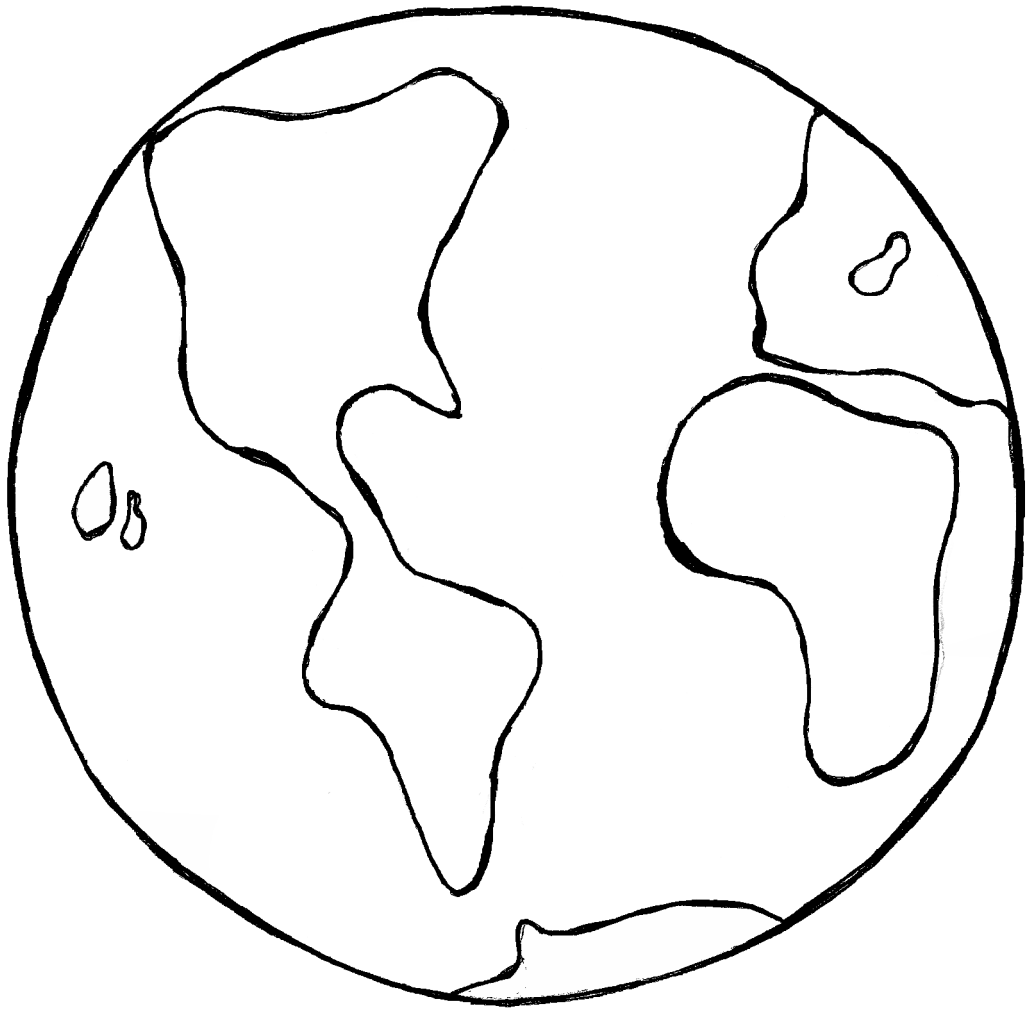


My MAP Unit Workbook



Name: _____

What is a map?

Maps are pictures or representations of the Earth's surface. They show how places are related to each other by distance, direction, and size. Maps are a way of showing a part of the Earth's surface on a flat piece of paper. Maps are flat but they are made to represent an area that is on a sphere, Earth. A person who makes maps is called a cartographer.

