Geographical Features of Corn: Outline

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Author Note

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# Introduction

* Corn is a type of cereal grain that was initially discovered and domesticated in Mexico
* A popular staple food in the US for human and animal consumption.
* Total production surpassing rice or wheat
* An interesting topic because a plant that did not naturally exist, and depended on human protection and plantation became an important staple food for humans throughout

# Body

## Regions

* Developed 7000 years ago by inhabitants of Central Mexico
* Teosinte wild grass used to develop the plant (Smith, 2004).
* Ripened in summers and eaten fresh by people by boiling, roasting or popcorn. Later generations crushed it into cornmeal to make tortillas and tacos (Pruit, 2016).

## Cultural Landscape

* Indians in South and North America depended on maize for their survival
* Major part of diet and cultural staple food of natives when Europeans contacted natives living in America (Shanahan, 2018).

## Diffusion

* Frost in cold areas destroyed plant before riping. Plant was adapted to norther climate through shortening its growing season (Butler, Mueller, & Huybers, 2018).
* Advances in agriculture led to increased production and diffused through trade.
* Suitable temperature zones found to produce better crop yield, led to diffusion (Butler, Mueller, & Huybers, 2018).

## Distance Decay

* From Mexico, corn spread into southwestern and northern U.S. as well in South Americas along with coast of Peru.
* Emigration of native-Indian people towards the north, 1000 years ago brought it to current day North America (Shanahan, 2018).
* Traders to Europe brought Mexican corn mainly as cow feed. In West Africa, it was sold to farmers, became staple food in West Africa by 1540 (Pruit, 2016).

# Conclusion

* High consumption in U.S. today, with a wide variety of corn based products, such as corn syrup, cornbread, tacos, Froot Loops, etc.
* World production surpassing one billion tons annually in 2014, in which U.S. is major producer (Prasad, et al., 2018).
* Fertile soils and sandy regions, shallow and abundant groundwater helps farmers control soil moisture, through subsurface drainage and irrigation to maximize yields (Prasad, et al., 2018)

# References

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