



Level 2



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Civics

To succeed together, citizens need to understand civic life and government.



Vocabulary: Civics

African Americans	Americans with dark-skinned African ancestors
agricultural	having to do with farming
amendments	change or addition to a document
branch	one part of the government
campaign	activities to reach the goal of being elected
candidates	people who are trying to get elected
citizen	a person who is a member of a particular country
civic duties	the responsibilities of being a citizen
Constitution	document that tells a government how to do things
convention	a meeting of people for a common purpose
delegate	a person sent to represent others
democracy	a government where the people rule
ethnic	relating to racial or cultural similarity
executive branch	carries out laws (President, Vice President)
federal	combination of central government and state government
government	the way decisions are made for a country
governor	the head of a state in the U.S.
immigrant	a person who moves to a new country to live
judicial branch	decides if laws are fair (Supreme Court)
jury	a group of people who make a decision in a courtroom case
legislative branch	makes laws (Congress)
literacy test	a test of reading and writing
majority	more than half of the people
mandatory	required by law or rule

Native Americans	people whose ancestors lived in America before Europeans
naturalization	becoming a citizen of a country where you were not born
oath of allegiance	swearing to be loyal to your country
poll tax	money paid to vote in an election
prejudice	unfair dislike of a group because of race, religion, etc.
taxes	money you have to pay to the government
unconstitutional	not allowed by the constitution of a country
voluntary	done because you want to, not because you have to

A Constitution of Laws for the United States

A blueprint tells construction workers how to build a house. The U.S. **Constitution** is like the United States' blueprint for **government**. It tells Americans how their government works. It tells politicians what their responsibilities are and what they can and cannot do.

After the Revolutionary War, leaders from the independent American states met in Philadelphia to discuss how to create a new government. This group was called the Constitutional Convention. It met for three months during the summer of 1787.

On September 17, the final version of the United States Constitution

The Constitution created a **federal** government. It divided the federal government into three branches. Each branch has its own duties and powers. The Constitution also describes how changes can be made to the Constitution. These changes are called amendments. Today, the Constitution has 27 amendments.

was completed.



The U.S. Constitution was written after the Revolutionary War in 1787.

The first ten amendments are called the Bill of Rights. In 1791, the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution to protect the rights of all Americans. Among those rights are certain freedoms that protect citizens from the government. One of these freedoms is the freedom of religion. It means that the government cannot force people to belong to a certain religion. Another freedom is the freedom of speech. It means that citizens can't be kept from saying things that are critical of the government. The amendments in the Bill of Rights were designed to protect important rights and freedoms for all Americans.

After approval by the states, the Constitution became law. On March 4, 1789, the new American government began with the Constitution as its blueprint.

A Constitution of Laws for the United States

1	What did the United States Constitution create?
	a federal religion
	a federal government
	ice cream
2	Who made the Constitution?
	☐ leaders from the independent American states
	church leaders
	☐ the British and French kings
3	W/h-1
J	What are amendments?
	☐ apologies
	tickets to a show
	☐ changes to the Constitution
4	Why do people want freedom of speech?
	☐ So they can walk their dogs.
	☐ They can swear if they want.
	☐ They can criticize their government.
5	Which statement is a FACT—not an OPINION?
	☐ The first ten amendments are called the Bill of Rights.
	☐ Freedom of religion is more important than freedom of speech.
	☐ We have the most rights in the whole world.

A Democracy with Three Branches of Government

The U.S. **Constitution** begins with "We the People of the United States." The writers of the Constitution wrote "People" because they strongly believed in **democracy.** They believed that the American people should control the U.S. government. Americans control the government by voting for the officials who will represent them in government.

