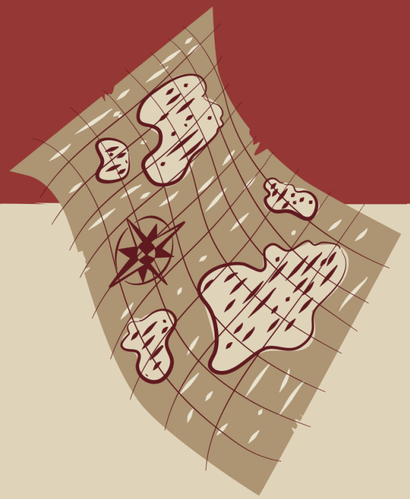
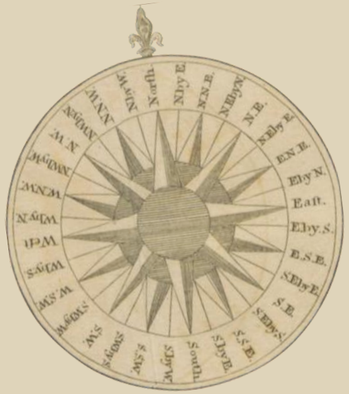


Geography





Map Terms



Teacher Note: These are general terms that may or may not be a part of the standards and students may or may not be responsible for knowing but are often needed as background knowledge or basic academic vocabulary in order for students to fully engage with the content. Please edit and adjust this activity according to the needs of your students.

Geography

the study of Earth's surface: its landscapes, places, and climate (weather over a long period of time); and how that affects its people



Map

a drawing or flat model of all or parts of Earth's surface. It may show features like mountains, rivers, oceans, roads, countries, cities and more.



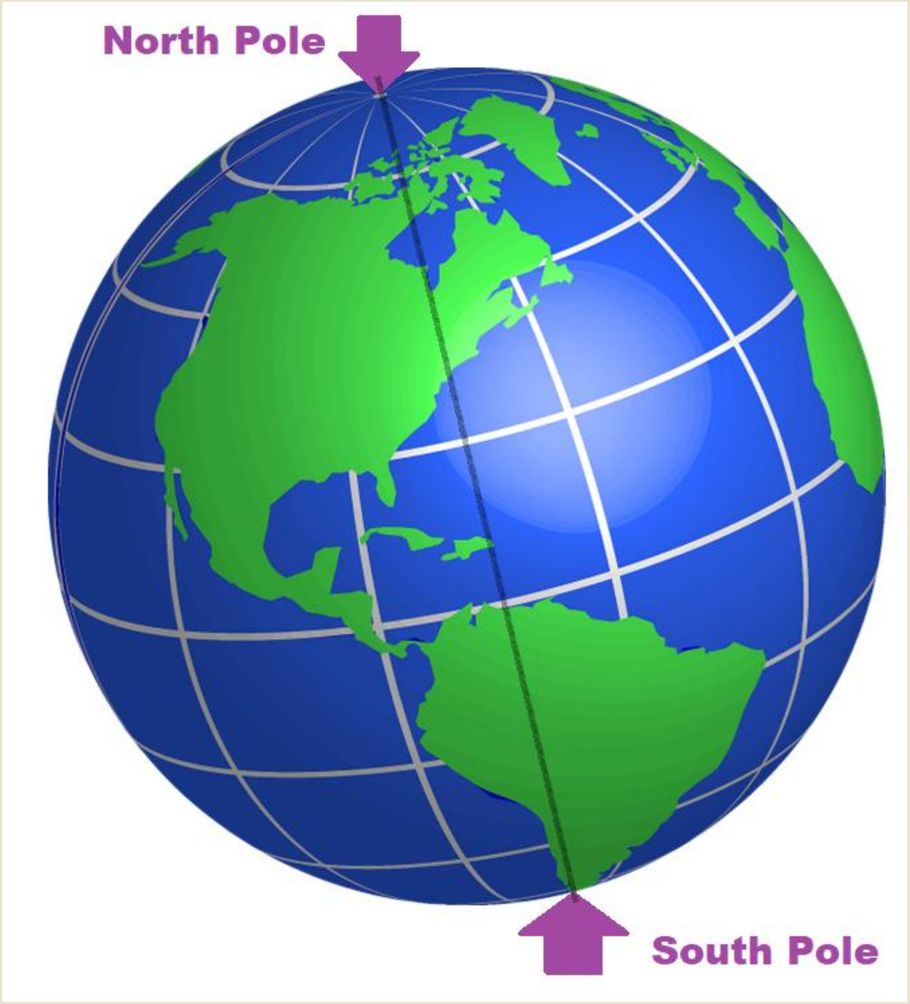
globe

a round, ball-shaped model of Earth – a map of the Earth wrapped around a ball



poles (north and south)

