Looking At Our World

Concept Mapping

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We know that the Earth is round, and has water bodies, mountains, deserts, etc. on it. However, since the Earth is so big, it is difficult to imagine how it looks from far away. This is why we use globes and maps to help us understand the shape and features of our Earth better.

**GLOBES**

A globe is a model of the Earth. Like the Earth, it is round in shape, but much smaller in size so that we can easily see different parts of the Earth. We can also move a globe round and round so that it rotates, just like the Earth does. A globe can be held in the hand, or put on a table. We can clearly see land and water bodies (rivers, seas, oceans, etc.). Globes help us to see what the Earth looks like, but there are some problems with using globes:

(a) We cannot see the entire Earth at a single time on them. Globes show only one half of the Earth at a time.
(b) The Earth is very big, and globes are small. This is why globes do not show places in great detail.

(c) They are difficult to carry.

When we need to look at places on the Earth in detail, we use maps instead of globes.

MAPS

A map is a drawing of the entire Earth or a part of it. It can be small or large. It gives more details than a globe and is also easier to carry. So, depending on your need, you can use maps of the entire world, or a more detailed map showing only one city, or a colony.

Maps are drawn on paper and other materials. Some maps are quite large and can be hung on a wall. Such maps are called wall maps. A book of maps is called an atlas. Let us find out more about the different features of the Earth that can be seen on maps and globes.

Landforms

The surface of the Earth is made up of land and water. About three-fourths of the Earth's surface is covered with water, while the remaining is covered with land. A very large mass of land is called a continent.

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<th>There are seven continents in the world</th>
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<td>Asia</td>
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<td>Europe</td>
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<td>Africa</td>
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<td>North America</td>
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Asia is the largest continent, while Australia is the smallest continent in the world. Continents usually comprise of many countries. Our country, India, is one of the many countries that make up the continent of Asia.
The surface of the Earth is not even. Some parts of the Earth are rough, while some are flat. Some are raised, while some lie low. Some are covered with rocks or sand, while others are covered with plants. These features of the Earth's surface are called **landforms**. There are many different landforms present on the Earth such as mountains, plains and plateaus. We can study the location and features of these landforms with the help of globes and maps.

**Oceans**

An ocean is a very large body of water on the Earth's surface. Oceans are usually very deep. There are five oceans in the world – the **Pacific Ocean**, the **Atlantic Ocean**, the **Indian Ocean**, the **Arctic Ocean** and the **Southern Ocean**. The Pacific Ocean is the largest and the deepest ocean in the world. The Arctic Ocean is the smallest ocean in the world.

Oceans and seas contain saltwater. While seas are smaller than oceans, by looking at a globe or a map, we will find that the seas and oceans are interconnected. The level of water in the seas and oceans remains the same everywhere, and is known as the **sea level**.
DID YOU KNOW?
The Southern Ocean, previously known as the Antarctic Ocean, is the newest ocean, having been defined and named in the year 2000.

Therefore, the height or the depth of any point on the Earth is measured from the sea level. For example, when we say that an aeroplane is flying at a height of 9000 m, we mean it is flying 9000 m above the sea level.

COLOURS AND SYMBOLS OF A MAP
When we look at maps or globes, we can see different places marked in different colours. Oceans and other water bodies such as rivers, lakes, and seas are marked in blue. Continents are marked in colours other than blue, like brown or yellow.

Maps also use symbols, so that it is easy to understand different features in a small space. The colour scheme and symbols are used in all maps, so that once you learn them, reading and understanding maps becomes very easy.

Some common signs and symbols

DIRECTIONS ON A MAP
We can locate places on a map with the help of four main directions – north (N), south (S), east (E), and west (W). If you look at a wall map, you will see that the north direction is marked on its top. The bottom of the map will be marked south. To your left will be the west, while to your right will be the east. All maps show directions in this way.

We can find directions with the help of an instrument called a compass. A compass has a needle that always points towards the north direction. Once we know the north direction, we can find out other directions easily.

DID YOU KNOW?
Compasses have been in use for more than a thousand years by sailors for finding directions while at sea.
New Terms

- **Globe** – Model of the Earth.
- **Map** – Drawing of the entire Earth or a part of it.
- **Wall maps** – Large maps which can be hung on a wall.
- **Atlas** – A book of maps.
- **Continent** – A very large mass of land.
- **Ocean** – A very large body of water.
- **Sea** – A large body of saltwater that is smaller than an ocean.
- **Landforms** – Features of the Earth’s surface.
- **Compass** – An instrument that points to the north direction.
- **Sea level** – Level of water in seas and oceans.

Rewind

1. A globe is a model of the Earth.
2. A map is a drawing of the entire Earth or a part of it.
3. The four main directions on a map are north, south, east and west.
4. There are seven continents and five oceans on the Earth.
5. Different features of the Earth’s surface are called landforms.
6. A compass is used to find out the directions.

EXERCISES

1. **Multiple Choice Questions:**

   (a) _____________ is a very large mass of land.
   
   (i) Continent  (ii) Ocean  (iii) Plateau  (iv) Mountain

   (b) Tick (✓) the correct sentence:
   
   (i) Globes are easy to carry.
   (ii) Globes show only one half of the Earth at a time.
   (iii) Globes show places in great detail.
   (iv) All of the above

   (c) A/An _____________ can be hung on a wall.
   
   (i) atlas  (ii) wall map  (iii) compass  (iv) none of these

   (d) _____________ is the largest continent.
   
   (i) Asia  (ii) Europe  (iii) Africa  (iv) Australia

   (e) Which colour should be used to show the Arabian Sea on a map?
   
   (i) Red  (ii) Blue  (iii) White  (iv) Brown

2. **Very Short Answer Questions:**

   (a) A globe can/cannot be rotated. Tick the correct answer.

   (b) _____________ is a very large body of water on the Earth’s surface.

   (c) _____________ is the largest and deepest ocean in the world.

   (d) _____________ is a book of maps.

   (e) Mountains, plains and plateaus are known as _____________.
3. **Short Answer Questions:**
   (a) What is a map?
   (b) On a wall map, where is the north direction marked?
   (c) What is a sea? How is it different from an ocean?
   (d) Would you choose a map or a globe to find the nearest hospital in your city? Why?
   (e) What is the use of a compass?

4. **Long Answer Questions:**
   (a) What is the difference between a map and a globe?
   (b) How can we find directions on a map?
   (c) What are continents? Name the seven continents.

5. **Beyond the text (HOTS Questions):**
   (a) The Earth is round. So, if you travel east, will you eventually arrive at your starting point from the west?
   (b) What would happen if there were no directions marked on a map?

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

1. **Let Us Discuss**
   Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of globes and maps.

2. **Let Us Do**
   Find India on a world map and colour it. Now, on a map of India, find your state and city, and colour it. On a map of your city, find and mark your school.

3. **Let Us Explore**
   Find out how a compass works. Plan and organise a ‘treasure hunt’ in which students, in groups, can find things with the help of a compass.