The objects on a map are represented using symbols. A symbol is a picture on the map that represents something in the real world. Understanding these symbols requires the use of a key. Maps use a key, or legend, to explain the meaning of each of the symbols used in the map. These keys usually show a small picture of each of the symbols used on the map, along with a written description of the meaning of each of these symbols.

A map includes a compass rose that shows direction. Cardinal Directions are the four base parts on a compass. The top point is called north and the point at the bottom is south. The side points are called east and west. The points in between the cardinal directions are called intermediate directions. These include northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast.

Maps have scales. Maps are scaled down so that they fit on paper. When scaling down a map, every part of the map is scaled by the same amount. This is done to make sure that every object on the map is the same proportion as everything else on the map. Because the Earth is round, and maps are flat, it is impossible to create a map with a perfect scale. Some parts of the map will be too large, while others will be too small.

What is a map?

1. Describe a map: _____

2. What are 4 items that maps have on them to help someone understand them and use them?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

3. What are the 4 Cardinal directions? _____

4. Why is it important for a map to have a scale? _____

5. What is the purpose of a map key or legend?

Different Kinds of Maps

There are many different kinds of maps. One type of map is called a **climate map**. Climate maps give general information about the climate and precipitation (rain and snow) of a region. Cartographers, or mapmakers, use colors to show different climate or precipitation zones.

Another type of map is a **resource map**. An economic or resource map features the major types of natural resources or economic activity in an area. Cartographers use symbols to show the locations of natural resources or economic activities. For example, wheat on a map of Maryland tells you that wheat is grown there.

A third type of map is a **physical map**. Physical Maps illustrate the physical features of an area, such as the mountains, rivers and lakes. The water is usually shown in blue. Colors are used to show relief-differences in land elevations. Green is usually used at lower elevations, and orange or brown show higher elevations.

A fourth type of map is a **political map**. A political map does not show physical features. Instead, they show state and national boundaries and capital and major cities. A capital city is usually marked with a star within a circle.

Questions:

1. What kind of map illustrates the physical features of an area? _____
2. What map would you use to find the precipitation of a given area? _____
3. What map would you use to find the boundary between the U.S. and Canada? _____

Lines of Latitude and Longitude

The lines that run across the grid, the flat lines, are lines of latitude. The Equator is an example of a line of latitude. The Equator is the latitude line that divides Earth into two hemispheres, the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere. The Equator is the 0 point of latitude. Latitude lines North of the Equator are referred to as North latitude; latitude lines South of the Equator are referred to as South latitude.

The lines that run up and down on the grid, the tall lines, are lines of longitude. The lines of longitude are also called *meridians*. The Prime Meridian, which passes through Greenwich, England, is the longitude line that divides Earth into two hemispheres, the eastern hemisphere and the western hemisphere. The Prime Meridian is the 0 point of longitude. Longitude lines East of the Prime Meridian are referred to as East longitude; longitude lines West of the Prime Meridian are referred to as West longitude.

Questions

1. What line of latitude divides the Earth into northern hemisphere and southern hemisphere?

2. What line of longitude passes through Greenwich England and divides the Earth into the eastern and western hemisphere?

Continents and Oceans

The Earth's land is separated into large landmasses called continents. The World Continent map shows seven continents. The continental landmasses are concentrated more in the Northern Hemisphere than in the Southern Hemisphere in terms of area. In terms of area, Asia leads the continents in size, followed by Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia.

Oceans are large bodies of salt water. Around 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by oceans. The largest ocean on Earth is the Pacific Ocean, it covers around 30% of the Earth's surface. The second largest ocean on Earth is the Atlantic Ocean, it covers over 21% of the Earth's surface. The third largest ocean on Earth is the Indian Ocean, it covers around 14% of the Earth's surface. During winter the Arctic Ocean is almost completely covered in sea ice. While some disagree on whether it is an ocean or just part of larger oceans, the Southern Ocean includes the area of water that encircles Antarctica.

Questions

1. Name the 7 continents: _____.

_____, _____, _____, _____

2. Name the 4 oceans: _____,

_____, _____

Credits

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