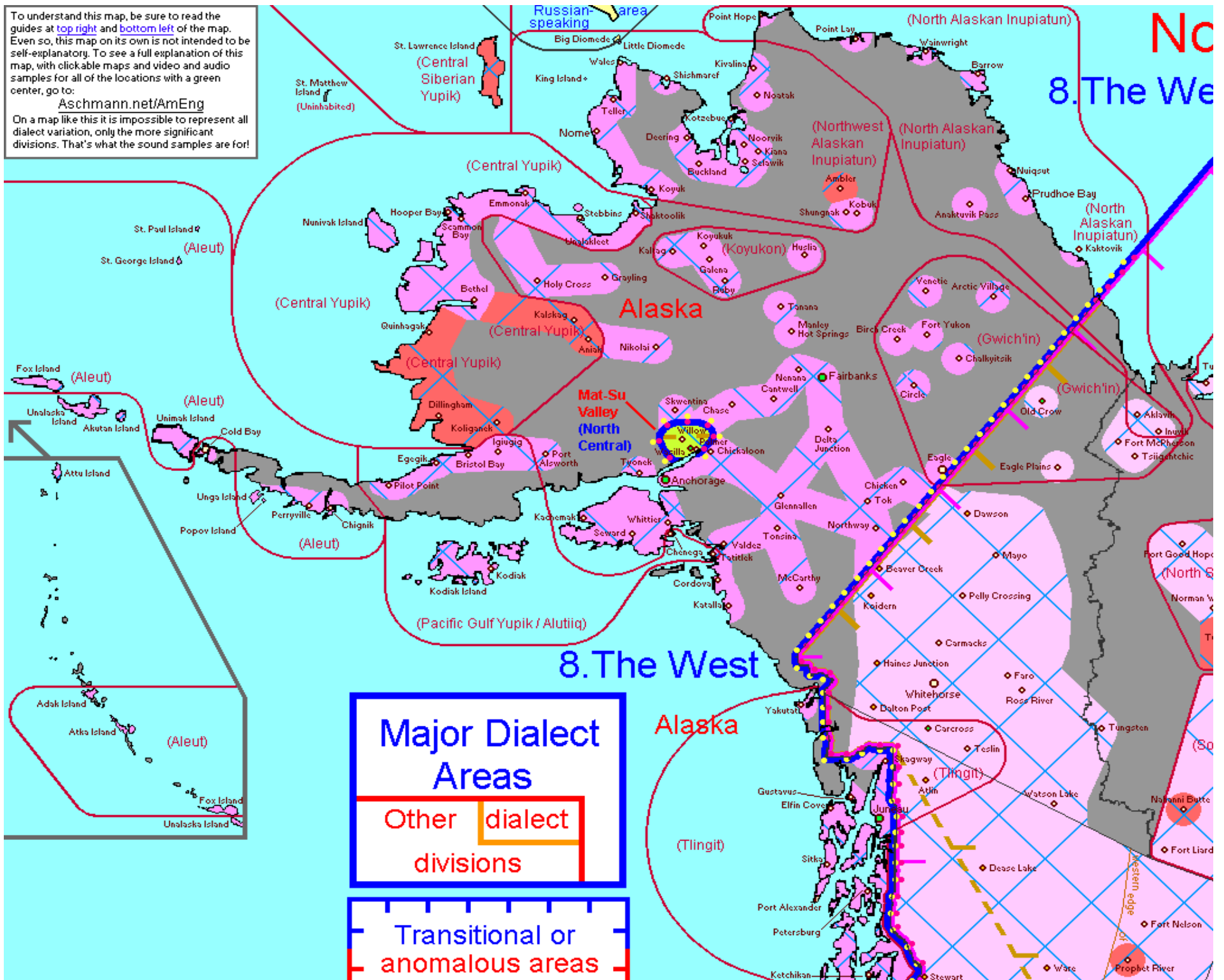


To understand this map, be sure to read the guides at [top right](#) and [bottom left](#) of the map. Even so, this map on its own is not intended to be self-explanatory. To see a full explanation of this map, with clickable maps and video and audio samples for all of the locations with a green center, go to:

Aschmann.net/AmEng

On a map like this it is impossible to represent all dialect variation, only the more significant divisions. That's what the sound samples are for!

