

7th Grade UBD – Unit 1 – Culture and Geography

Exploring Geography

Preview

- **The Study of Geography**- Geography is the study of Earth's surfaces and the processes that shape it.
- **Themes of Geography**- The five themes of geography are location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and regions.
- **Basic Map Components**- Most maps have basic components that help you interpret them.

Key Ideas- The Study of Geography

- Geography is the study of the Earth, our home.
Geographers analyze the Earth from many points of view.
- Through studying geography you will be better able to examine and understand the constantly changing world in which you live.
- Geography comes from a Greek word meaning “writing about” or “describing” the Earth.

Key Term

Geography – The study of Earth's surfaces and the processes that shape it, the connections between people and their environment.



The Study of Geography

- Geography is the study of the Earth. Geographers analyze the Earth from many points of view. They may discuss how far one place is from another. You do this when you tell someone directions. But they also study such things as oceans, plant life, landforms, and people. Geographers study how the Earth works.



The Study of Geography

- Your world changes constantly. It changes as you move from one place to another and do different things. Your world may be the small area where you spend most of your time- for some it's school, favorite hangouts, stores and routes that connect them.



The Study of Geography



- At other times, your world grows to include other places you have visited, read about, or seen on television.
- Sometimes your world is the entire Earth, a planet where different people interact with each other and their environment.

The Study of Geography

- The size and scope of your world constantly change, and so does its character. Each school year takes you into new classroom, where you meet new teachers and students.
- The weather and seasons change. Families move as their sizes change, or as members find new jobs. Some stores close, and new ones open. Over days and weeks and years, your world changes.



The Study of Geography

- Geography allows you to examine and understand the constantly changing world in which you live. Through the study of geography you learn to see your world from many different perspectives.



The Study of Geography



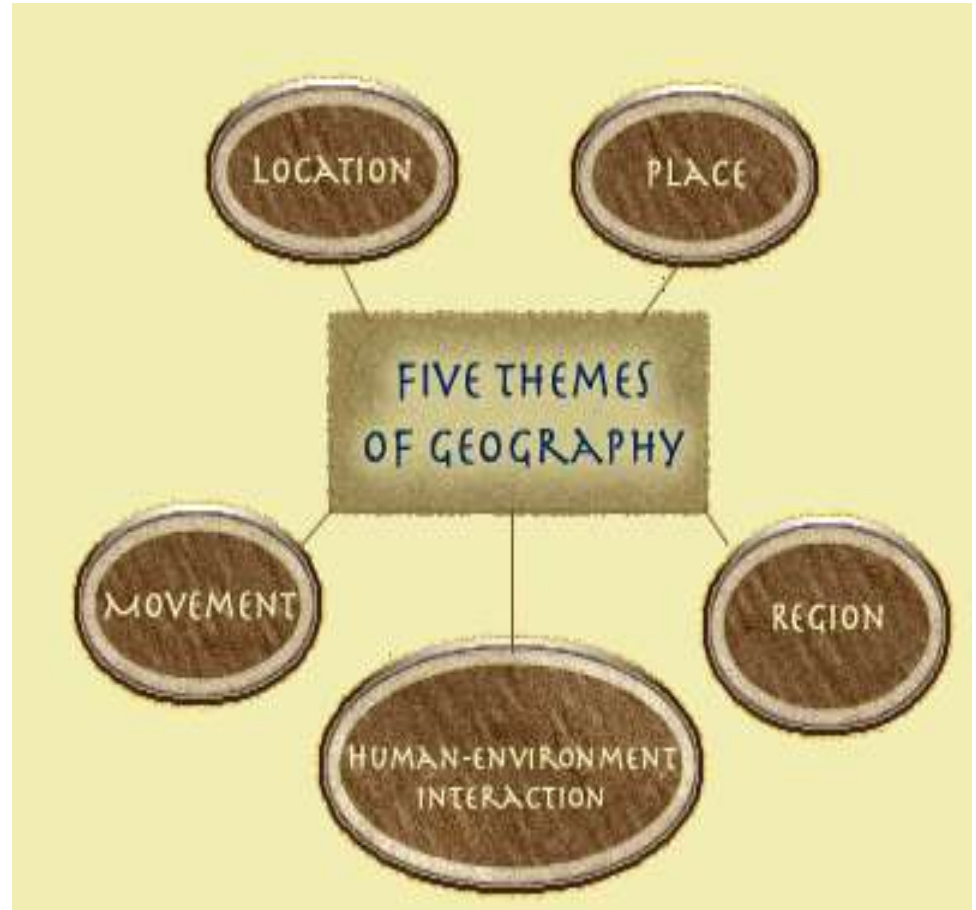
- Geography can help you develop valuable insights about the Earth, its people, and many different relationships between them.
- Geography comes from a Greek word meaning “writing about” or “describing” the Earth. People always have been curious about the world.

