

Summary: Our World's Geography

Looking at Geography

Physical geography tells about Earth's land and water. Earth has four oceans, each with salty water: the Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Indian Ocean, and Pacific Ocean. Earth has seven continents: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.

Where in the World Are You?

Geography can tell us where in the world we are. The equator and the prime meridian are imaginary lines that divide the Earth's surface into four hemispheres. The equator runs around Earth like a belt. It divides Earth into the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere. The prime meridian runs from the North Pole to the South Pole. It divides Earth into the Western Hemisphere and the Eastern Hemisphere.

You can describe where a place is by telling what hemispheres it is in. You can also tell where a place is by describing its absolute location or by describing its relative location.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

geography *noun*, the study of the people and places on Earth

continent *noun*, one of Earth's seven huge landmasses

hemisphere *noun*, one half of Earth

equator *noun*, the imaginary line that divides Earth into the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere

absolute location *noun*, tells exactly where something is in the world

relative location *noun*, tells where something is in relation to something else



After You Read

REVIEW What are the names of Earth's four oceans and seven continents? Circle the answers.

REVIEW Which type of location tells you exactly where you are? Highlight the answer.