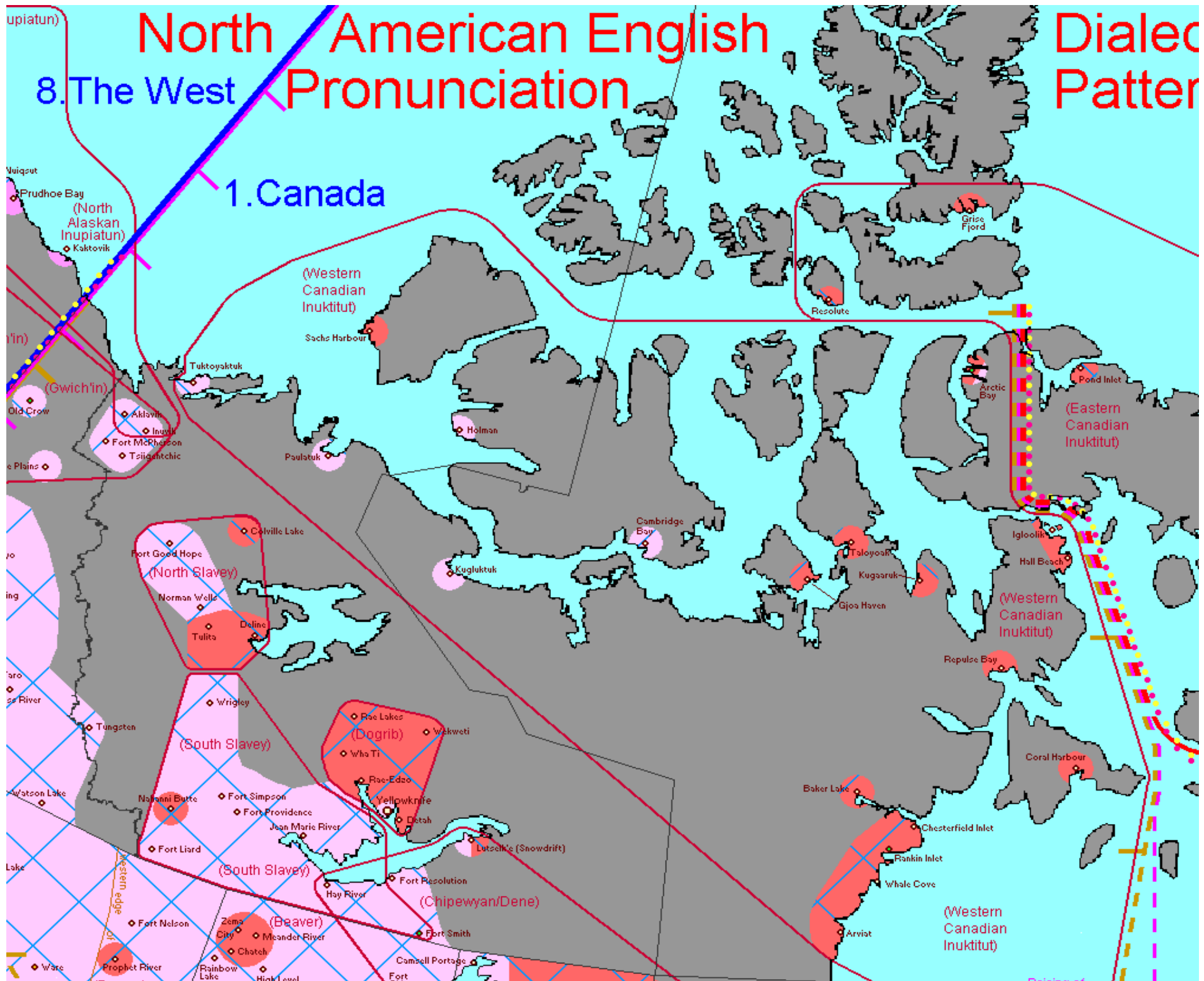


North American English Pronunciation

8. The West

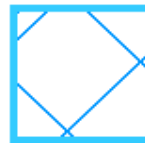
Dialect Pattern

1. Canada

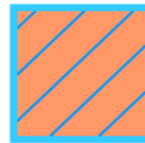


Dialects, Based on Patterns

Distinctions that determine how many distinct vowel sounds a speaker has (see [How Many Vowels are there in American English?](#)):



Double hatch: $\text{ä} \rightarrow \text{ø} \leftarrow \text{ô}$: “cot” = “caught”, “Don” = “Dawn”, “father” rhymes with “bother”. These speakers have only 13 vowels, whereas speakers in other areas have at least 14. (This could be described as “Lowest Common Denominator English”.) (See [The Cot-Caught Merger](#).)



Single hatch: Eastern New England: $\text{ô} \rightarrow \text{ø}$: “cot” = “caught”, “Don” = “Dawn”, “father” does not rhyme with “bother”. (Everywhere else on this map except Greater New York City “father” does rhyme with “bother”.) These speakers have 14 vowels, but not the same 14 as speakers in the non-hatched areas. (See [The Father-Bother Distinction](#).)



Cot-caught line: Separates “cot” = “caught” and “cot” \neq “caught” areas.



