

Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

contour interval the difference in elevation between two contour lines

contour lines lines that pass through points on a map with the same elevation

elevation the height above sea level

equal-area projection map a map that shows areas that are positioned correctly but whose shapes are distorted

equator imaginary line halfway between the poles; it divides north and south latitude and represents 0° (zero degree) latitude

globe a spherical or round model of Earth

International Date Line the imaginary line at 180° longitude where east and west longitude meet; at this point, one date changes to the next

isobars lines on a weather map that represent areas of equal barometric pressure

isotherms. lines on a weather map that represent areas of equal temperature

latitude measure of a distance north and south from the equator

Vocabulary

- legend** explanation of the symbols used on a map
- longitude** measure of a distance east or west from the prime meridian
- map** a drawing or model of the surface of Earth showing lines of longitude and latitude and positions of physical features of the land
- map projection** a flat drawing of Earth
- Mercator projection map** a map on which both lines of longitude and latitude are parallel; it is good for navigation but gives a distorted view of the polar areas
- meridians** lines on a map that run from the north pole to the south pole that measure longitude
- meteorologist** scientist who studies and predicts the weather
- parallels** lines on a map that circle the globe in an east-west direction; these lines are used to measure latitude
- polar projection** a map that gives an accurate view of the polar regions but a distorted view of the areas near the equator

Vocabulary

- prime meridian** an imaginary line that runs through Greenwich, England, that divides east and west longitude; it represents 0° longitude
- relief** the difference in elevation between the high and low points of a land surface
- scale** the comparison of the distance on the map to the actual distance on Earth's surface
- time zones** the 24 longitudinal divisions of Earth that represent the 24 hours of the day; each is 15° of longitude
- topographic map** a flat map of Earth that shows the surface features of the land