

Unit 1 - Geography Vocabulary

Map scale – a type of ruler that helps you measure distance on a map

Legend/key – a table or list that explains symbols appearing on a map

Compass rose – a symbol or set of arrows on a map that show north, south, east, and west

Cardinal directions – one of the four main directions on a compass; north, south, east, and west

Intermediate directions – the directions halfway between cardinal directions; northeast, southeast, southwest, northwest

Geographic grid – the intersection pattern formed by lines of longitude and latitude

Degree – a measure of distance

Latitude – distance, measured in degrees, north or south of the Equator

Longitude – distance, measured in degrees, east or west of the Prime Meridian

Coordinates – a set of numbers that help identify a specific place on a globe or map

Equator – the line of latitude drawn at the half-way point between the North Pole and the South Pole

Prime Meridian – the line of longitude drawn from the North Pole to the South Pole at 0°

International Date Line – the line of longitude drawn from the North Pole to the South Pole at 180° that designates the beginning of a new day west of the line

Time zones – 24 regions of the world each one hour apart

Hemispheres – half of the earth divided by either the Prime Meridian (eastern, western) or Equator (northern, southern)

Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, Eastern Hemisphere,

Western Hemisphere