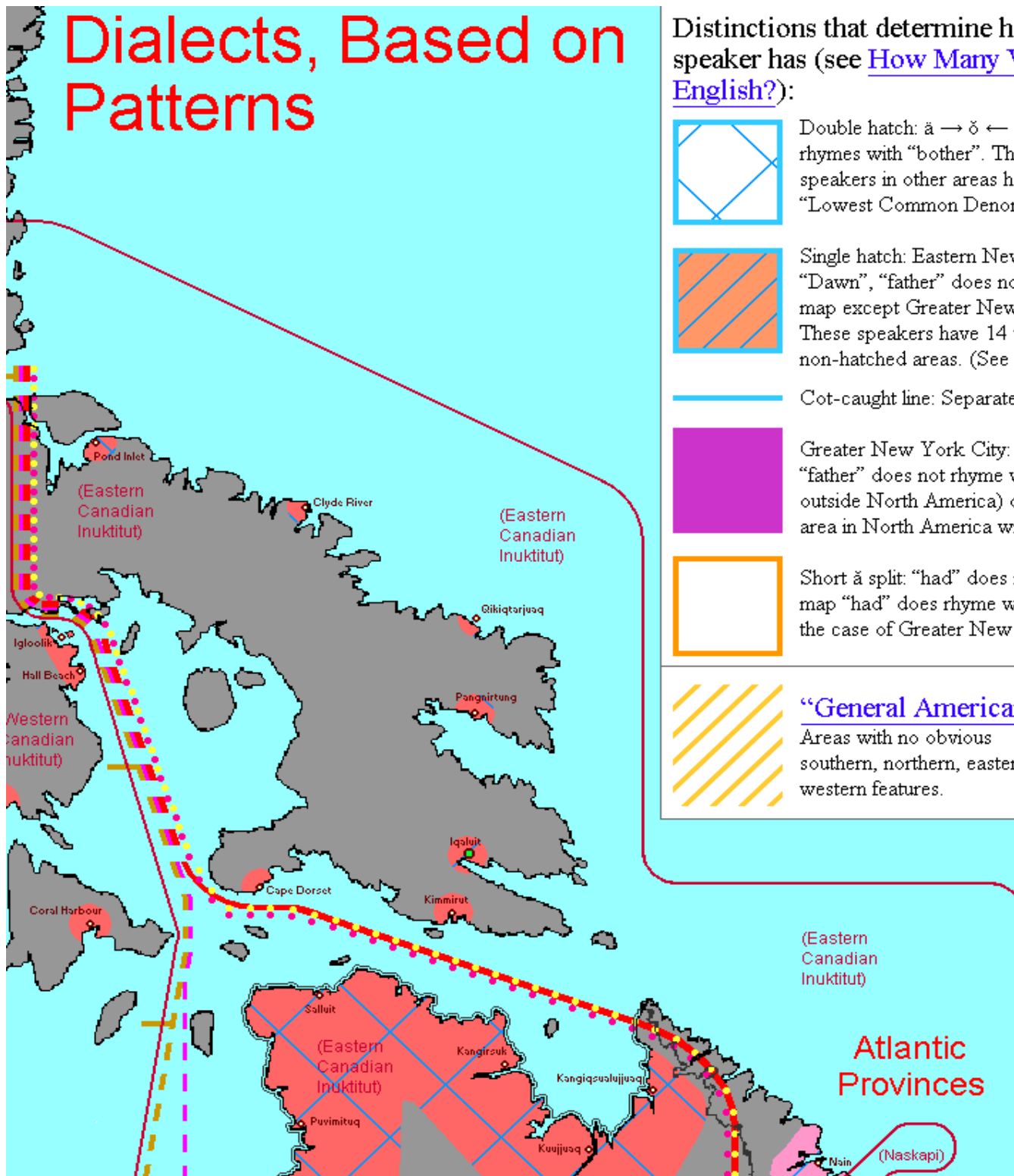
Greater New York City: $\text{ä} \neq \text{ø} \neq \text{ô}$: “cot” \neq “caught”, “Don” \neq “Dawn”, “father” does not rhyme with “bother”. Southern Britishers (and others outside North America) do the same. However, this appears to be the only area in North America with this three-way distinction.



Short ä split: “had” does not rhyme with “bad”. (Everywhere else on this map “had” does rhyme with “bad”.) These speakers have 15 vowels, or, in the case of Greater New York City, 16.



“General American”:
Areas with no obvious southern, northern, eastern or western features.



Numbered locations, by state or province:

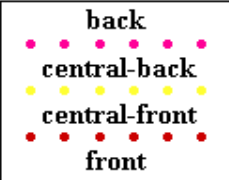
Alabama: 1 Fort Payne 2 Henagar 3 Section 4 Trussville 5 Gadsden 6 Red Bay 7 Columbiana 8 Albertville 9 Odenville 10 Oneonta 11 Carbon Hill 12 Locust Fork 13 Hackleburg 14 Battleground 15 West Blocton 16 Fairview	Indiana: 1 New Carlisle 2 Alexandria 3 Winamac 4 Warsaw Kentucky: 1 Columbus 2 Mayfield 3 Murray 4 Paducah 5 Benton 6 Hopkinsville 7 Morgantown 8 Beaver Dam 9 Burkesville 10 Russellville 11 Belfry 12 Marion 13 Rosewood 14 Smiths Grove 15 Lily 16 Horse Branch 17 Stearns	North Carolina: 1 Bryson City 2 Waynesville 3 Burnsville 4 Morganton 5 Newland 6 Robbinsville 7 Bakersville 8 Mount Airy 9 Lenoir 10 Leicester 11 Ronda 12 Beech Mountain 13 Big Cove 14 Cullowhee 15 Brevard 16 Hendersonville	Virginia: 1 Hurley 2 Maces Spring 3 McClure 4 Nickelsville 5 Wise 6 Sherwood Forest Plantation 7 Guinea
Arkansas: 1 De Valls Bluff	Maryland: 1 Cumberland	Ohio: 1 Dover 2 Steubenville 3 Chillicothe 4 Washington Court House 5 Mentor 6 Painesville 7 Achsabah 8 Greenfield 9 Yellow Springs 10 Ironton 11 Damascus 12 Marshallville	Tennessee: 1 Tiptonville 2 Martin 3 Camden 4 Waverly 5 Trenton 6 Dickson 7 Murfreesboro 8 Shelbyville 9 Winchester 10 McMinnville 11 Cookeville 12 Buffalo 13 Lobelville 14 Linden 15 Puyurn 16 Savannah 17 Monterey 18 Cumberland Gap 19 Bulls Gap 20 Maynardville 21 Dunlap 22 Madisonville 23 Sevierville 24 Rutledge 25 Lawrenceburg
Georgia: 1 Carrollton 2 Dallas 3 Cartersville 4 Flintstone 5 Cumming 6 Dawsonville 7 Cohutta 8 Trion 9 Murrayville 10 Waco	Mississippi: 1 Burnsville 2 Corinth 3 Iuka	Pennsylvania: 1 Indiana 2 Latrobe	
Illinois: 1 Anna 2 Carbondale 3 Brookport	Nebraska: 1 Maxwell 2 Stapleton 3 Tryon 4 St. Paul 5 Wahoo 6 Miller		

Transitional or anomalous areas

Other distinctions:



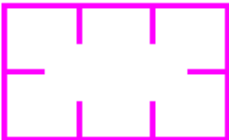
Pin-pen merger:¹
 "Pin" and "pen" are pronounced the same, as are all short e's or i's before n or m. This is primarily a Southern feature, but has spread far beyond the South.



