

Chapter 1 Vocabulary

Essential Question: How do geographers show information on maps?

1. absolute location: the precise point where a place is located on Earth
2. relative location: where a place is located in relation to another place
3. distortion: a change in shape, size, or position of a place when it is shown on a map
4. map projections: a way of representing the spherical Earth on a flat surface
5. compass rose: a diagram on a map that shows directions such as north, south, east, and west
6. cardinal directions: the four main directions on a compass rose: north, south, east, and west
7. intermediate directions: the directions on a compass rose that are located between the cardinal directions: northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest
8. map legend: a box or other display on a map that explains the meaning of the symbols used on the map
9. map key: another name for map legend
10. map grid: a system of imaginary lines that divides up the space on a map
11. global grid: the system of imaginary lines (called parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude) used to divide the surface of Earth on maps and globes.
12. parallels of latitude: an imaginary line around Earth that runs parallel to the equator
13. meridians of longitude: an imaginary line that runs between the north and South poles that crosses the equator at right angles
14. prime meridian: the meridian of longitude labeled 0 degrees, from which all other degrees of longitude are measured. The prime meridian passes through Greenwich, England.

15. International Dateline: the meridian of longitude located at 180 degrees. By international agreement, the date is one earlier to the east of this line.
16. coordinates: a set of numbers that together describe the exact location of something, such as a place on the map.
17. hemispheres: one half of a sphere. Earth can be divided into eastern and western hemispheres or into northern and southern hemispheres.
18. landmass: a very large, unbroken area of land
19. revolution: one complete trip by Earth around the sun
20. rotation: the spinning motion of Earth around its axis
21. Tropic of Cancer: the northernmost line of latitude where the sun's rays ever beat straight down. This line marks the northern limit of the tropical zone.
22. Tropic of Capricorn: the southernmost line of latitude where the sun's rays ever beat straight down. This line marks the southern limit of the tropical zone.
23. tropical zones: the area between the equator and the Tropic of Cancer and between the equator and the Tropic of Capricorn, where the climate is generally hot
24. Arctic Circle: the line of latitude at 66 degrees 30 minutes north ($66^{\circ}30'N$) that marks the boundary of the northern polar zone
25. Antarctic Circle: the line of latitude at 66 degrees 30 minutes south ($66^{\circ}30'S$) that marks the boundary of the southern polar zone
26. polar zone: the area Arctic Circle and the North Pole or between the Antarctic Circle and the South Pole, where the climate is generally cold.
27. temperate zones: the area between Earth's tropical zone and polar zone, where the climate is relatively mild