



Map Skills

WHAT IS IT? A **map** shows an area of land. It shares information about the area to anyone exploring, traveling, or wanting to learn more about the area. A map is different from a globe. Maps are flat and focus on different places or areas. **Globes** are round. They show the world in 3D. A globe is like a small copy of the earth.

Different maps can tell you different things. Some maps show roads. Others show state lines. Others show landforms. Some maps show large areas of land. Others show small areas. The **title** of the map will help you figure out what the map is showing. A political map, for example, will show state borders. A physical map will show landforms, like rivers. A road map will show you major roads.

Objects and places are shown on a map with symbols. **Symbols** are pictures that represent real things. Look for a **map key** in the corner of the map. It will tell you what the symbols mean.

WHICH WAY? There is a special way to read maps. First, you need to read the directions. Most maps have a compass rose. A **compass rose** is a circle that shows directions with labeled arrows. The compass shows that the top of the map is north. It also shows that the bottom is south, the right is east, and the left is west. North, south, east, and west are the **cardinal directions**. Between the cardinal directions are intermediate directions. **Intermediate directions** combine cardinal directions. Northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest are intermediate directions.

FAST FACT: North is always at the top of a map. However, what you see in front of you in real life is not always north. Use a compass to figure out which direction you are facing in real life. A **compass** is a tool with a magnetic needle. It always points north. The earth is one big magnet that makes it point that way!

HOW FAR? Once you figure out directions, you'll need to know how far you're going. You'll find a scale near the compass on a map. A **scale** is a bar. It shows how much space on the map represents in real life. For example, one inch on a map could show one mile in real life.

FAST FACT: There is a quick tip to help you use the scale of a map to measure distance. Grab a sticky note and line the top edge of it against the bottom of the scale. Line the left side of the sticky up to the left side of the scale. Use a pencil to draw a small dash at the top of the sticky where the scale ends. Now, you can move the sticky all over the map to help you figure out distance.

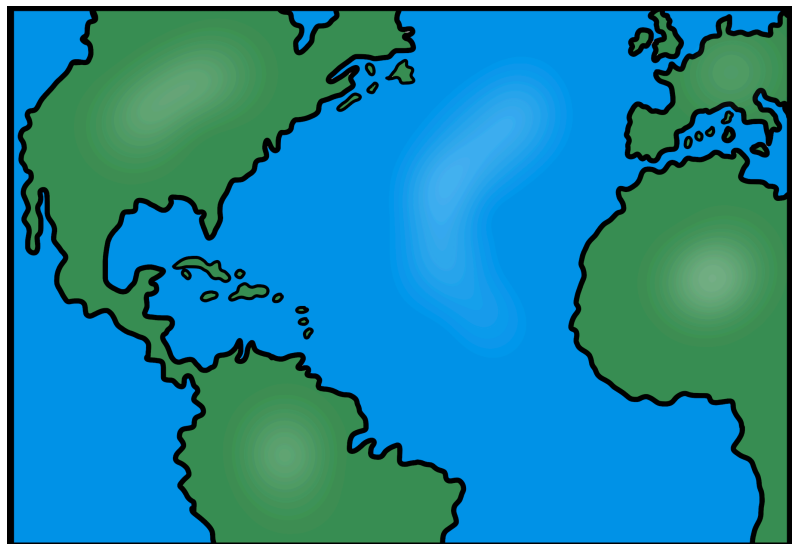
LINES ALL OVER! Most maps include imaginary lines. These lines give readers even more information. They are called longitude and latitude lines. **Latitude** lines run left to right horizontally. They wrap around the map like belts. They tell how far something is located away



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from the equator. The **equator** is another imaginary line. It divides the earth exactly in half across the middle. **Longitude** lines run top to bottom vertically. They tell how far something is located to the left or to the right.

Longitude and latitude lines are measured in degrees. The most important latitude line is the equator. It is labeled 0° . Latitude lines are labeled north and south. Longitude lines are labeled east and west. The **Greenwich meridian** is the most important longitude line. It separates east and west longitude lines. It is also labeled 0° .