Long o fronting:²
 Indicates how the vowels of "boat", "road", "go", etc. are pronounced, as far as fronting or backing in the mouth. This gradation is mainly from north to south.



R-dropping: (Highfalutin term: "non-rhotic")
 Approximate boundary of areas in which white people drop syllable-final r's. Cities or areas in which only much older speakers do this are marked like this:
 (This map generally does not include information about African American Vernacular English (AAVE), which tends to be independent of other dialects, except occasionally in the Lowland South, its true native area.)



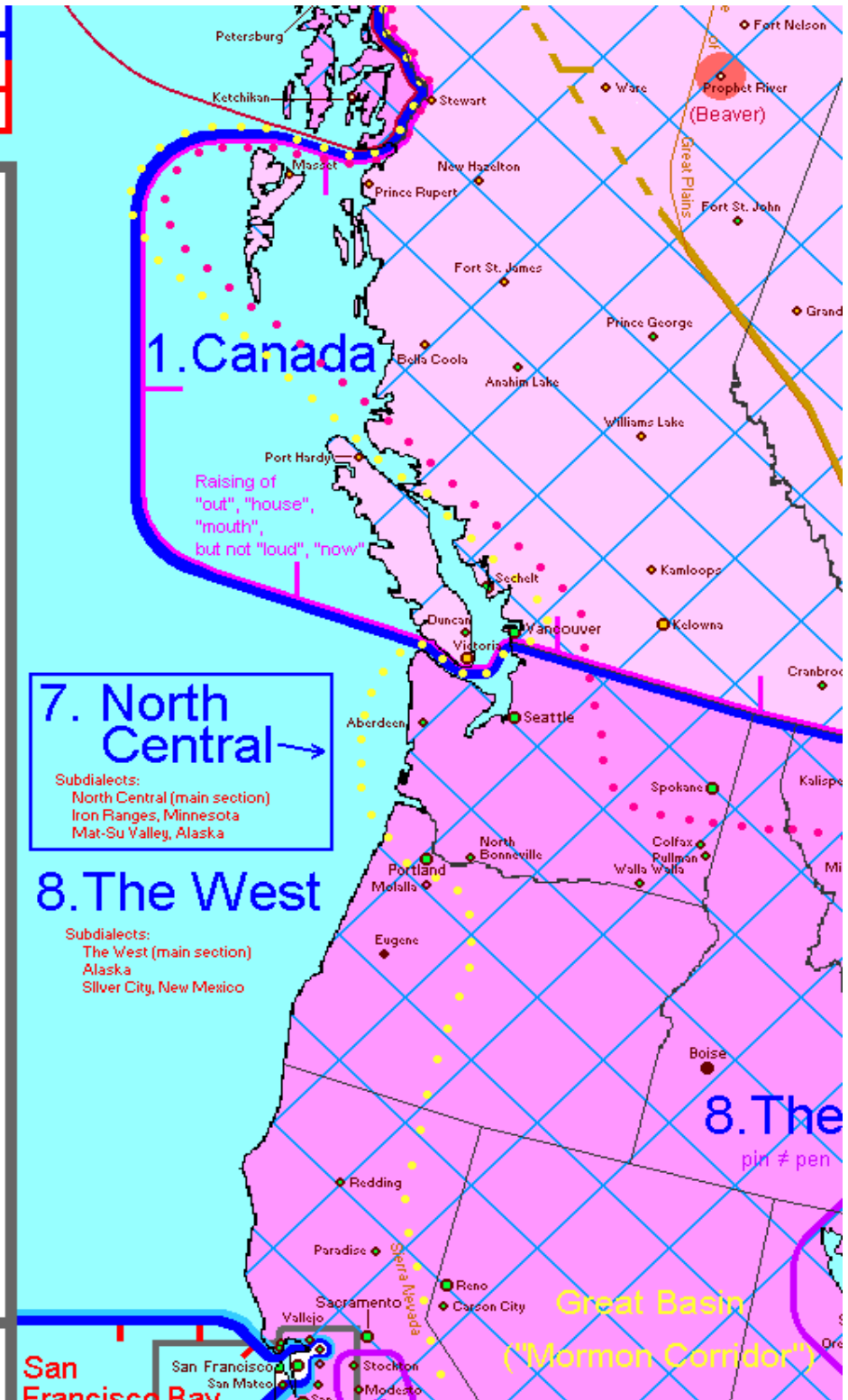
Canadian and Tidewater raising:⁴
 Area in which the vowels of "out" and "house" are raised (i.e. before any voiceless consonant), but not the vowels of "loud" and "now". (Only in Canada and the Tidewater South.)