The U.S. Constitution separates the federal government into three branches. This idea is called the "separation of powers." Having three branches of government means that one branch cannot have all the power. The U.S. Constitution describes the duties of each branch. Each branch also has powers that limit the powers of

One branch is the **legislative branch.** It is made up of Congress.
Congress is divided into the House of Representatives and the Senate. Each state has two senators in the Senate.
A state's population determines how many representatives it has in the House of Representatives. Smaller states have fewer representatives than larger states. There are currently 100 senators and 435 representatives in Congress.

another branch.



The United States Capitol houses the legislative branch of government.

Congress is called the legislative branch because it legislates, which means it creates laws. When both the House of Representatives and the Senate agree on a new law, it gets sent to the president. The president is the leader of the **executive branch**. The president decides whether the suggested law becomes law or not. If the president denies a suggested law, it can become law if two-thirds of Congress approves it.

The third branch is the **judicial branch**. It is made up of the Supreme Court and lower federal courts. The justices of the courts decide whether a person or group broke the law or not. The courts also decide whether a law is **unconstitutional**.

A Democracy with Three Branches of Government

1	How many branches are in the United States government?
	one
	☐ two
	☐ three
2	Which branch of government is the Congress?
	executive
	☐ judicial
3	Harrison and the second and the second
J	How many senators represent each state?
	☐ five
	☐ two
	depends on population
4	What is the president leader of?
	☐ the U.S. government
	the church in Washington, D.C.
	executive branch
5	Which statement is a FACT—not an OPINION?
	☐ Democracy is the best form of government.
	Americans vote for their representatives in government.
	☐ Most laws are fair for everyone.

Economics

Economics is the study of how people manage the sharing of things needed for life together.



Vocabulary: Economics

agency	an organization that offers a service
barter	trade with another person instead of paying with money
budget	a plan for spending your money
check	used to make payments from an account in your bank
credit card	used to buy something and pay for it later
currency	the kind of money a country uses
debit card	a card that takes money from your account electronically
debt	an amount of money owed to a person or bank
demand	how much people want a product
earned interest	extra money paid to you for saving your money in a bank
economist	a person who studies or knows about the economy
economy	the system for producing, selling and buying in a country
exports	things you sell to another country
federal	combination of central government and state government
fee	what you pay someone to do something for you
global	all over the world
government	the way decisions for a country are made
imports	things you buy from another country
income taxes	part of your pay that you give the government
international trade	buying and selling between countries
investment	something you buy at one price, with the hope that the price will be higher when you sell it
livestock	farm animals that are bought or sold
loan	money you borrow from a person or bank
loan interest	extra money you pay when you borrow from a bank
manufacturing	making products using machines
Native Americans	people whose ancestors lived in America before Europeans

natural resources	things found in nature that are useful to humans, like wood
percentage	part of 100
population	all the people who live in one place
profit	ending up with more money than you started with
property taxes	part of the value of your house that you pay the government
raw materials	the things that get used to make something
sales tax	part of the cost of what you buy going to the government
savings account	a bank account for you to keep money in
shareholders	people who own shares or stocks in a company
society	people living together in organized communities
stock market	place where stocks are bought and sold
stock share	a piece of a company that you own
stockbroker	someone who buys and sells stocks for clients
supply	how much there is of a product
technology	using science for practical purposes
trading	give a person one thing in exchange for another thing
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The Role of Money in an Economy

In an **economy**, money is like a language. People who share a language agree on what words mean. People in a **society** also need to agree on a system of money for buying and selling. When people agree on the value

of their money, buyers and sellers can more easily agree on what things cost. Prices for goods and services may go up or down, but the value of the money stays the same for everyone.

Early coins were made out of metals such as bronze, gold, and silver. Coins had value because of the metal they were made out of. The Chinese were the first people to use paper money. The Chinese rulers promised that paper money would have the same value as coins.



Each country has their own type of currency for money.

Today, paper bills and coins are used as money all over the world.

Each **government** controls the money system for that country. The governments decide on what kind of **currency** people will use. The currency of the United States is the dollar.

The U.S. dollar is the currency used in all 50 states. The U.S. Mint is in charge of creating coins. Paper money is printed by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The coins and dollar bills have the same value everywhere in the United States.