Key Ideas- Themes of Geography

- Geographers are guided by two basic questions:
(1) Where are things located? And (2) Why are they there?
- Absolute location can be found by using lines of latitude and longitude.
- Relative location explains where a place is by describing places near it.

Themes of Geography

- In their work, geographers are guided by two basic questions: (1) Where are things located? And (2) Why are they there? To find the answer, geographers use five themes to organize information. These themes are location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and regions.



The Five Themes Of Geography

- Location
- Place
- Human-Environment Interaction
- Movement
- Regions

Location

- Geographers begin to study a place by finding where it is, or its location. There are two ways to talk about location. Absolute location describes a place's exact position on the Earth. You might call absolute location a geographic address.



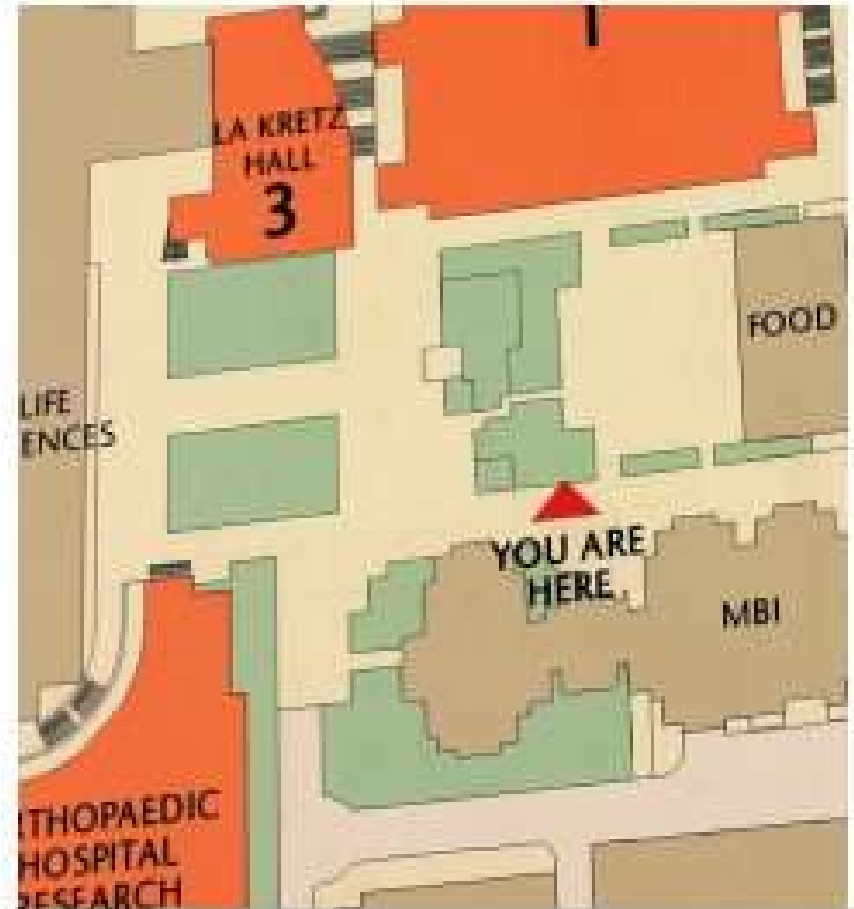
Location

- Geographers identify the absolute location by using two kinds of imaginary lines around the Earth: latitude and longitude. With these lines, they can pinpoint any spot on the Earth.



Location

- Geographers also discuss relative location. This explains where a place is by describing places near it. Suppose you live in Newburg, Indiana. You might give Newburg's relative location by saying: "I live in Newburg, Indiana. It's about 180 miles southwest of Indianapolis."