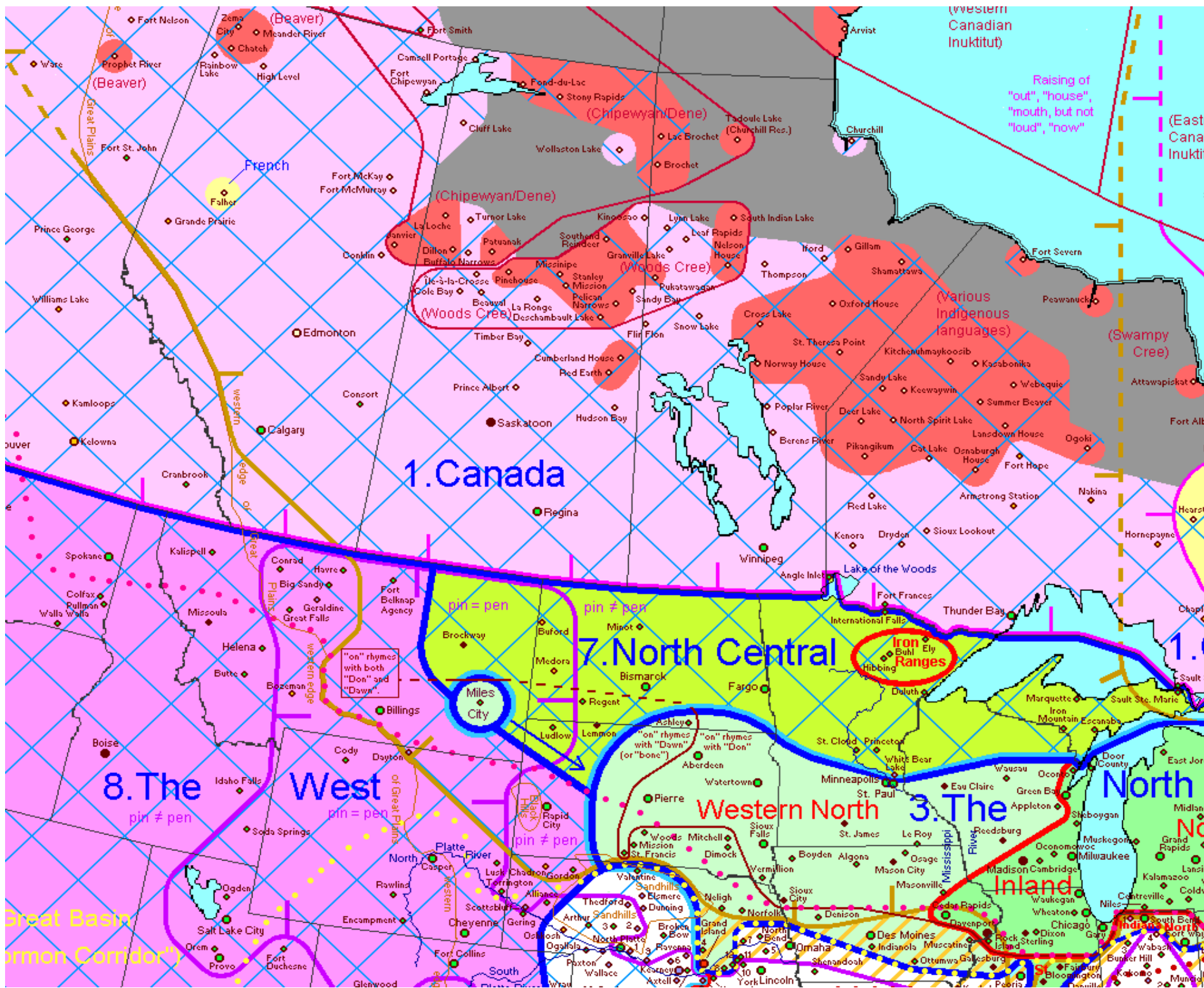


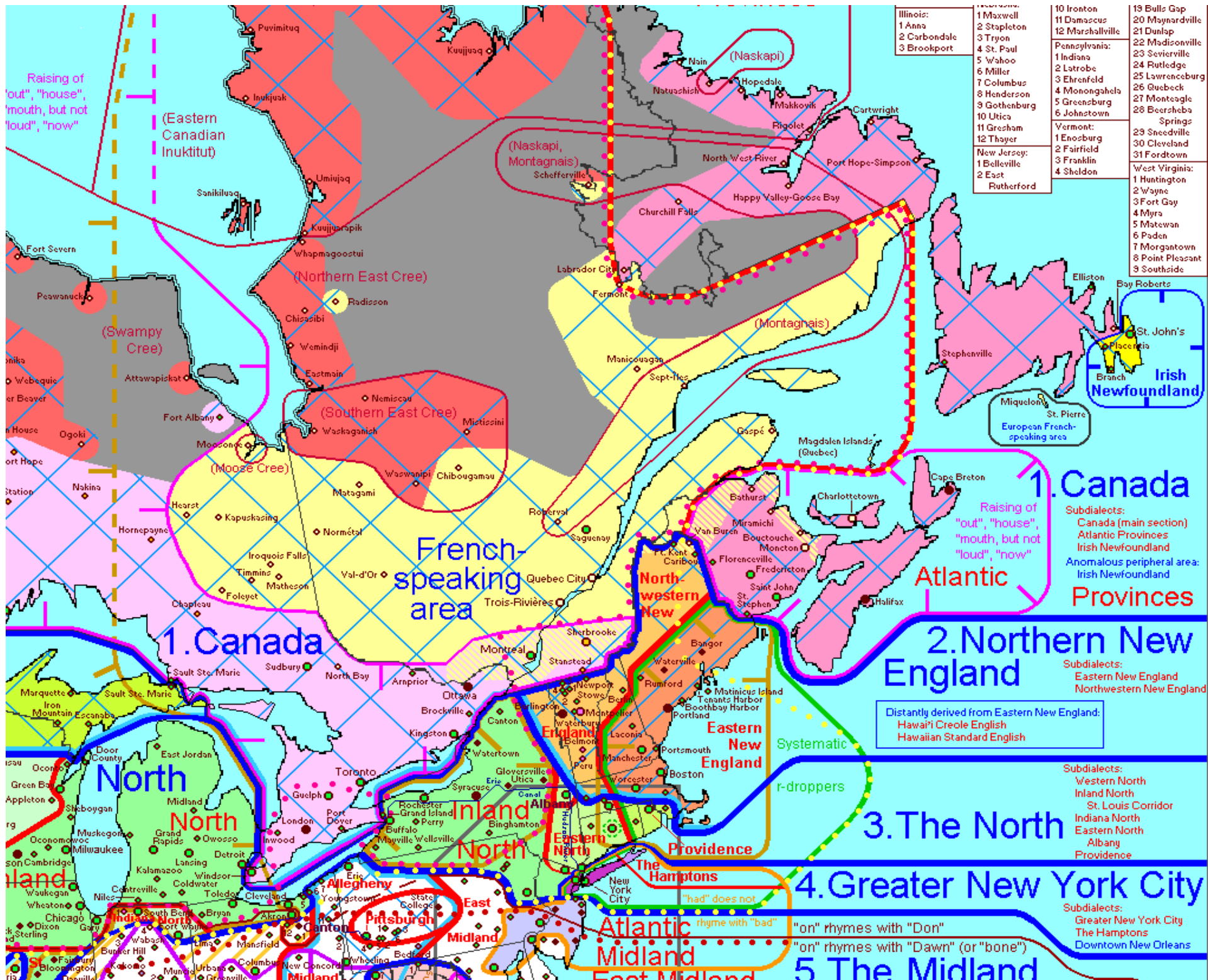
Bite-bout line:⁵
 Area in which the vowels of "bite" and "high" are more fronted than the vowels of "bout" and "how", and the vowels of "toe" and "too" tend to be monophthongs rather than diphthongs.