Modern **technology** has made it possible for people to buy things without carrying paper bills or coins with them. When you use a debit card or credit card to make a purchase, money is automatically transferred from your bank account to the store.

The Role of Money in an Economy

1	What should buyers and sellers agree on?
	what kind of food to eat
	what kind of metal to use for coins
	the value of their money
2	What can happen to the price of something being sold?
	prices can only go up
	prices can go up or down
	prices stay the same
3	Who controls the money system for a country?
	☐ the government
	☐ the military
	☐ the printers
4	What happens when you pay with a debit card?
	You send money to the store in the mail.
	You bring money to the store the next day.
	☐ Money is transferred to the store from your bank.
5	Which statement is a FACT—not an OPINION?
	Using gold coins is best for any economic system.
	☐ Early coins were made out of bronze, silver, and gold.
	Paying with cash is safer than using a debit card.

The Business of Banking

Banks provide important services to people and businesses. Banks protect people's money by storing it in a safe place. The money in a bank is used to provide **loans** to people. Getting a bank loan means that you borrow some of the money in a bank. People use bank loans to buy big things like houses and cars. A bank loan is a way to help pay the cost of starting a new business. A loan is repaid to the bank over a period of time.

Banks are businesses too. You pay a **fee** to the bank when you get a loan. The fee paid to the bank is called **loan interest.** When a bank offers a loan, you agree to pay an interest rate based on a **percentage** of the amount you want to borrow. When you borrow money from the bank, you agree to pay back the amount of the loan plus the interest amount.



To pay for a house, a bank can provide a mortgage loan.

When your money is stored in a bank, it is used by the bank to make loans to other people. When your money is used by the bank to make loans, you receive money from the bank. That payment is called **earned interest** and is added to your personal bank account each month. This means you earn a little money by allowing a bank to store and use your money. The longer you keep money in the bank, the more interest you earn.

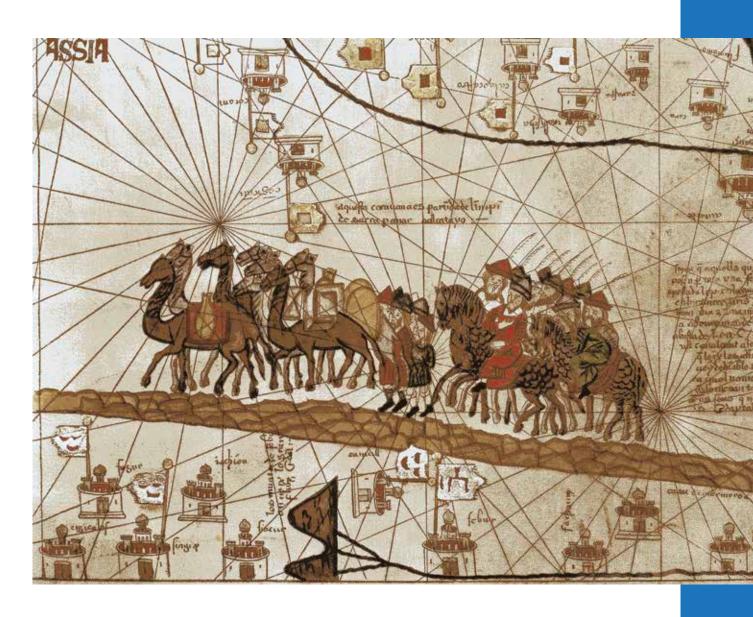
The U.S. government has laws that banks must obey. The U.S. Federal Reserve is in charge of banks in the United States. The Federal Reserve decides what loan interest rates banks can charge.