Place



- Geographers also study place. To describe physical features, you might say the climate is hot or cold. Or you might say that the land is hilly. To emphasize human features, you might talk about how many people live in a place and the kinds of work they do.

Place

■ Human Characteristics

- What are the main languages, customs, and beliefs.
- How many people live, work, and visit a place.



■ Physical Characteristics

- Landforms (mountains, rivers, etc.), climate, vegetation, wildlife, soil, etc.



Human-Environment Interaction

- The theme of interaction stresses how people affect their environment and how their environment affects them.
- Perhaps they deliberately cut trails into the mountainside. Perhaps they have learned how to survive with little water.
- Geographers also use interaction to discuss the consequences of people's actions.



Movement

- The theme of movement helps geographers understand the relationship among places. Movement helps explain how people, goods, and ideas get from one place to another.



Movement



- For example, when people from other countries came to the United States, they brought traditional foods that enriched the American way of life. The theme of movement helps you understand such cultural changes.

Regions

- Geographers use the theme of regions to make comparisons. A region has unifying characteristics such as climate, land, population, or history.
 - **Formal Regions**
 - Regions defined by governmental or administrative boundaries (States, Countries, Cities)
 - Regions defined by similar characteristics (Corn Belt, Rocky Mountain region, Chinatown)
 - **Functional Regions**
 - Regions defined by a function (newspaper service area, cell phone coverage area)

Remembering the Five Themes

If you can't remember what they are
just ask MR. HELP!

M – Movement

R – Regions

HE – Human Environment Interaction

L – Location

P – Place

Questions

1. What are two questions geographers ask when they study the Earth?
2. List the five themes of geography.

Answers

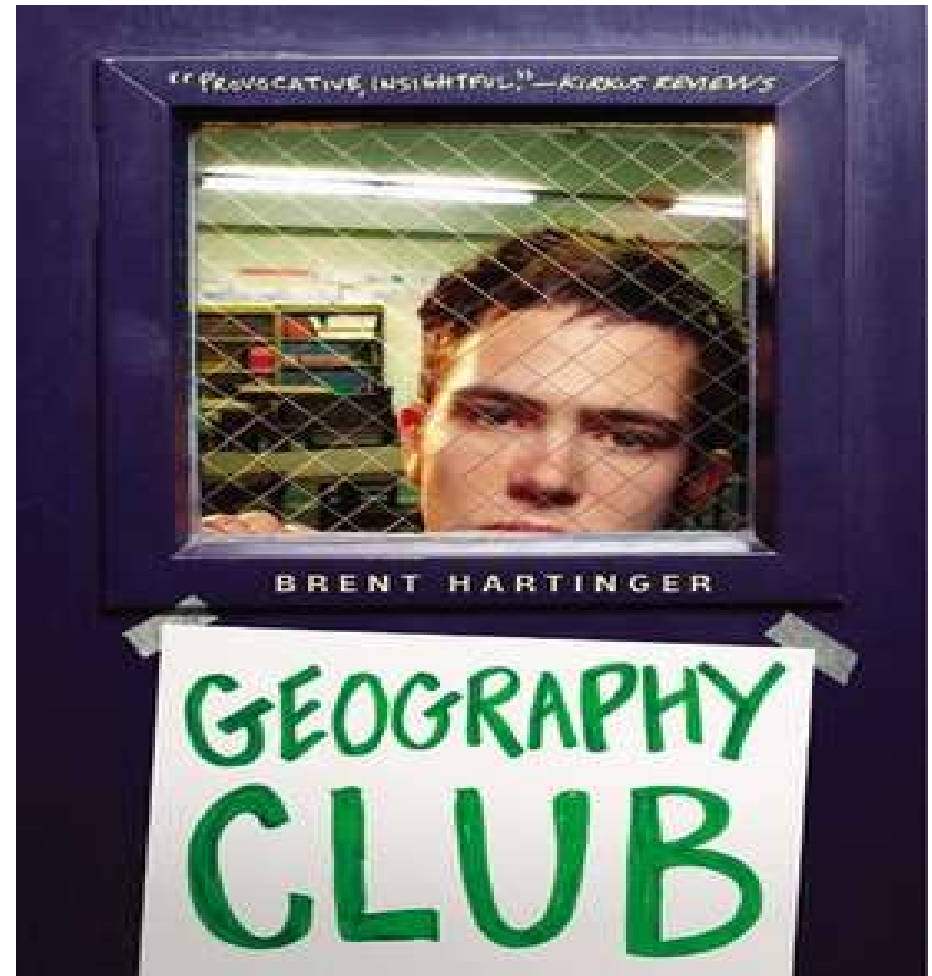
1. What are two questions geographers ask when they study the Earth?
 - Geographers are guided by two basic questions : (1) Where are things located? And (2) Why are they there?
2. List the five themes of geography.
 - The five themes of geography are location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and regions.