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Objects and places are shown on a map with **symbols**, or pictures that represent something real. Look for a **map key** in the corner of the map. It will tell you what each symbol or color stands for.

WHICH WAY? Maps aren't just pictures. There is a special way to read them. You first need to know how to read direction. Maps tell you which direction different places are in. Almost all maps include a **compass rose**, which is a circle that shows directions by labeling arrows. The compass reminds you that the top of the map is north, the bottom is south, the right is east, and the left is west. North, south, east, and west are called the **cardinal directions**. In-between each cardinal direction are intermediate directions. **Intermediate directions** combine cardinal directions. Northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest are intermediate directions.

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HOW FAR? Once you know which direction you're traveling in, you'll need to know how far you're going. What distance do you need to travel? Near the compass rose, you'll find a scale. A **scale** is a bar that shows you how much space on the map represents a certain distance in real life. For example, one inch on a map might represent one mile in real life.

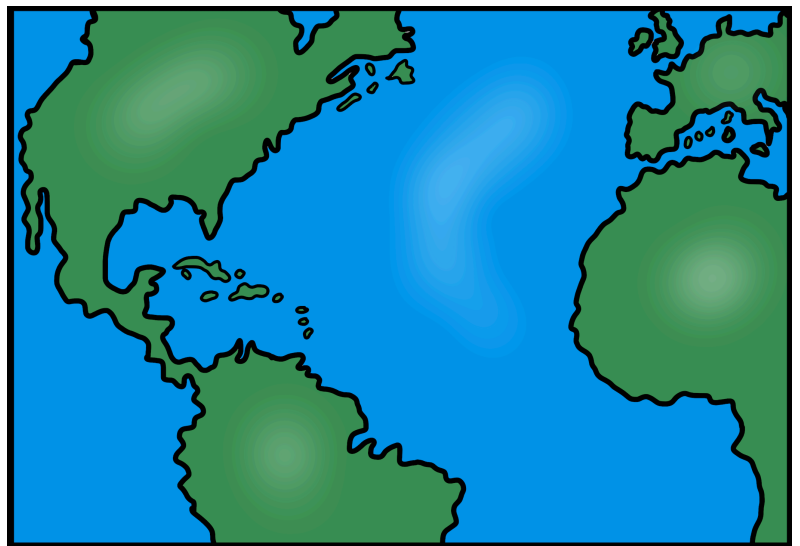
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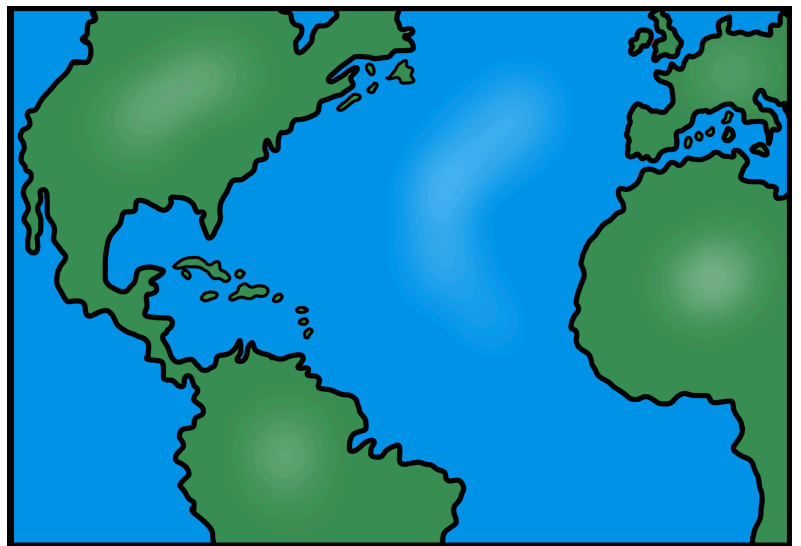
