

Geography: The Study of the Earth

Core Concepts 1.1- pgs. 4-5

I. Geography- The study of human and nonhuman features of Earth.

A. Two questions geographers try to answer:

1. Where are things located?
2. Why are they there?

II. Directions

A. Cardinal Directions: North, East, South, West

B. Intermediate directions- Lie between cardinal directions. Example:

1. Northwest is halfway between north and west.
2. Southeast is halfway between south and east.

III. Absolute Location- exact place on the Earth's surface.

A. The Earth is a sphere- rounded-shaped body.

B. Geographers have drawn imaginary lines around Earth to locate places.

1. Degrees are units that measure angles.
2. Minutes measure smaller units.
3. Seconds measure even smaller units.

C. Latitude- Imaginary lines that circle the Earth east to west.

1. Equator is halfway between the North and South Poles.
2. The Equator is known as 0-degrees latitude, also written 0° .
3. Latitude is distance north and south of the Equator.
4. Lines of latitude are also called parallels because they never intersect.
5. The half of Earth north of the Equator is the Northern Hemisphere
6. The half of Earth south of the Equator is the Southern Hemisphere

D. Longitude- Imaginary lines that circle the Earth north to south.

1. One special line is the Prime Meridian which passes through Greenwich, England.
2. The Prime Meridian is known as 0-degrees longitude. Also written 0° .
3. Lines of longitude measure distance east and west of the Prime Meridian.
4. The half of Earth east of the Prime Meridian is the Eastern Hemisphere.
5. The half of Earth west of the Prime Meridian is the Western Hemisphere

Things to Think about:

1. How are intermediate directions and cardinal directions different?
2. Which is the most important line of latitude, and why?
3. Why are lines of latitude called parallels?
4. A degree of longitude tells us a place's location based on its relation to what?
5. Identify which hemispheres each continent of the world is located in.