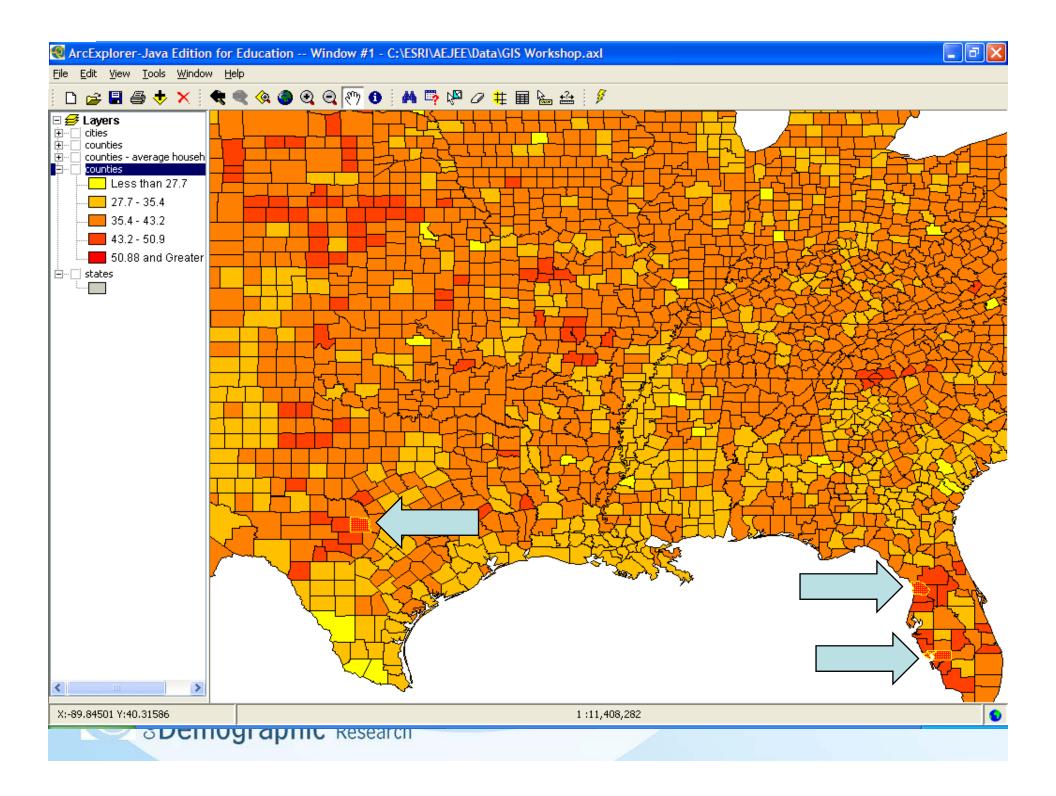


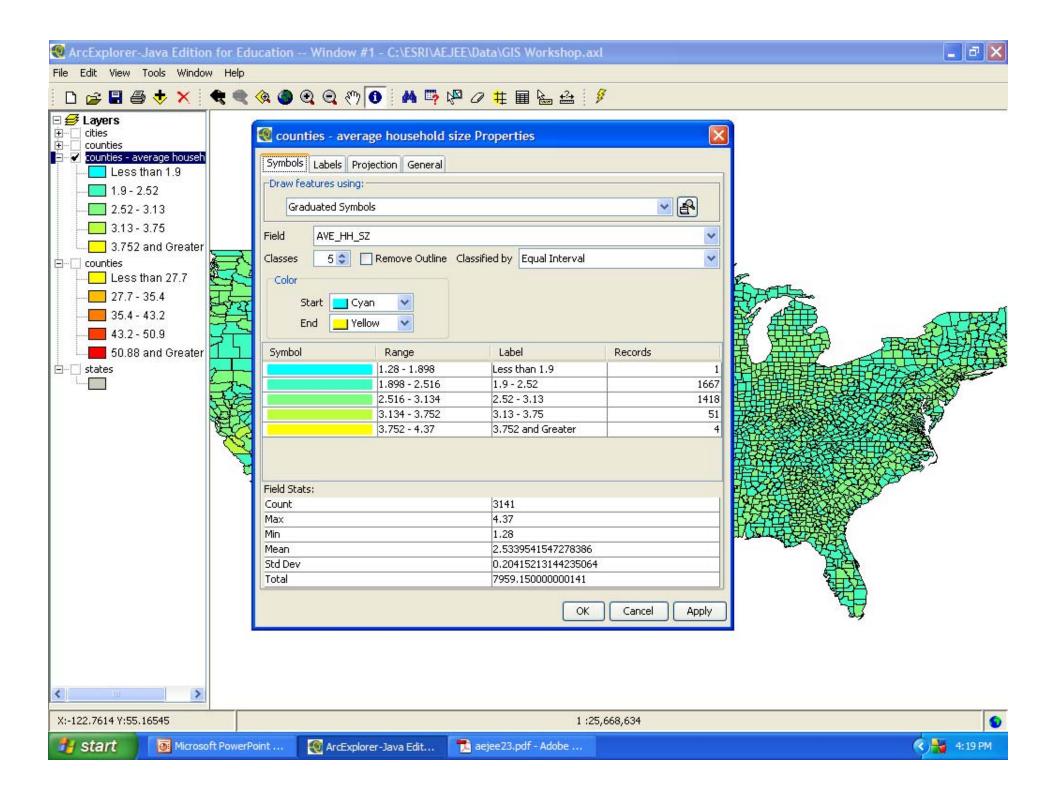


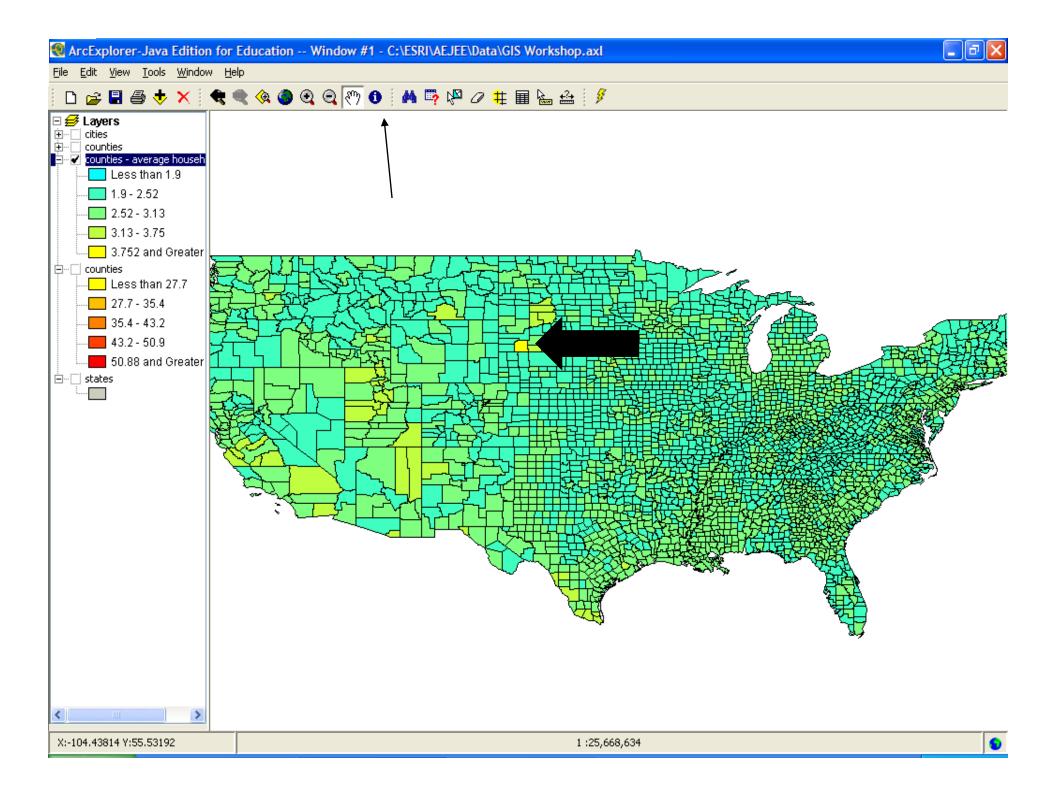