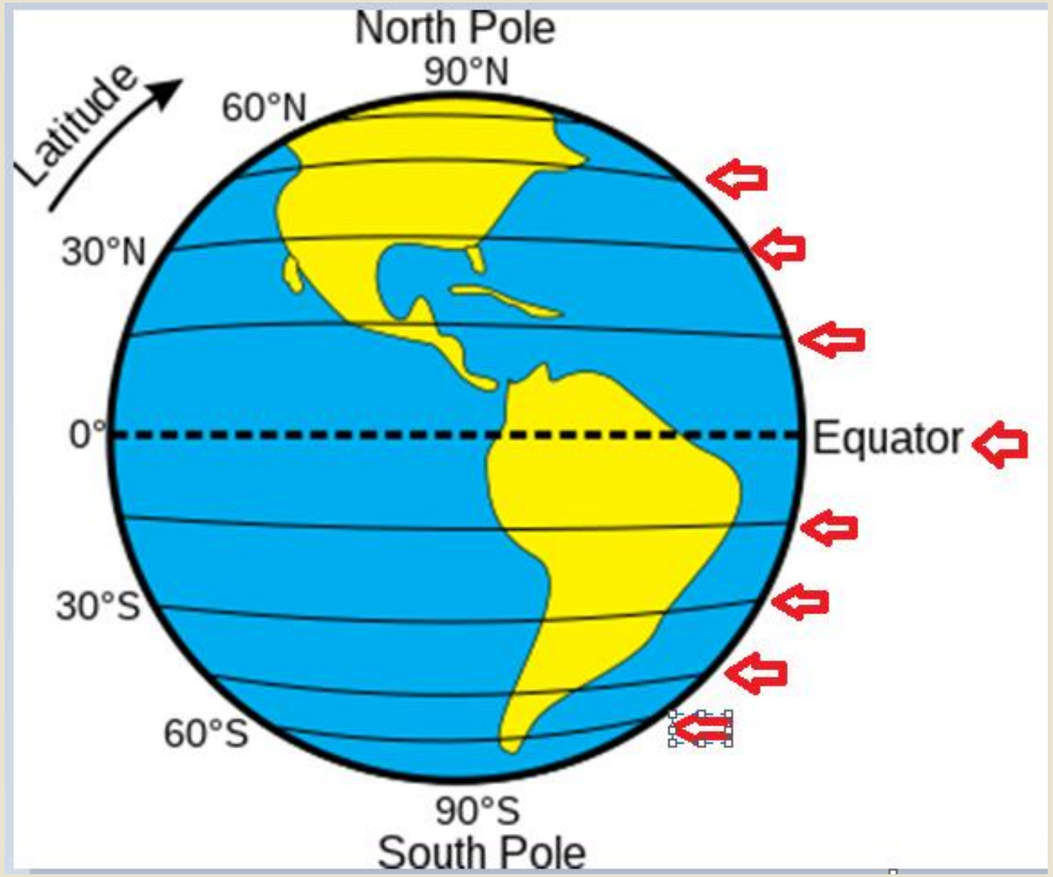
the northern and southern most points on the Earth – if we imagine a stick going through the center of our planet, the north and south poles are the ends where the stick pokes out.



latitude

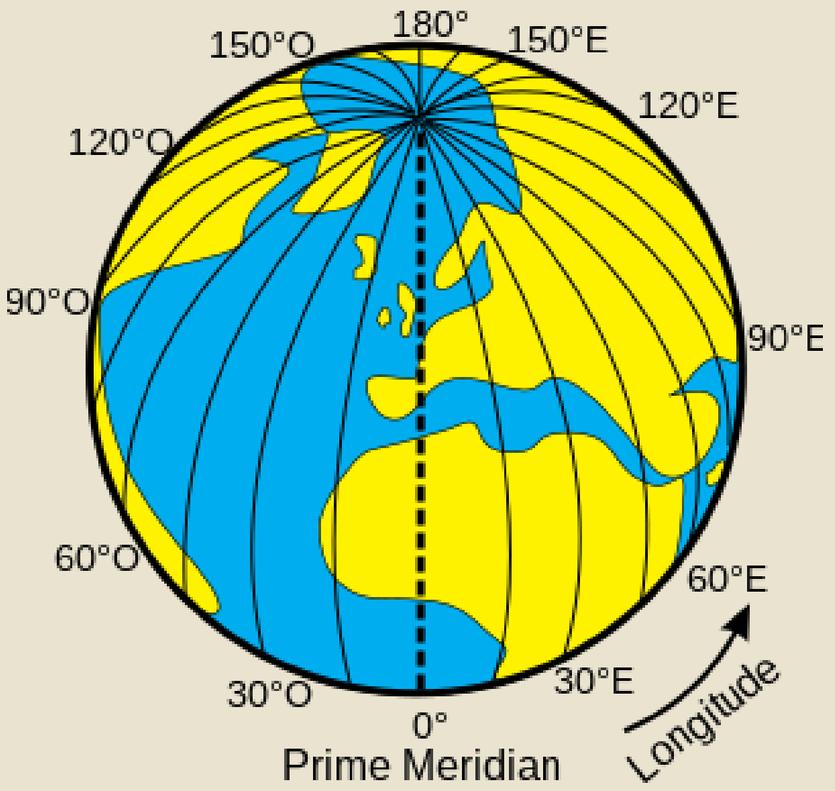
imaginary lines that run horizontally around the Earth that measure the distance north or south of the equator

- My attitude about latitude is that it is “flat”itude.



