

CHAPTER 2, Lesson 1

Studying Geography

ENGAGE

Bellringer Encourage students to think about the geography of their immediate area. Ask them what major cities or towns their school is located near. Have students list the physical characteristics of the landscape in which they live (*mountainous, flat, heavily forested, coastal*), and then have them describe an area of the country or the world that has a very different geography from their own.

TEACH & ASSESS

R Reading Skills

Contrasting After students have read the text, have them make a two-column chart. Have them use the first column to list the ways a map would be more informative than a globe, and to use the second column to list the ways a globe would be more informative than a map. (*Students might state that a map would be better for showing small details or a lot of information about a particular location. A globe, on the other hand, would be better for identifying the relationship of one location to another and for showing the geography of the entire Earth.*) **AL EL**

V Visual Skills

Problem Solving Have students locate North and South America on a globe. Encourage them to think about how a ship in the Atlantic Ocean would have had to travel to reach the Pacific Ocean before the building of the Panama Canal. **Ask:** *Why would a ship need to sail all the way south of South America before the Panama Canal was built?* (*There was no waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.*) *What were some of the benefits of human beings changing the land in this way?* (*The canal provided easier and faster travel between the two oceans.*) **Visual/Spatial**

ANSWER, p. 28

TAKING NOTES: The Six Essential Elements of Geography are the World in Spatial Terms, Places and Regions, Physical Systems, Human Systems, Environment and Society, and the Uses of Geography.

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LESSON 1

Studying Geography

• How does geography influence the way people live?

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

Geography helps us understand our place in the world.

Displaying the Earth's Surface

GUIDING QUESTION What methods do geographers use to show the Earth's surface?

Hearing reports from explorers who had sailed the oceans, geographers realized the Earth was not flat. A new model for the Earth had to be found. A globe, a spherical scale model of the planet, became the most accurate way to show the Earth. A globe of the Earth best shows the sizes of continents and the shapes of landmasses and bodies of water. Globes also show true distance and direction.

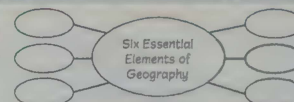
Globes have their limitations. A globe is not as easy to carry as a map. Maps are flat drawings of all or part of the Earth's surface. Maps can show small areas in great detail. Maps can show many things—political borders, population densities, or even voting results. Plus, maps can be folded and carried in a pocket or placed in a car.

Maps, however, cannot show true size, shape, distance, and direction at the same time. The reason for this is they are flat drawings of a round object, the Earth.

Globes and maps have some features in common. Both are marked with imaginary lines that geographers use to locate places on Earth's surface. These lines divide the Earth into halves called hemispheres.

ReadingHELPDESK

Taking Notes: Identifying
Use a diagram like the one shown here to list the Six Essential Elements of Geography.



Content Vocabulary

- hemisphere
- latitude
- longitude
- projection
- physical map
- political map

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Online Teaching Options

VIDEO

Mercator vs. Peters

Analyzing Before showing the video to students, **ask:** *Why do people use maps?* (*to locate places, to determine distances*) Note that maps can also be used to compare physical features; then show students a map of the world that uses the Mercator projection. Ask them if they notice anything obviously incorrect with the map. If students do not recognize that the relative sizes of the land masses are distorted, point out that some places, such as Alaska, appear to be much larger than they actually are. Then, show the video. Afterwards, lead a class discussion of the issues related to the two projections shown and to maps in general.

See page 25C for other online activities.