The Business of Banking

1	Why do people get a loan from a bank?
	to buy a cup of coffee
	to buy groceries
	☐ to buy a big thing like a car
2	What is loan interest?
	another loan you get to pay the first loan
	extra money you pay back to the bank
	an interesting story about your loan
3	
)	What is earned interest?
	extra money the bank pays you to save your money there
	gold
	money you earn at a bank job
4	What does "percentage" mean?
	one hundred dollars
	a present
	a portion of the whole amount
5	Which statement is a FACT—not an OPINION?
	— Hot all official.
	☐ Banks store your money in a safe place.
	☐ Banks help you with your money.
	☐ Never trust banks.

World History

Learning our history helps us understand how and why the world got to be the way it is.



Vocabulary: World History

artifact an object that was made by people in the past bronze a kind of metal combining copper and tin casualties people who were killed in a war circumnavigated sail all the way around, especially the world civilian a person not in the military civilization the way of life in a particular place or time colony an area that is under political control of another country conquistadors a large land mass on Earth, like Africa or Europe empire a group of countries controlled by one ruler or government hierarchy system that makes some people higher and some lower hieroglyphics a language using pictures to represent words humanitarian relief giving things to people who need help immune will not catch a disease Industrial Revolution fast growth of industry using machines in the 1800s irrigation bringing water to plants from another place mammoths animals like elephants who lived in the past merchants someone who buys and then sells products natural resources things found in nature that are useful to humans, like wood papyrus sheet for writing made from a plant in Egypt philosophy study of ideas about knowledge, truth, and meaning of life
bronzea kind of metal combining copper and tincasualtiespeople who were killed in a warcircumnavigatedsail all the way around, especially the worldciviliana person not in the militarycivilizationthe way of life in a particular place or timecolonyan area that is under political control of another countryconquistadorsa large land mass on Earth, like Africa or Europeempirea group of countries controlled by one ruler or governmenthierarchysystem that makes some people higher and some lowerhieroglyphicsa language using pictures to represent wordshumanitarian reliefgiving things to people who need helpimmunewill not catch a diseaseIndustrial Revolutionfast growth of industry using machines in the 1800sirrigationbringing water to plants from another placemammothsanimals like elephants who lived in the pastmerchantssomeone who buys and then sells productsnatural resourcesthings found in nature that are useful to humans, like woodpapyrussheet for writing made from a plant in Egypt
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natural resourcesthings found in nature that are useful to humans, like woodpapyrussheet for writing made from a plant in Egypt
papyrus sheet for writing made from a plant in Egypt
philosophy study of ideas about knowledge, truth, and meaning of life
porcelain a kind of ceramic used for things like dinner plates
poverty being very poor
prehistoric human history before anything was written down
refugees people who must leave their country due to war or disaster
sphere a round object, like a ball
technology using science for practical purposes
textile a type of cloth
treaty an agreement between countries

Clues about Prehistoric Life

Humans have lived on Earth for a long time. For thousands of years, humans did not live in towns or cities. They did not know how to write. This period of time is called prehistory. Scientists and historians learn about prehistoric humans by studying the objects they left behind. These objects are called **artifacts**. Artifacts are things made by people in the past that help us learn about how early humans lived.

Many artifacts are tools. The earliest tools were made by smashing stones together until one had a sharp edge. These stones are called hand axes.

Prehistoric humans used the sharp edges to cut meat. Humans also

made hunting tools. Hunting tools are spears and arrows. They are pointy and sharper than hand axes.

The hand axes tell us that prehistoric humans ate meat. The hunting tools tell us that prehistoric humans hunted. They hunted bears, deer, and **mammoths**. The bones of these animals have been found at prehistoric campsites.

Prehistoric humans drew pictures of animals on cave walls. The cave drawings tell us that early humans valued the animals that they hunted. They ate the meat and made clothing out of animal skin and fur.



Cave drawings tell stories about ancient human life.

The location of the artifacts shows us where early humans lived. Skeletons and tools have been found in caves and near lakes and rivers. Caves protected the humans from bad weather. Humans who lived near lakes and rivers built their shelters. They built huts out of mud and tents out of animal skins.