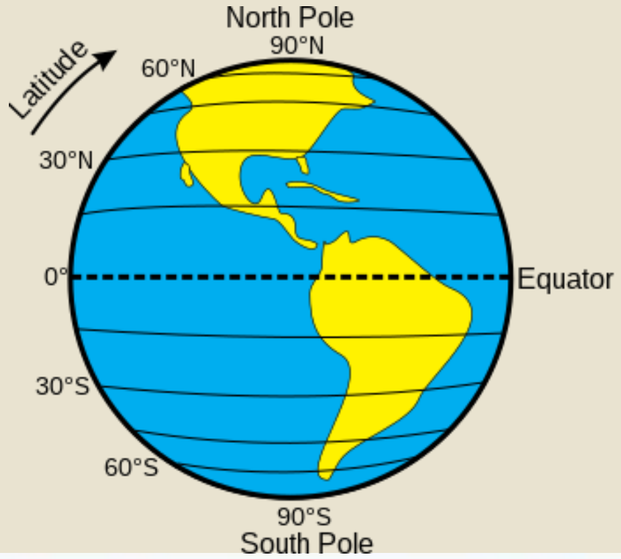
longitude

imaginary lines that run vertically (north to south) and measure distance east or west of the prime meridian (the 0° line)



equator

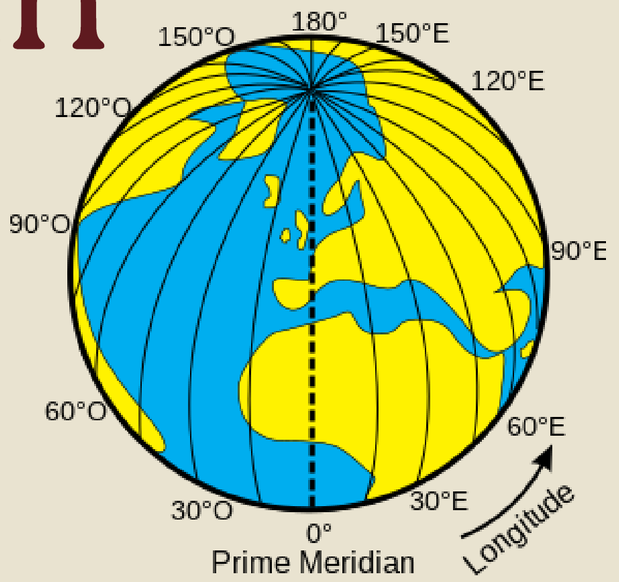
an imaginary line of latitude that goes around the middle of Earth splitting it into the northern and southern hemispheres (half a sphere or ball shape)





prime meridian

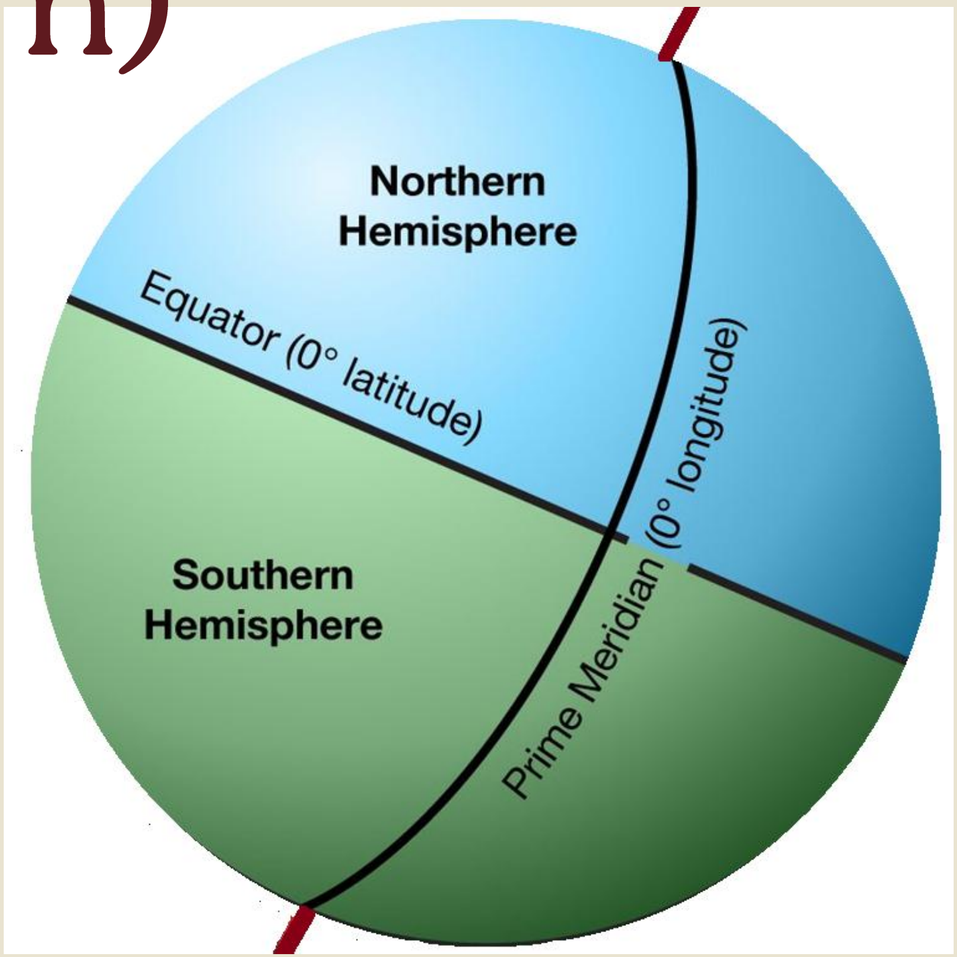
an imaginary line of 0° longitude, the starting point for measuring distance both east and west around Earth





