

Name _____

Welcome To Earth!

Professor G. O. Graffee is explaining the globe to her students.

We often say the earth is a **sphere**—a round shape like a ball. In fact, the earth is slightly pear-shaped with a bulge in the bottom half. A **globe** best represents the shape of the earth. Lines drawn on a globe help us find exact locations.

Map skills
Introduction, vocabulary



1 Lines that stretch east and west on a globe are called **lines of latitude**. One important line of latitude is the **equator**. The equator is halfway between the **North Pole** and the **South Pole**. The lines of latitude north of the equator are called **lines of north latitude**; lines south of the equator are called **lines of south latitude**. The equator is numbered **0° latitude**, the North Pole **90°N**, and the South Pole **90°S**. Lines of latitude help us find locations north and south of the equator.

The **triple of Cancer** (23 1/2°N) and the **Arctic Circle** (66 1/2°N) are special lines of latitude that are north of the equator. The **triple of Capricorn** (23 1/2°S) and the **Antarctic Circle** (66 1/2°S) are special lines of latitude that are south of the equator.

Areas that lie between the triple of Cancer and the triple of Capricorn have a tropical climate. They are mostly hot and humid.



2



Lines that run north to south from pole to pole are called **lines of longitude**. An important line of longitude is the **prime meridian**. The prime meridian, like the equator, is numbered **0°**. So the prime meridian is **0° longitude**. The **west longitudes** extend west from the prime meridian to **180°**. The **east longitudes** extend east from the prime meridian to **180°**. Lines of longitude help us find locations east and west of the prime meridian.

Hemi- is a prefix that means "half." So a **hemisphere** is half of a sphere or ball. The **Eastern Hemisphere** includes the half of the globe that is east of the prime meridian. The **Western Hemisphere** is the area that lies west of the prime meridian. The **Southern Hemisphere** is south of the equator and the **Northern Hemisphere** is north of the equator.

3

WESTERN HEMISPHERE



Large landmasses on the earth are called **continents**. Can you find **Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, Antarctica, Australia, and South America** on these two globes?

The largest bodies of water are **oceans**. Can you locate the **Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic, and Indian oceans** on the globes?

EASTERN HEMISPHERE