"On" line:⁶ North of this "on" rhymes with "Don", south of it "on" rhymes with "Dawn" (or, in parts of the South from TX to NC, not yet delineated, with "bone"). In San Francisco and South Florida this north-south pattern is reversed. [In the blue-hatched areas "on" rhymes with both "Don" and "Dawn" (but on the edges of the South "on" may rhyme with "bone" instead), so this line would have no meaning in these areas. Even so, in a few places a dotted line is used to connect two sections of the "on" line across a blue-hatched area.]

Non-English areas:







- Illinois:
 1 Anna
 2 Carbondale
 3 Brookport

- Pennsylvania:
 1 Indiana
 2 Latrobe
 3 Ehrenfeld
 4 Monongahela
 5 Greensburg
 6 Johnstown
 10 Ironton
 11 Damascus
 12 Marshallville

- Vermont:
 1 Enosburg
 2 Fairfield
 3 Franklin
 4 Sheldon

- New Jersey:
 1 Belleville
 2 East Rutherford

- West Virginia:
 1 Huntington
 2 Wayne
 3 Fort Gay
 4 Myra
 5 Matewan
 6 Paden
 7 Morgantown
 8 Point Pleasant
 9 Southside

- Subdialects:
 Canada (main section)
 Atlantic Provinces
 Irish Newfoundland
 Anomalous peripheral area:
 Irish Newfoundland

- Subdialects:
 Eastern New England
 Northwestern New England

- Subdialects:
 Western North
 Inland North
 St. Louis Corridor
 Indiana North
 Eastern North
 Albany
 Providence

- Subdialects:
 Greater New York City
 The Hamptons
 Downtown New Orleans

Raising of "out", "house", "mouth", but not "loud", "now"

(Eastern Canadian Inuktitut)

(Naskapi, Montagnais)

(Naskapi)

(Northern East Cree)

(Swampy Cree)

(Southern East Cree)

(Moose Cree)

French-speaking area

North-western New England

Atlantic

Raising of "out", "house", "mouth", but not "loud", "now"

1. Canada

2. Northern New England

North

Inland North

Eastern New England

3. The North

4. Greater New York City

Atlantic Midland

5. The Midland

Distantly derived from Eastern New England:
 Hawai'i Creole English
 Hawaiian Standard English


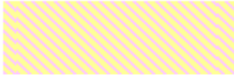
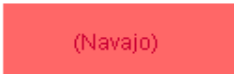


"had" does not rhyme with "bad"

"on" rhymes with "Don"

"on" rhymes with "Dawn" (or "bone")

Systematic r-droppers

Non-English areas:

	Areas where the majority speak a European language other than English
	Same as above, but with a well-established English-speaking minority
	(Navajo) Areas where the majority speak an indigenous language
	(Gwich'in) Areas where a minority, including some children, speak a specific indigenous language
	Unpopulated areas