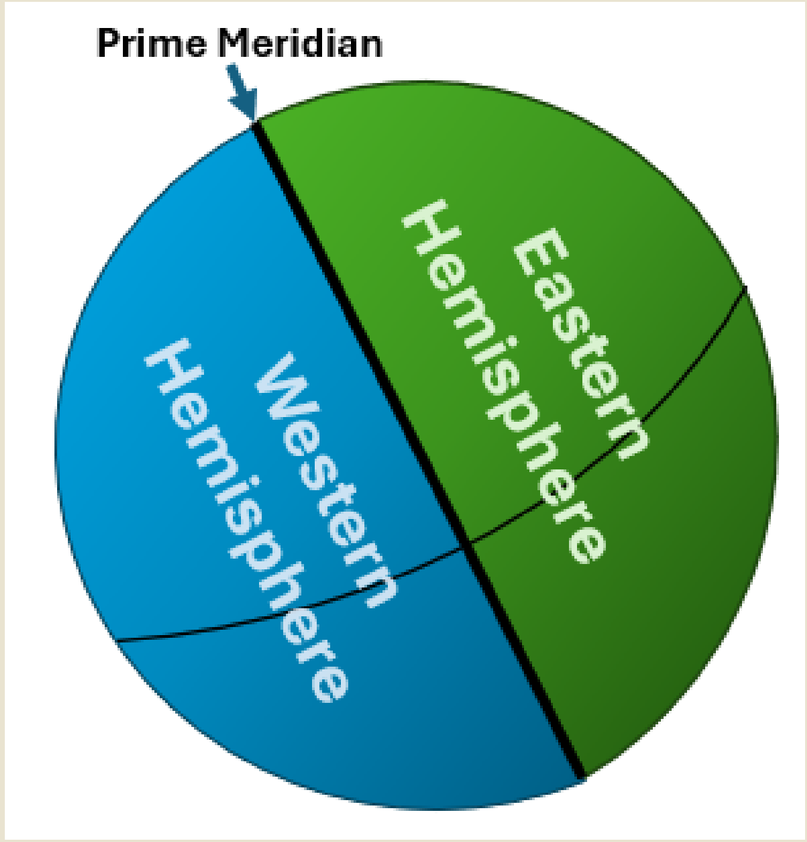
hemisphere (northern and southern)

Hemi means “half” and sphere is a ball or globe shape, so hemisphere means half of a globe or ball. The Equator is an imaginary line that divides our Earth in half horizontally – everything above is the northern hemisphere – everything below is the southern hemisphere.



hemisphere (eastern and western)

The Prime Meridian is an imaginary line that divides Earth vertically or up and down – everything to the east is the Eastern Hemisphere and everything to the west is the Western Hemisphere.



regional map

a map that shows the political boundaries of a specific place and the area around it; may also include cities, roads or landmarks



world map

a map showing the entire Earth or world



physical map

a map that includes the labels for features such as mountain ranges and bodies of water



