Purpose.
1. Create a state-level geographical map of labor productivity.
2. Edit the map by modifying its units, legend, and color.
3. Interpret the information displayed in the map.

Pedagogical Rationale. This assignment requires that you first search for data online, select a particular series, and display it in the form of a geographical map. Next, you will edit the format of the map. Lastly, you will interpret the economic information displayed in the map. These tasks will develop your proficiency in searching for, transforming, and interpreting data.

Grading. Your grade will be determined by (a) how precisely you complete the search and transformation data tasks and (b) how accurately you interpret the data.

Steps to Search for and Transform the Data.
1. Access https://geofred.stlouisfed.org and click on "Build New Map."
2. Click on "Choose Data" and under "Region Type" select "State."
3. Under "Data:" search for "Labor Productivity for Private Nonfarm."
4. Select "Not Seasonally Adjusted, Annual, Index 2007=100," "Units: Percent Change from Year Ago," and "2020" as the date.
5. Click on "EDIT LEGEND" and select from "Interval Method" the option "User Defined."
6. Define the maximum interval values by typing the following values in each interval box:
   - 9
   - 4.5
   - 2.25
   - 0
7. Click on "CHOOSE COLORS" and under "Divergent" select the right-most color scheme (tagged "spectral").

Discussion Prompts. Answer the following questions:
1. Examine the map you created. Name the state with the highest labor productivity growth during 2020. Don't overlook Hawaii and Alaska!
2. Name three states where labor productivity decreased during 2020.
3. Consider the fact that labor productivity directly impacts the long-term standards of living in a country or region. Describe how the different rates of growth in labor productivity across states can result in diverging living standards in the U.S. Use the map you created to provide examples.