One key fact about me is that I am a huge nerd, and luckily for me, cartography is oh, so welcoming to that! This map is part of a six-map Lord of the Rings series I did with Rowan Gill for our cartography final in the fall of 2019. We started by scouring the internet for usable shapefiles of Middle Earth (the LOTR universe) and we ended up finding a whole treasure trove of data that others had thoughtfully curated. We spent many hours working with the data in ArcGIS Pro, changing fonts, adjusting colors, adding detailed symbols and labels, generally making sure each map followed the same LOTR aesthetic. One of my favorite things about this map and the others we created is that the longer you look at it, the more you see. This project will always hold a special place in my heart because it shows that mapmaking is really only limited by your own imagination. In this case, I was able to combine work for my degree with my love of fantasy, something I would have a hard time doing outside of GIS and cartography. Also, shout out to Doc Rock for her endless moral and technical support!