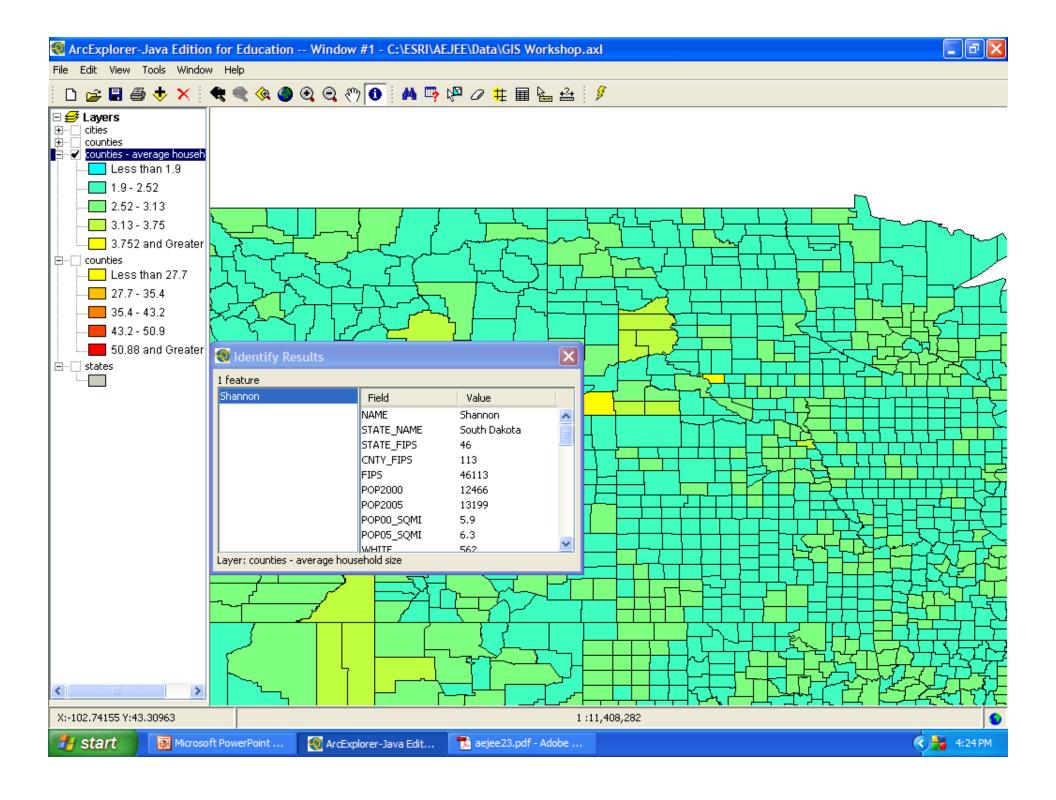






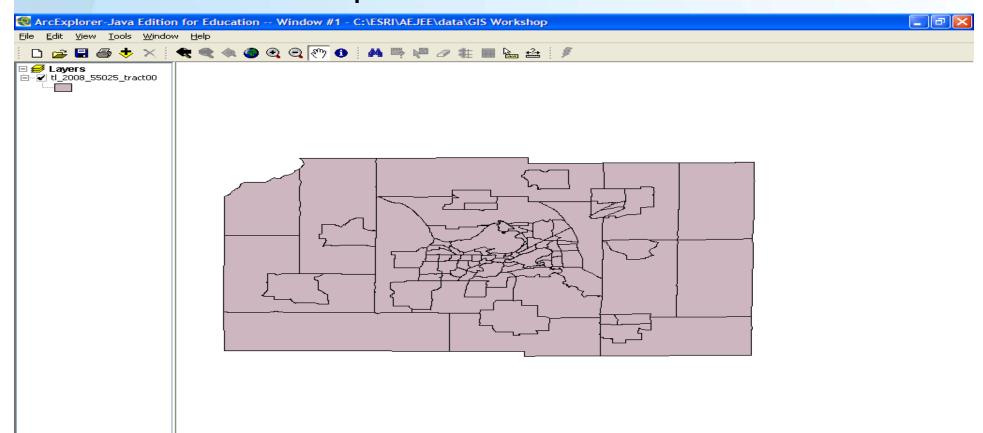






Obtaining Data

- Census TIGER files
 - Provide Shape File



Obtaining Data

- Demographic Information
 - American Fact Finder
 - This is more complex have to link this data with the TIGER shape file.