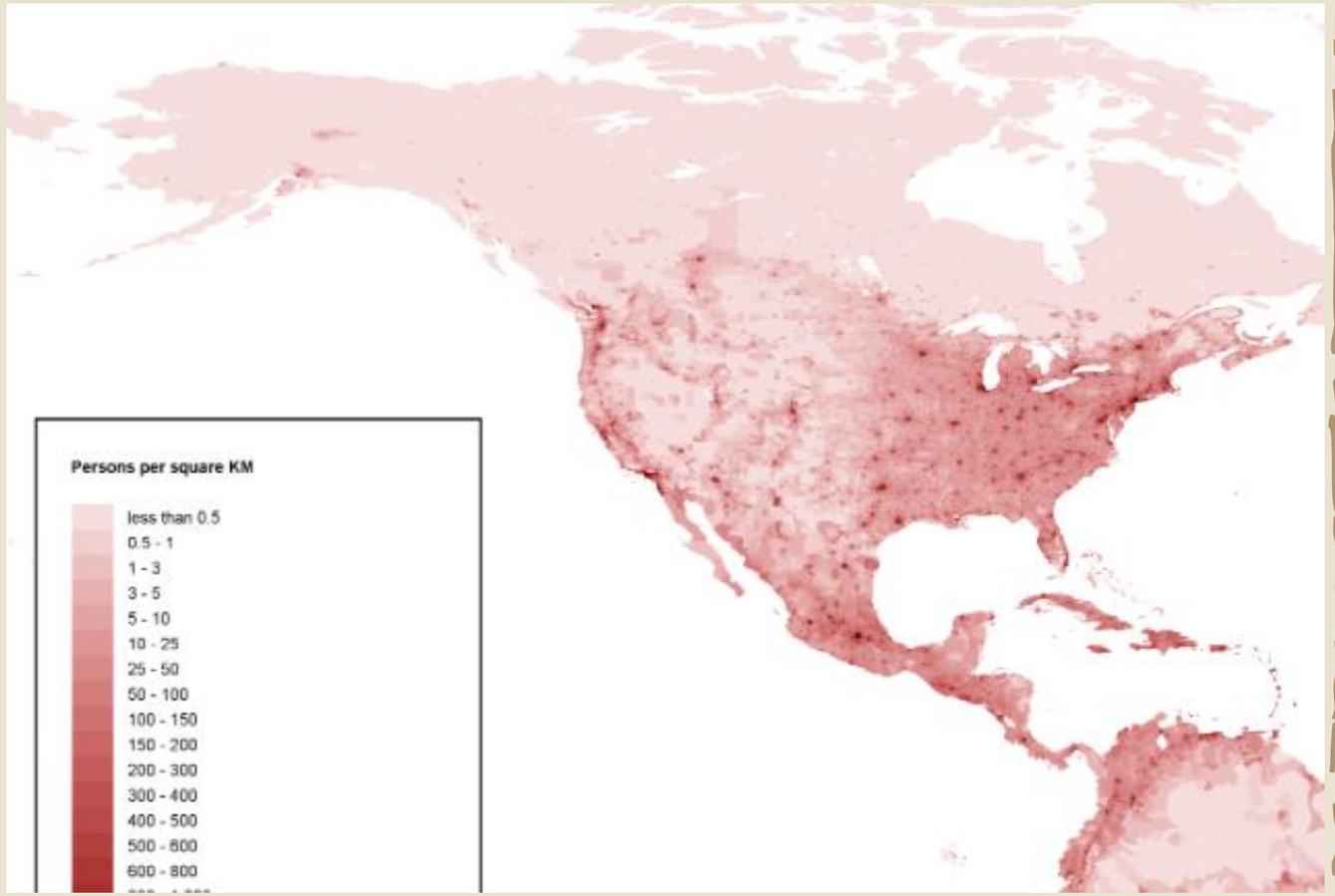
political map

a map that shows man-made or political boundaries; for example, cities, borders between states, counties, or countries, and such.



population map

a map that shows where people live or how many people live in an area



elevation

when a map shows differences in the height of the land, sometimes with lines, sometimes with color, and sometimes with labels



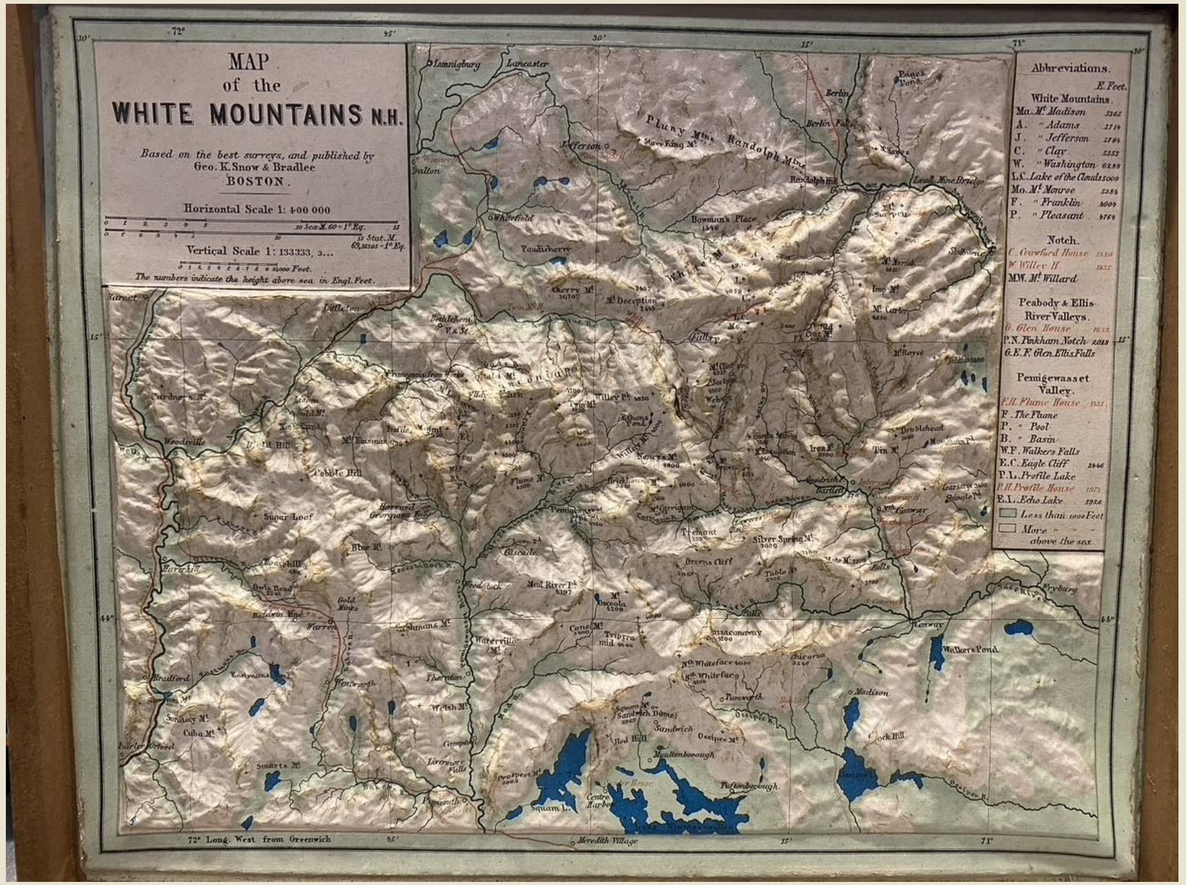
topographical map

a map that shows differences in the height of the land using lines (contour lines) that connect points all at the same height above sea level



relief or raised map

a map with raised areas that show the height of the land in 3D. You can run your fingers over the bumps and ridges to feel the differences in the height of the land.