Clues about Prehistoric Life

1	What were early hunting tools made of?
	plastic
	stone
	☐ metal
2	Which ward manns abjects made by paople in the past?
	Which word means objects made by people in the past?
	artifacts
	☐ vegetables
	☐ farming
3	Where did some prehistoric people live?
	in houses
	in apartment buildings
	in caves
4	What did people use to make clothing in prehistoric times?
	silk
	animal skin and fur
	plastic bags
5	Which statement is a FACT—not an OPINION?
	☐ Hunting is the best way to get food.
	Living in a city is better than living in a cave.
	Prehistoric humans did not live in cities.

The First Cities and Civilizations

Cities were the beginning of civilization. A **civilization** is made up of many people who live under the same government. About 6,000 years ago, the first cities appeared. For the first time in history, more than twenty thousand people were living together. Cities needed laws to manage so many people. In ancient cities, the laws were created by kings and priests.

The king and his family controlled the wealth of a city. That wealth came from the work done by the people of the city. In a large city, not everyone did farm work. Some people created roads and buildings. Other people became skilled at making weapons, furniture, or jewelry. Some groups of people were treated differently because of what kind of work they did. Over time, these groupings led to a social **hierarchy** that was not always fair for every group of people.



Ruins of ancient buildings provide clues about life in early cities.

Kings often wanted the land, food, and wealth of other cities. When a king

and his army conquered other cities, the larger kingdom became an **empire.** A stronger army was needed to defend a large empire. Empires were destroyed by other empires. They grew and shrank. They got richer and poorer.

The earliest civilizations were in Mesopotamia and Egypt. Mesopotamia was the area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Today that area is the country of Iraq. Mesopotamia was the site of the ancient empires of Babylon and Assyria. The Egyptian civilization grew along the Nile River.

Wars to control land and wealth continued for hundreds of years. Babylon conquered Assyria. The Persian civilization conquered Babylon. The Greeks conquered the Persians. The Romans conquered all of those lands but was then defeated by German invaders. Civilizations have continued to rise and fall ever since.

The First Cities and Civilizations

1	Which of these was an ancient civilization?
	☐ Mesopotamia
	☐ New York
	Wisconsin
2	Which word means a group of countries controlled by one ruler?
	democracy
	empire
	☐ team
3	Who conquered the empire of Babylon?
9	
	☐ the Spanish
	the Persians
	the Native Americans
4	What civilization was located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers?
	☐ Egypt
	France
	Germany
5	Which statement is a FACT—not an OPINION?
	☐ The Egyptian civilization grew along the Nile River.
	☐ A system of laws is important for a civilization.
	A civilization must have a strong army.

U.S. History

Learning our history helps us understand how and why the United States got to be the way it is.



Vocabulary: U.S. History

abolish	to end by law
African Americans	Americans with dark-skinned African ancestors
amendment	change or addition to a document
armistice	in a war, an agreement to stop fighting for a while
astronaut	person who travels into outer space
boycott	refusing to buy something as a form of protest
canal	a man-made strip of water for ships
colony	an area that is under political control of another country
depression	when economic activity slows way down for a long time
discrimination	unfair treatment of one group of people
economy	the system for producing, selling, and buying in a country
expedition	a journey for a purpose, like exploring
federal	combination of central government and state government
frontier	the edge of the settled part of a country
global	all over the world
harvest	the activity of gathering crops
industrialization	a country going from farming to making products
labor unions	a group of workers organized to protect their interests
league	several groups of people that combine for a purpose
liberty	freedom from the control of others
manufacture	make a product using machines
Native Americans	people whose ancestors lived in America before Europeans
natural resources	things found in nature that are useful to humans, like wood
panicked	too scared to think
plantation	large farm for growing crops like cotton, coffee, or sugar to sell
religion	organized system of beliefs in a god or gods
relocate	move to a new home

an object that circles around a planet or star
enforced separation of different racial groups
a place where people establish a community
people who move to a new area and stay there
a person who is the property of another person
a ship that is powered by a steam engine
a piece of a company that you own
place where stocks are bought and sold
a warship that can stay underwater for a long time
the right to vote
in war, give up and let the enemy win
money you have to pay to the government
an area of land that belongs to a ruler or country
a ruler who is unjust or cruel