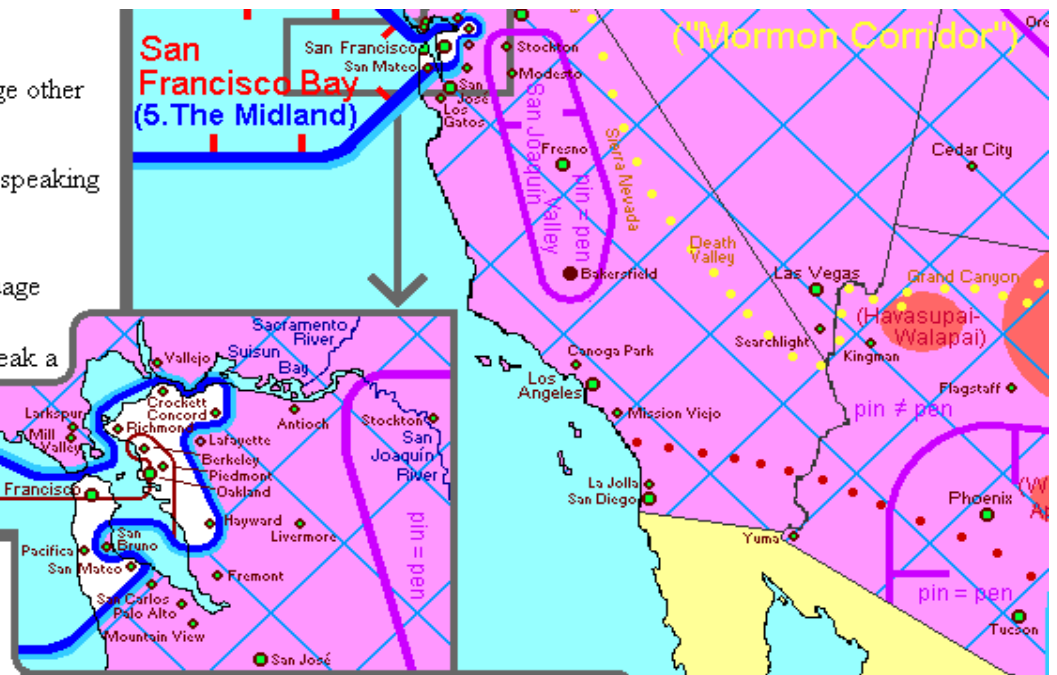
western edge of great plains
Black Hills
Erie Canal
Cumberland Gap
Sandhills
Platte River
Ohio River
etc.

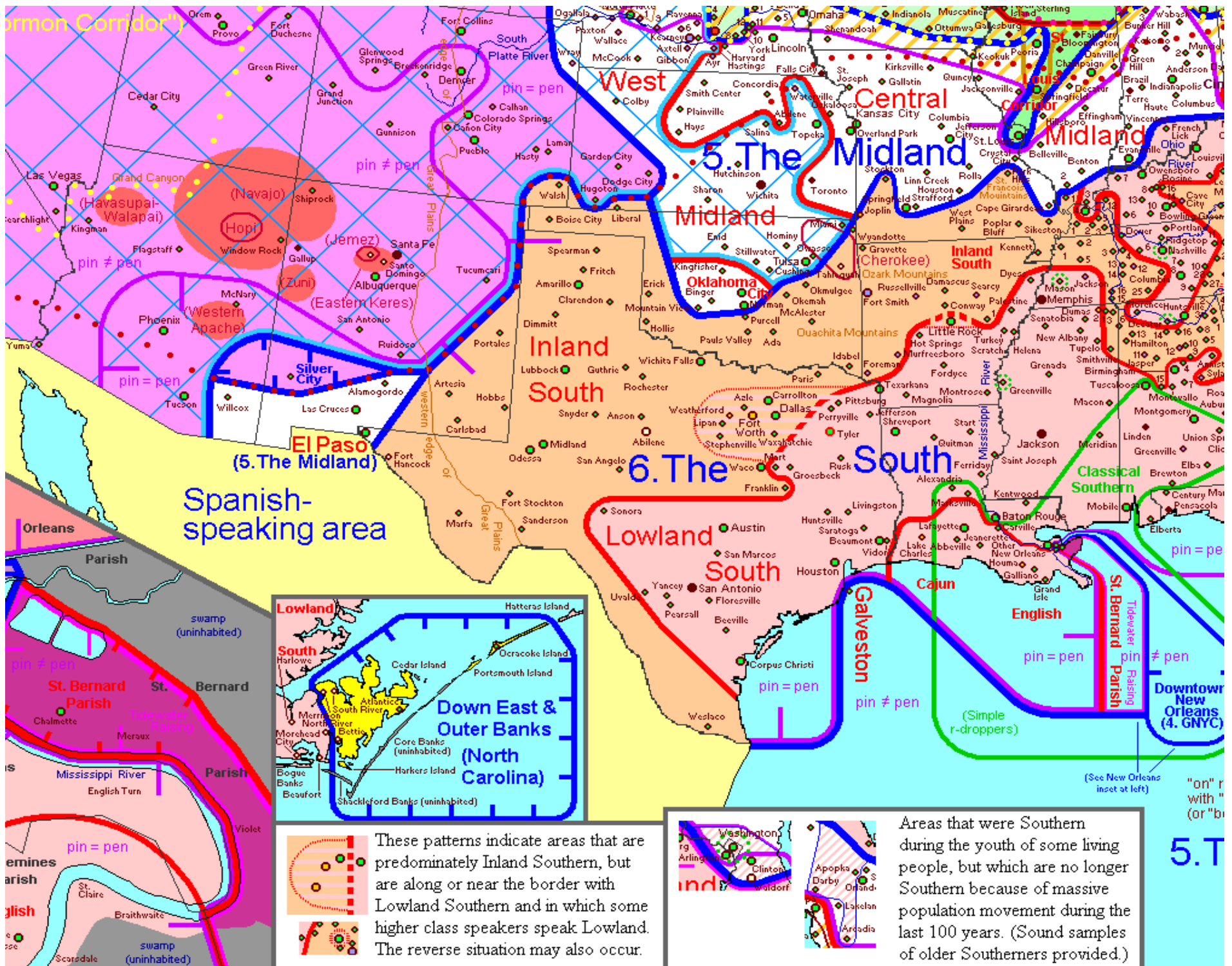
Geographic Features:

Items in these two colors represent geographic features, most of which have some direct correlation to some dialect boundary.

