

Geography Unit

Class Notes on Geography 2005-06

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- **Defined as the Scientific study of the earth.**
- *Geographia* –Greek word for describing the earth.
- **Hemisphere-half of the earth.** Northern and Southern Hemispheres which is Latitude. Eastern and Western Hemisphere which is longitude.

Locations

- **Equator- imaginary line at the center of the Earth, like a belt around your waist.**

Prime Meridian

- **An imaginary line that is vertical at the beginning of longitude, like suspenders.**
- **Latitude- the distance measured in degrees that is either North or South from the Equator.**
- **Longitude- in degrees either East or West from the Prime Meridian.**

Map Projections

- A projection – a way to show the earth on a flat surface or page.

Types of Map Projections

Polar -shows the earth's polar regions as if you are looking from outer-space.

Mercator Projection

-- shows the entire surface on one page, but it distorts areas closest to the poles.

Interrupted

- --shows land in size close to the real size, but it is shaped like an orange that has been peeled and not connected.

Conic

shows one of the hemispheres and is shaped like an ice-cream cone.

Robinson

-- looks like a ball that someone is mashing down on top and bottom (poles) it distorts the polar regions too flat.

Map Title- **the name of the map that usually introduces the theme of the map scale is a map tool used to measure distances.**

Compass Rose

a tool used to explain directions on maps.

Key- a table on a map to explain symbols used

- **Charts and tables- show facts and details in columns or rows.**
- **Graphs- usually use lines, bars, circles, or pie shapes to explain data and information.**

Types of Maps

- **Physical maps- show the types of land (topography), elevation, borders, rivers, lakes, bodies of water, mountains, and sometimes cities.**
- **Political- Maps of Countries, cities, capitals, states, counties.**

- Special purpose- road, natural resources, economy, time zones.
- Cartographer- is a person who draws or makes maps, charts, and graphs.

Land Terms

- Continent- large divisions of land made up of countries. Asia, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, Australia, Africa.
- Country- a political state or area under one government. U.S.A. is a country made of 50 states and the land we own.
- Peninsula- land that sticks out into a body of water but is connected to land on one side. Ex: Florida
- Islands- lands surrounded by water. Ex: Hawaii.
- Isthmus- narrow strip of land connecting two or more larger areas of land.
- Desert- arid, dry region where very little rain falls.

Water Geography

- The Earth is made of nearly 75 % water.

Oceans and Seas

- The largest bodies of water, usually salt water, on earth. Four major ones are: Pacific Ocean (the largest), Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Arctic Ocean.

Rivers

- areas that are part of the natural flow of water from the highest points to the lowest, at or below sea level.

Tributary

- a river, stream, or creek that flows into a larger river.

River Origin

- the beginning point of a river.

River Mouth

- the ending of a river where it flows into a large body of water, also called a Delta.