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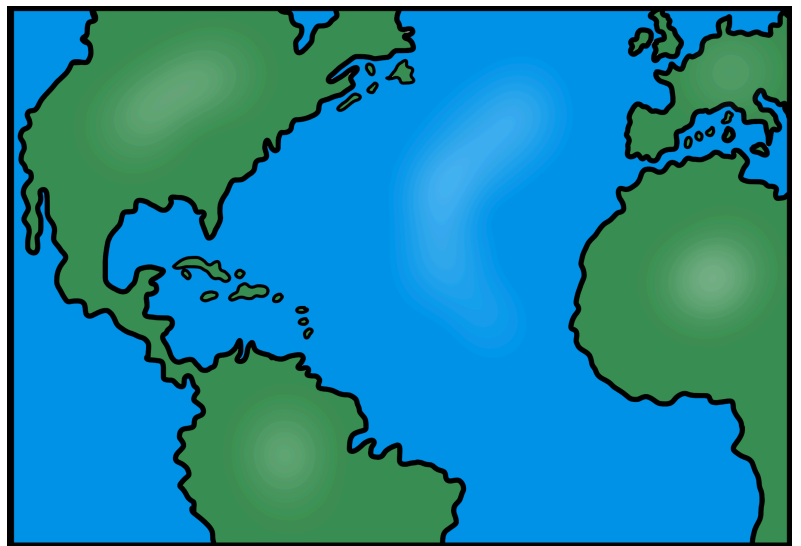
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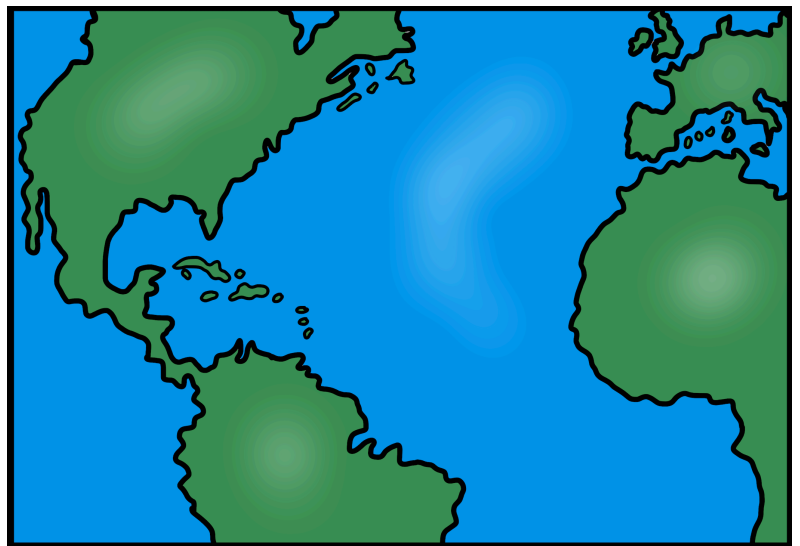
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TEXT-BASED EVIDENCE QUESTIONS

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Directions: Answer these questions after you read the passage. Remember to begin your answer by restating part of the question, use direct evidence from the text, and explain your thinking.

KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

1. According to the first paragraph of the text, what is the difference between a map and a globe? **RI.1**

2. Describe the different types of maps. **RI.3**

3. Explain the purpose of a map scale. **RI.3**

4. Explain the purpose of latitude and longitude lines on a map. What do these lines show on a map? **RI.3**

5. List the cardinal directions and the intermediate directions. **RI.2**

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CRAFT & STRUCTURE

6. Explain the meaning of the term "equator." **RI.4**

7. How is the passage organized? (Chronological, cause/effect, comparison/contrast, description, problem/solution). Use evidence from the text to explain your answer. **RI.5**

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE & IDEAS

8. What is the key idea that the author wants readers to understand from this text? Use evidence from the text to support your reasoning. **RI.8**