- City shown on the maps in the Atlas of North American English (ANAE), or clearly falling within a particular dialect area, but for which I have not confirmed the information or found an audio sample.
- City with data from Internet audio files for which I am fairly confident that the speaker represents well the native dialect. (Click on a particular state or province to see all of these links.)
- City with data from Internet audio files, but for which I am doubtful about the native area of the speaker, or about how much his speech has been influenced from living elsewhere.
- City for which I have listened to a native to determine his dialect, but do not have an audio file.
- Same as the previous, but this also confirms the conclusions of the ANAE. (Only used occasionally.)
- City whose data was obtained from another source, not as audio files, or which was extrapolated from available data. Often these need further investigation.
- City whose dialect status is unclear, because it is near a dialect boundary and no data (or insufficient data) is available, and which needs to be investigated.
- ◆ (The smaller symbols are for smaller towns, though I have not yet adjusted these for all states and provinces.)

San Francisco Bay
"on" rhymes with "Dawn"
"on" rhymes with "Don"

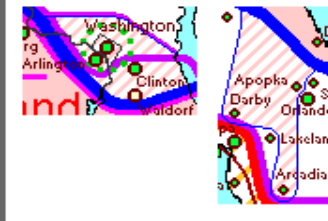




Spanish-speaking area

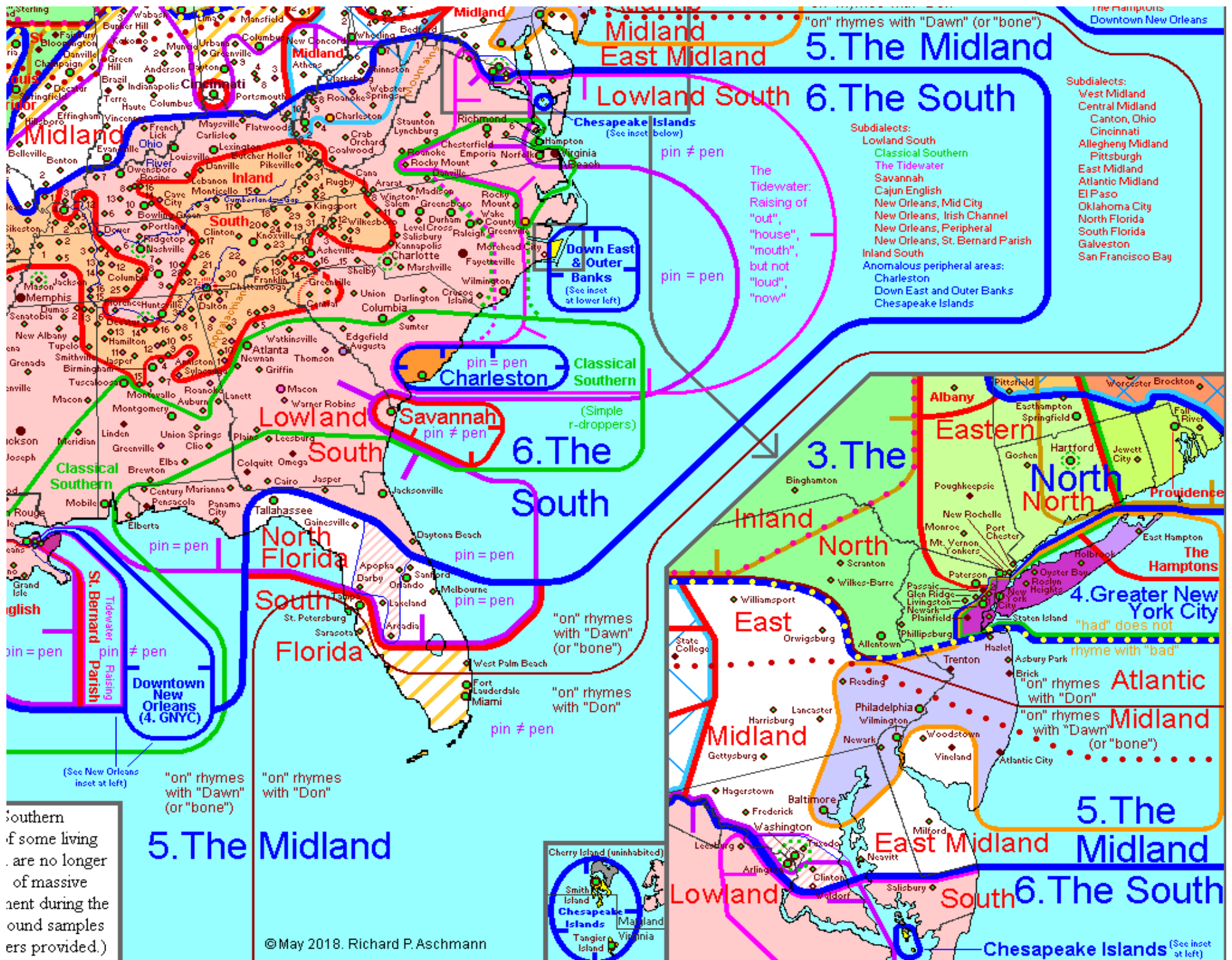
Lowland South
 South Harlowe
 Cedar Island
 Portsmouth Island
 Core Banks (uninhabited)
 Harkers Island
 Shackleford Banks (uninhabited)
Down East & Outer Banks (North Carolina)

These patterns indicate areas that are predominately Inland Southern, but are along or near the border with Lowland Southern and in which some higher class speakers speak Lowland. The reverse situation may also occur.



Areas that were Southern during the youth of some living people, but which are no longer Southern because of massive population movement during the last 100 years. (Sound samples of older Southerners provided.)

5.T



Southern
 of some living
 are no longer
 of massive
 ment during the
 ound samples
 ers provided.)

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This map last updated 2-May-2018.