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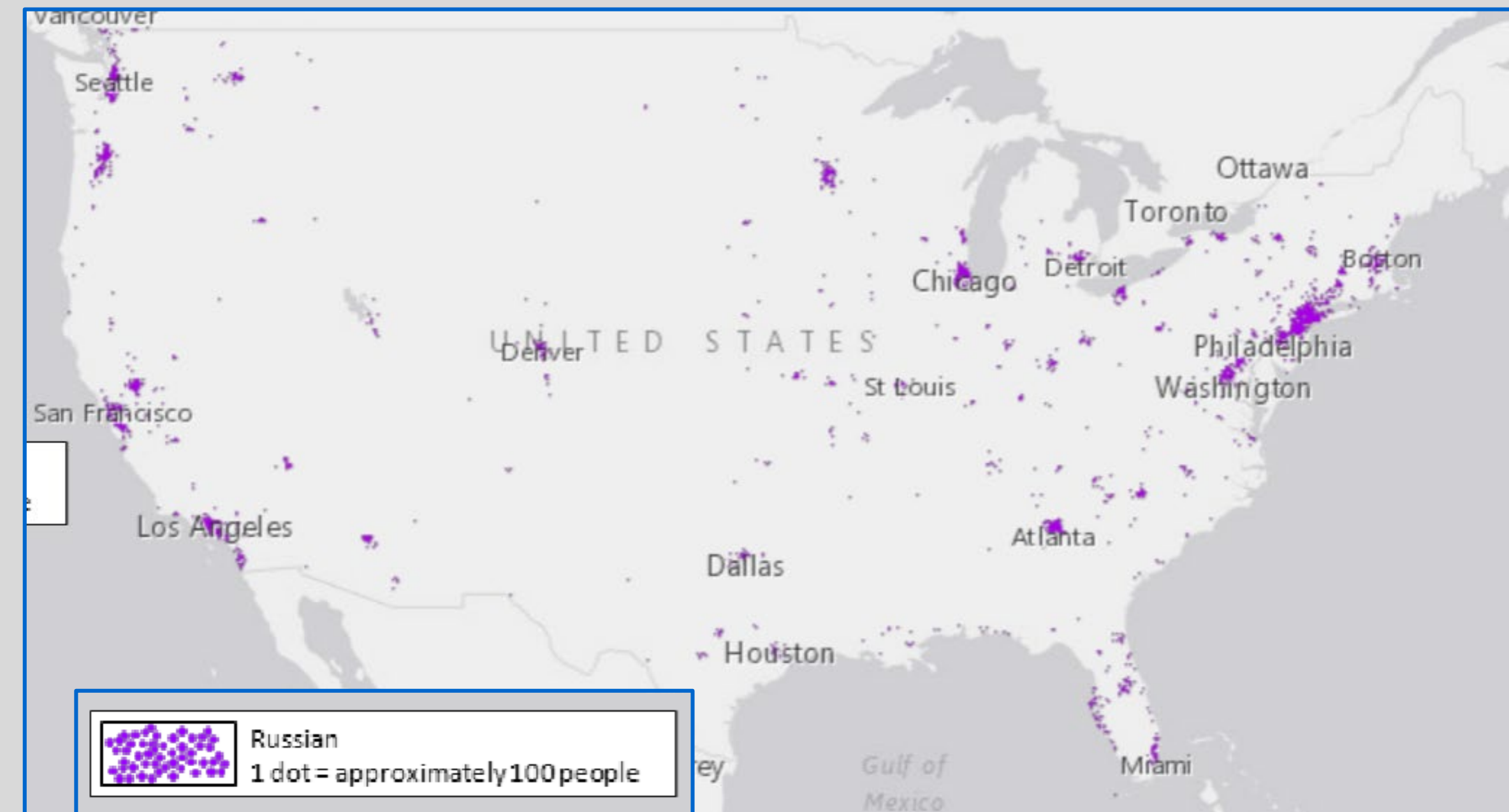
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Figure 1: United States Census Bureau. "2011 Language Mapper." Population density. For Russian, the greatest populations are located along the coasts and near the Great Lakes.



Waves of Russian immigration:

- After 1917 Revolution
 - After WWII
 - 1970s Jewish (Israel or US)
 - 1990s Glasnost (bilingual)
 - (• More recently, brain drain?)
- (Kagan, 2010)

US Census data (2011) has shown a 393% increase in Russian being spoken in American homes since 1980, with just under a million total speakers.

Russian heritage learners desire to communicate with friends and family and to learn about their roots. They are most interested in improving their Russian vocabulary. (Kagan, 2010).

Russian immigrants indicate that they do not learn English due to shame, lack of ESL classes, and "Russian social context." (Hubenthal, 2004)

The US State Department identifies Russian as a critical language and offers scholarships to develop a "pipeline of foreign language and cultural expertise for the US federal government workforce." (NSEP, 2019)

Vocabulary, on a word by word basis, is easy to acquire, but overall takes a long time. (Andersonn, 1998)

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