The Five Themes of Geography

Video- The Five Themes of Geography

Independent Activity

- You decide to start a geography club. When you invite a friend to join, she tells you she thinks geography is boring. She would rather learn about people, not just places. What could you say to change her mind? Your response should be half a page.



Key Ideas- Basic Map Components

- Most maps have basic map components that help you interpret them.
- As people explored the Earth, they collected information about the shapes and sizes of islands, continents, and bodies of water.

Reach Into Your Background

- Skulls-and-crossbones. Ships with black sails. Cannons. Swords. Treasure maps. That's right, MAPS. These things are all tools in great pirate tales. Maps are also one of the most important tools geographers use. Geographers and movie pirates aren't the only ones who use them. Explain how you might use a map in your own daily life. (5 minutes)



Partner Activity



- Work with a neighbor and compare your answer with theirs. What things are the same and what things are different? (3 minutes)

Basic Map Components

- Most maps have basic map components that help you interpret the contents of the map: a legend or key, a scale, and a directional indicator.
- This was not always the case. Hundreds of years ago, people knew very little about the land and water beyond their own homes. Their maps showed only the areas they traveled.



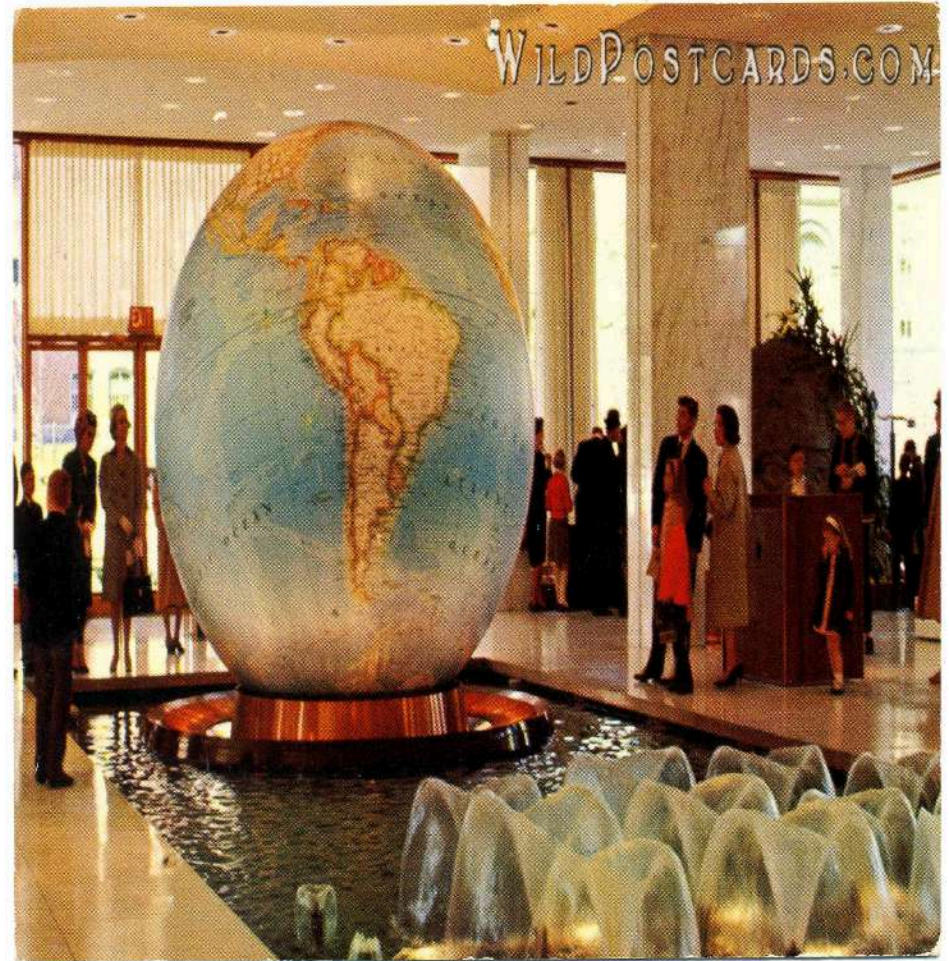
Basic Map Components

- As people explored the Earth, they collected information about the shapes and sizes of islands, continents, and bodies of water.
- Mapmakers wanted to present this information accurately. The best way was to put it on a globe, a round ball like the Earth itself. The only difference would be the scale.



Basic Map Components

- But there is a problem with globes. Try putting a globe in your pocket every morning. A globe just cannot be complete enough to be useful and at the same time be small enough to be convenient. People therefore, invented flat maps.



Key Term

Globe– The study of Earth's surfaces and the processes that shape it, the connections between people and their environment.



Key Term

Compass Rose—

A map feature that usually shows the four cardinal directions.



Key Term

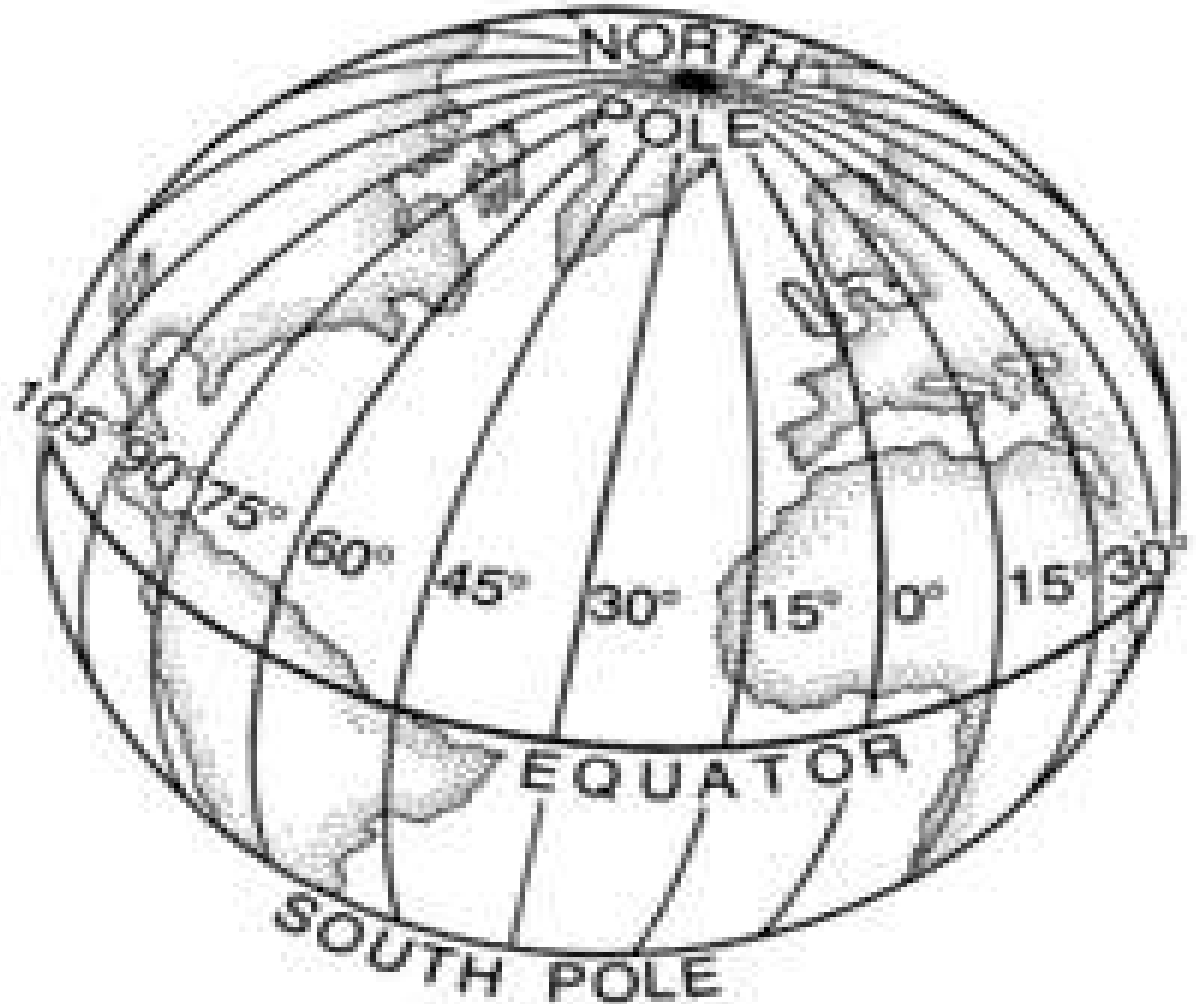
Legend– The legend, or key, tells the user about the symbols used on the map.