legend / map key

a graphic or table on a map that uses colors, lines, or symbols to explain or show what things on the map mean



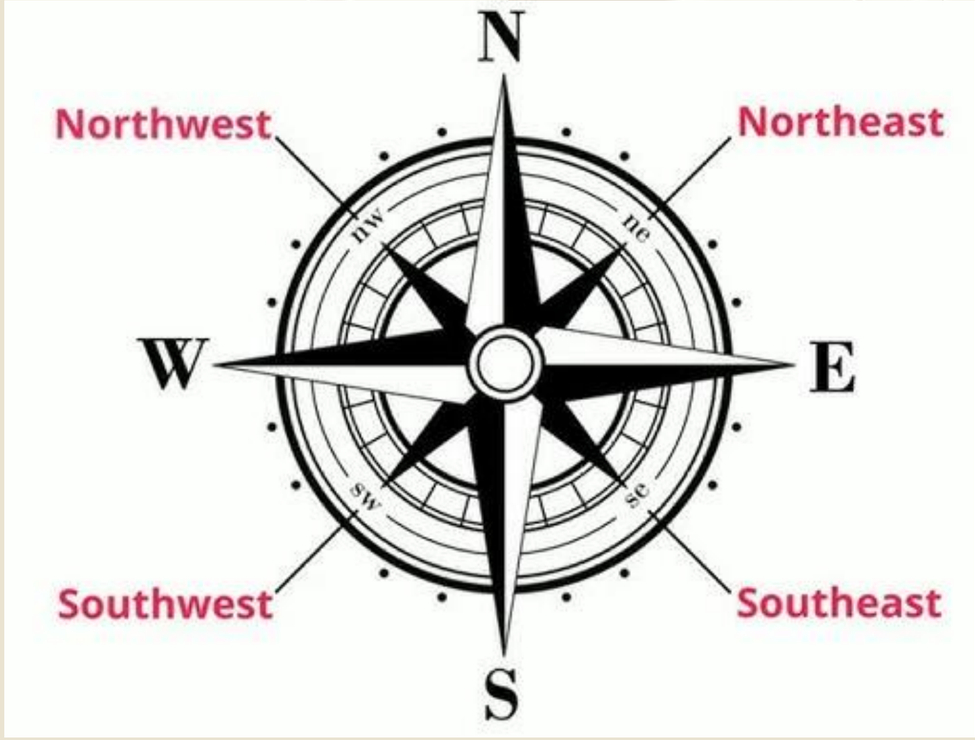
compass

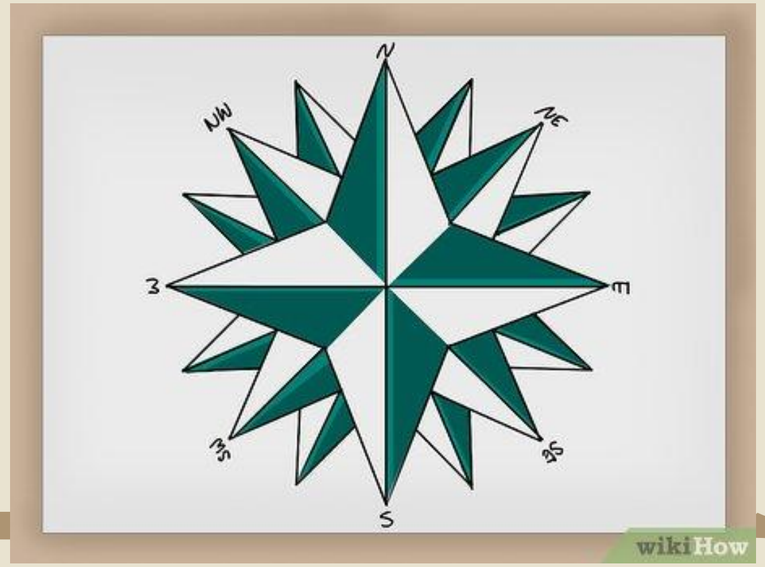
a tool that uses a needle to show direction. The compass needle always points to the north.



compass rose

a symbol or drawing on a map that shows the directions – fancy ones can look like a rose