England Establishes a Colony in Virginia

In 1492, Spanish explorers claimed land in America for the king of Spain. More than a hundred years later, English explorers arrived in North America. They called the land that they claimed Virginia. When a country owns land somewhere else in the world, that land is called a colony. Virginia was England's first colony.

In 1607, the king of England sent a group called the Virginia Company to Virginia. They hoped to find gold but never found any. These men built the first permanent English settlement in the New World. They called the settlement Jamestown because the king of England was named James.

The settlers at Jamestown suffered during their first year. Settlers who got sick often died because they did not have medicine. Many people starved because they did not know how to grow food in the new land.



The Jamestown settlement was built on land where Native Americans lived.

Native Americans had lived in North America for thousands of years. Several different tribes lived around Jamestown. The settlers at Jamestown traded with the local Native Americans for food. The settlers gave the Native Americans metal and beads. The Native Americans gave corn to the settlers.

More Englishmen came to Jamestown, bringing with them their families. They built large farms called plantations to grow tobacco. Trading relations were hurt when some settlers stole food from Native Americans and took more land. When more settlers continued to arrive from England, the Native Americans began to attack Jamestown and the plantations. The settlers fought back. The Europeans and the Native Americans would continue to struggle over the land for a long time.

England Establishes a Colony in Virginia

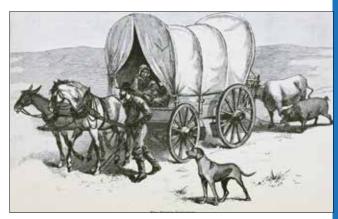
1	Who claimed land in America for the king of Spain?
	☐ Native Americans
	☐ Spanish explorers
	☐ English settlers
2	What did the Virginia Company hope to find in the New World?
	☐ beads and corn
	☐ tobacco
	gold
3	What was a problem for the English settlers?
	☐ They did not know how to grow food.
	☐ They did not know how to read.
	☐ They did not know how to build houses.
4	Who did the English settlers trade with for food?
	☐ Spanish explorers
	the king of Spain
	☐ Native Americans
5	MARIE A CT. A CRIMINAL
J	Which statement is a FACT—not an OPINION?
	Spanish explorers came to America in 1492.
	English settlers did not like the Native Americans.
	☐ Starting colonies in the New World was a good idea.

Pioneers Travel West

By 1850, the United States was much bigger than the original 13 colonies. The country now stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. The United States had grown with the Louisiana Purchase. The United States grew even larger after fighting and winning a war with Mexico in 1848. The areas of Texas and California became a new **territory** of the United States after that war.

Thousands of American settlers moved west onto the new land. They could buy land at low prices. Much of the land was used for farming.

The people who traveled west were called pioneers. Families traveled together in covered wagons that were pulled by horses. Families slept and ate together in the wagons among their possessions. The cloth covering the wagon protected them from rain and wind. Pioneer families usually traveled with other families on trails. The most famous trail is the Oregon Trail. It started in Missouri and ended in Oregon on the West Coast.



Traveling through the United States by wagon was slow and difficult.

Americans now needed faster ways to move people and goods around the country. Thousands of miles of roads and railroads crisscrossed the country, linking cities together. On a map, all of the roads and railroads look like a spider web.

People and materials also traveled by ship on rivers and lakes. Americans dug **canals** that linked rivers and lakes. Digging canals was very hard work. Hundreds of men used shovels to cut a huge path and fill it with water. The path had to be wide and deep enough for ships to sail through it. The Erie Canal in New York took eight years to finish. It stretched from the Great Lakes to the Hudson River. **Steamships** could now carry materials across New York by water.