Recreational Legend

	Picnic Area		Electricity Available		Canoeing
	Picnic Area w/shelter available		Showers		Camping
	Restrooms		Dogs on Leash ok		Cross Country Skiing
	Playground Area		Boat Landing		Snowmobile Trails
	Baseball Diamond		Fishing		ATV Trails
	Basketball Court		Swimming		Running Water
	Volleyball Court		Horseback Riding		Handicap Accessible
	Tennis Court		Mountain Biking		
	Hiking Trails		Biking		

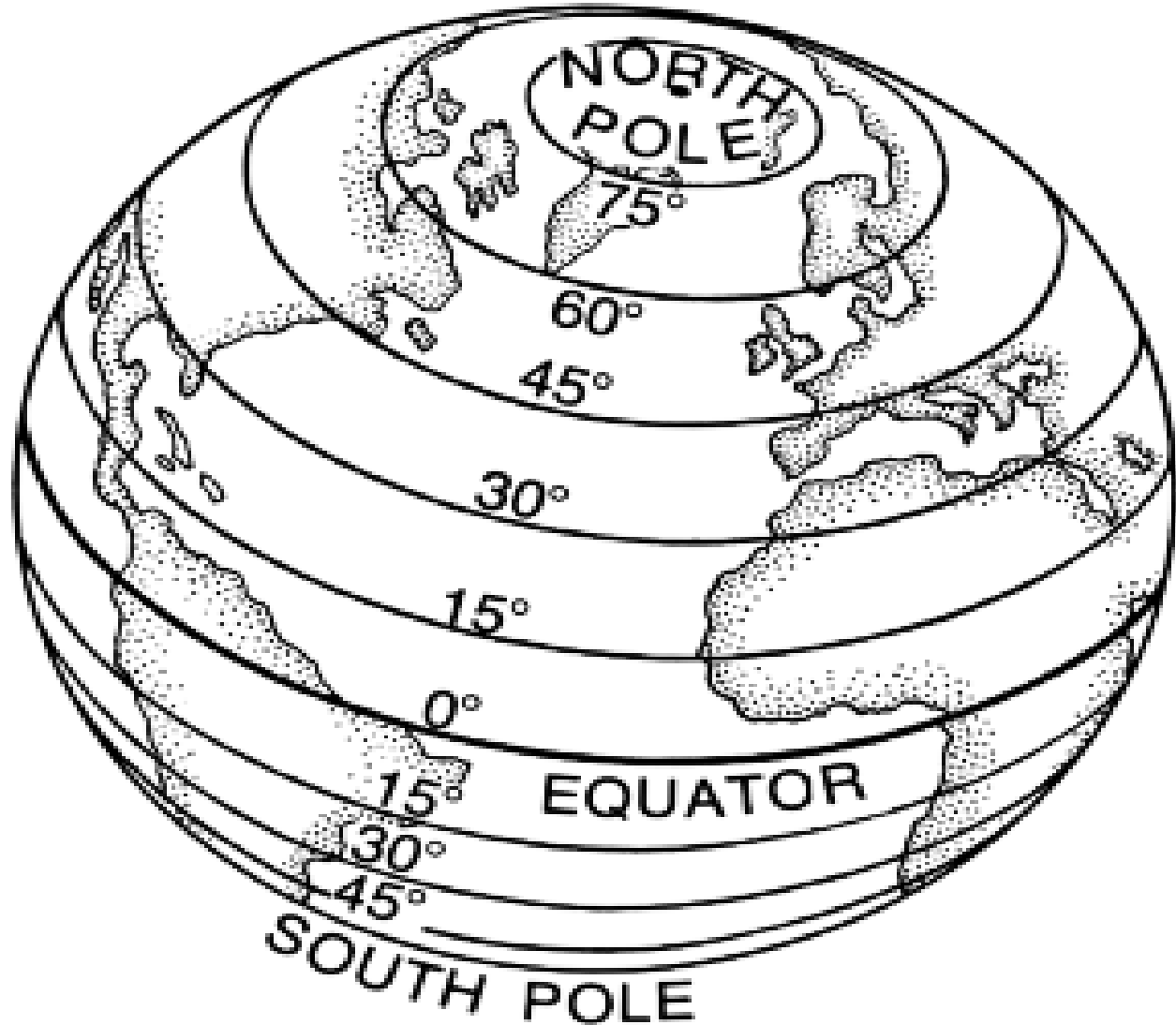
Key Term

Longitude– The series of imaginary that run north and south from one pole to the other.



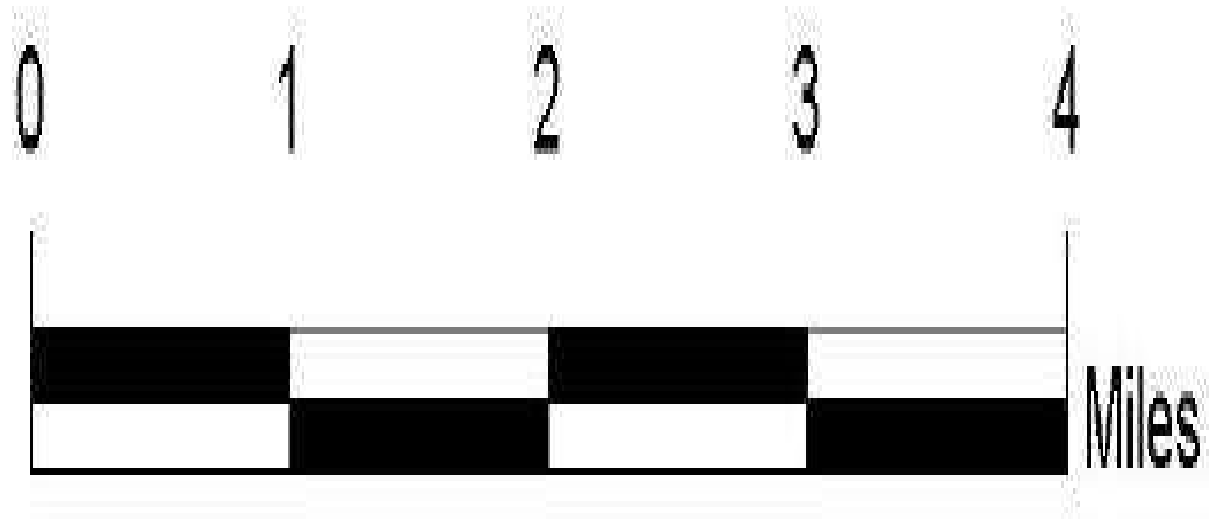
Key Term

Latitude– The series of imaginary lines that circle Earth parallel to the Equator; used to measure distance north or south of the Equator.



Key Term

Scale– A scale tells the user the size of a map in relation to the size of the real world by giving the ratio between distances on the map and actual distances on the Earth.



Questions

1. What does a map scale indicate?
2. What are the four cardinal directions?
3. In what direction do lines of longitude run?

Answers

1. What does a map scale indicate?
 - A map scale indicates the ratio between distances on the map and the actual distances on earth.
2. What are the four cardinal directions?
 - The four cardinal directions are North, South, East, and West.
3. In what direction do lines of longitude run?
 - Lines of longitude run North and South.

Independent Activity

- What has been the “muddiest” point so far in this lesson? That is, what topic remains the least clear to you? (4 minutes)



Partner Activity

- Work with a neighbor and compare your muddiest point with theirs. Compare what things are the same and what things are different? (3 minutes)



Independent Activity

- Think of a place that you like to visit. How would you tell a friend to get there from East Lee? Make some notes about directions and landmarks that you could include on a map. Then make a map that shows your friend how to get there.