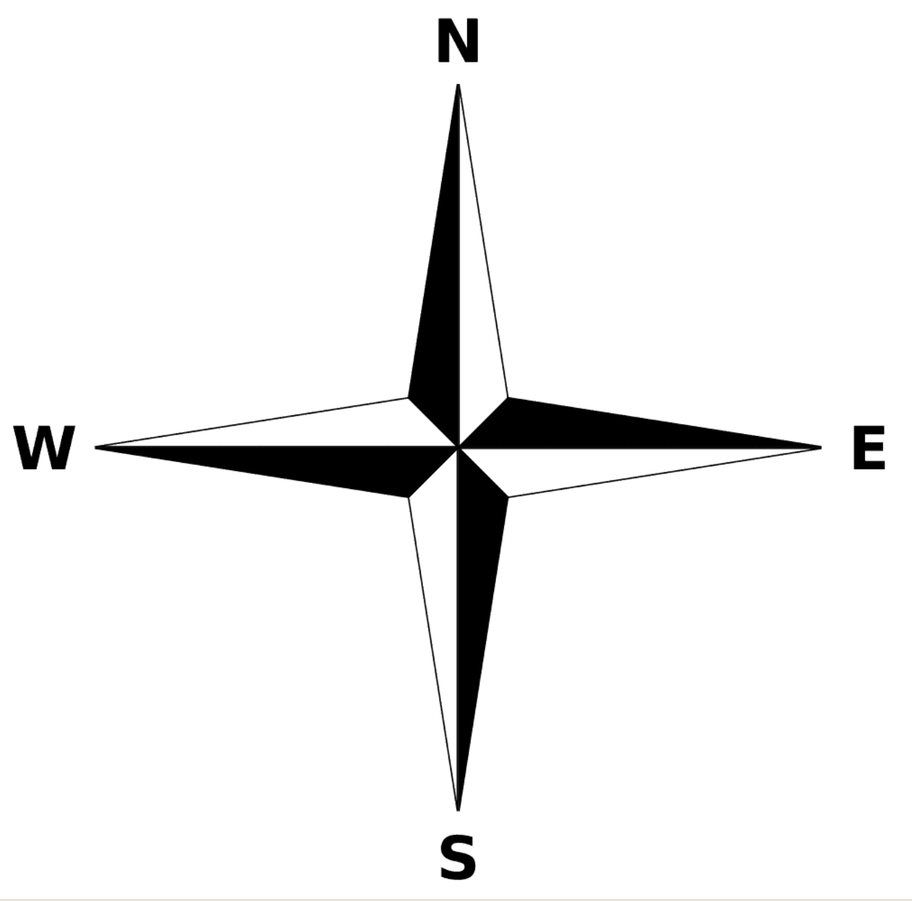
scale

a key that shows what a distance on the map would be in real life. In the scale to the right an inch on the map would measure 200 miles in real life.