Pioneers Travel West

1	Who did the United States fight a war with in 1848?
	☐ Mexico
	☐ England
	☐ New York
2	Why did pioneers want to buy land?
	to build factories
	for farming
	to play sports
3	What did also as a feet coult of 2
<i>_</i>	What did pioneers use for traveling?
	☐ cars
	wagons pulled by horses
	airplanes
4	Who did pioneer families usually travel with?
	soldiers
	☐ Native Americans
	other pioneer families
5	Which statement is a FACT—not an OPINION?
	☐ The Oregon Trail started in Missouri.
	☐ Using land for farming is a good thing to do.
	☐ The best land is in the western part of the country.

Geography

Geography is the study of Earth's landscapes, people, places and environments.



Vocabulary: Geography

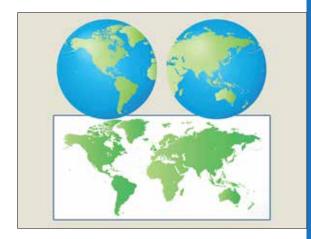
agriculture	the science or practice of farming
atmosphere	the gases, including air, that surround a planet
carbon dioxide	a gas in our atmosphere that is absorbed by plants
climate	the kind of weather in an area over a period of time
consequence	the result of something that was done
deforestation	cutting down trees to change a forest to cleared land
environment	where a person, animal or plant lives
global warming	gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth
greenhouse gas	a gas that absorbs and releases heat in the atmosphere
hurricane	storm with a violent wind
industry	companies that make the same thing, like auto industry
landform	a natural feature of the Earth, like mountain or valley
latitude	the amount north/south of an imaginary line (equator)
longitude	the amount east/west of an imaginary line (prime meridian)
sphere	a round object, like a ball
transportation	moving people or things from one place to another
tropical	a warm area near the equator

Flat Pictures of a Round World

Globes and maps are useful tools for geography. They show the location of places, bodies of water, and **landforms**. Like the planet Earth, a globe has a **sphere** shape. Large landforms like continents and oceans are most

easily seen on a globe. Maps are flat. A map is a better way to show smaller parts of the Earth's surface. On a globe, the area of a city would be very small. Details such as roads, rivers, and lakes are more easily viewed on a flat map.

Maps and globes both have lines of **latitude** and **longitude** running across their surfaces. Lines of latitude run side to side. The line of latitude that runs around the middle of the Earth is called the equator. It divides the Earth into two equal parts. Longitude lines run up and down. Both sets of lines are divided into measurement units called degrees. Each line around the Earth has 360 degrees.



A map is a flat picture of Earth.

Latitude and longitude are used to locate places on maps and globes. Every place on Earth can be described by naming the degrees of latitude and longitude that meet at that spot. Airplane pilots and sailors on ships use latitude and longitude to plan their routes.

For many years, maps existed on paper only. Maps can now be viewed on computers. Satellites orbiting the Earth take pictures that are used to create maps. The Global Positioning System (GPS) uses longitude and latitude to create computer maps with step-by-step directions to a destination. You can see GPS maps on a computer or smartphone. Your phone can help with driving directions or tell you the location of a new restaurant you want to try.

Flat Pictures of a Round World

1	What is the shape of a globe?
	oval
	sphere
	☐ triangle
2	
_	What appears as a small area on a globe?
	a city
	an ocean
	☐ a continent
3	What is used to describe a location?
	□ volume and frequency □
	L temperature and humidity
	☐ latitude and longitude
4	What lets a smartphone provide directions?
	☐ Global Positioning System
	☐ United Nations
	☐ Nuclear Energy Agency
5	Which statement is a FACT—not an OPINION?
	☐ The equator divides the Earth into two equal parts.
	Paper maps are best for navigation.
	Understanding longitude and latitude is important for everyone.