

Geography Skills

Four Basic Components of a Map

Component	Description
Title	Purpose of the map
Compass Rose	Shows where the cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west) lie on a map
Legend/Key	Tells the user about the symbols on a map
Scale	Tells the user about the size of the map in relation to the size of the real world by giving the ratio between distances on the map and actual distances on Earth

Latitude vs. Longitude

Latitude (Parallels)	Longitude (Meridians)
✓ Measure distances North or South of the Equator	✓ Measure distances East or West of the Prime Meridian
✓ Equator =	✓ Prime Meridian =

Hemispheres

Northern Hemisphere	Southern Hemisphere	Eastern Hemisphere	Western Hemisphere

Absolute Location vs. Relative Location

Absolute Location	Relative Location
✓ Exact point where something is located on the Earth (latitude and longitude)	✓ Where one place is in relation to another place (north, south, east, and west)

Globe, Mercator Projection, and Robinson Projection

Globe	Mercator Projection	Robinson Projection
✓ Most accurate way to display information about the Earth	✓ Accurate – shapes ✓ Inaccurate – sizes	✓ Accurate – western and eastern edges (size and shape) ✓ Inaccurate – areas near the poles

Types of Maps

Type	Description
Physical	Mountains, lakes, rivers, etc...
Political	State and national boundaries/capital cities
Climate	Temperature, precipitation patterns, etc...
Natural Resources and Economic Activities	Natural resources (iron, coal, etc...)