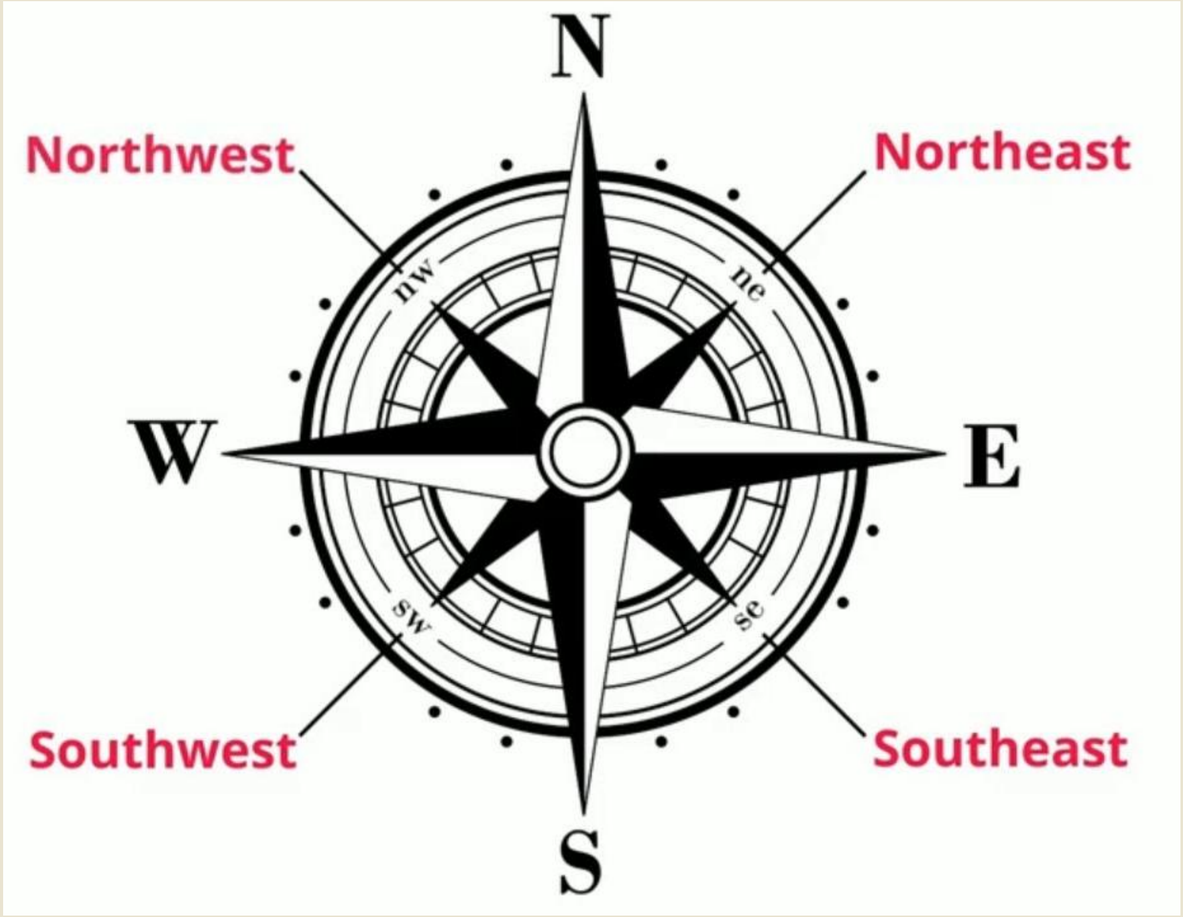
cardinal directions

the main directions (north, east, south, and west) – an easy way to remember the order they go in is to say never eat soggy waffles



intermediate directions

the directions that fall in between the cardinal directions – northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest, and so on (shown in red to the right)



distance

how far away something is from something else



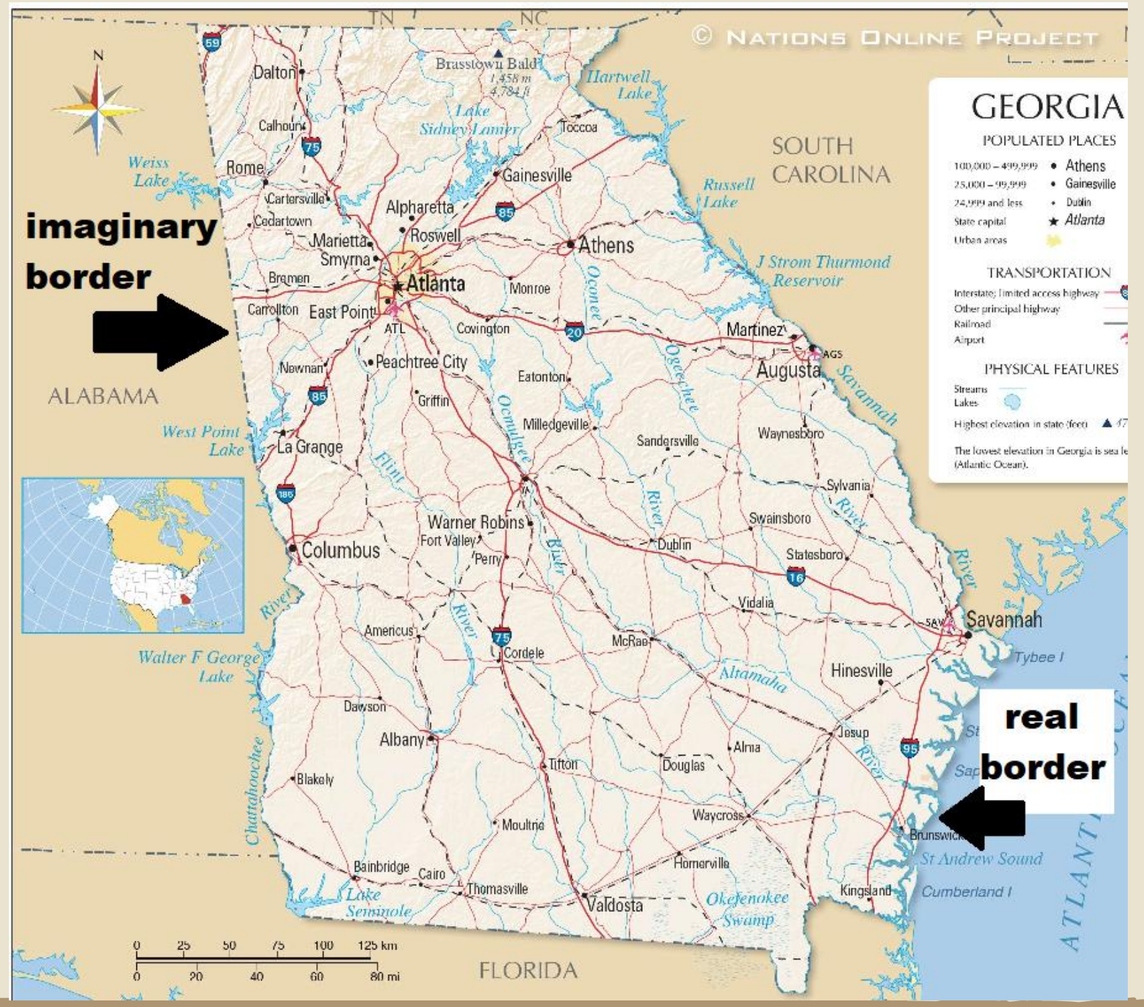
mile

a unit that measures distance – a mile is pretty big – it is about 2,000 steps for an adult



border

a line (imaginary or real) that separates two areas. Many borders on maps are imaginary, but rivers, mountains, and oceans can be real borders



map symbols

a picture or icon on a map that stands for a real thing – for example a picture of a picnic table on a map is a symbol that shows where there are real picnic tables to eat at

