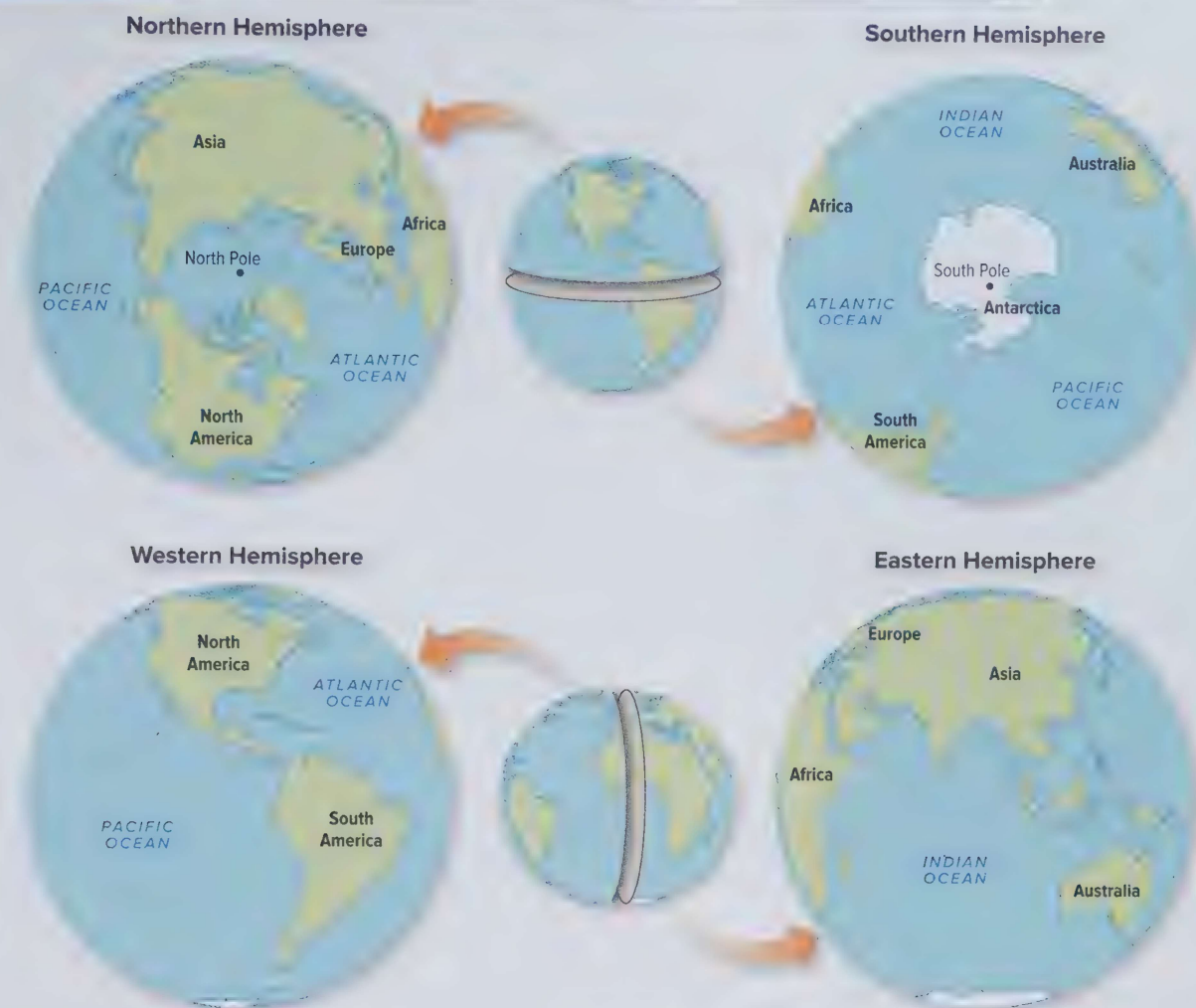


Hemispheres



Hemispheres

To find a place on the Earth, geographers use a system of imaginary lines that crisscross the globe. The Equator (ih•KWAY•tuhr) is one of these lines. It circles the middle of the Earth like a belt. It divides the Earth into “half spheres,” or **hemispheres** (HEH•muh•sfihrz). Everything north of the Equator is in the Northern Hemisphere. Everything south of the Equator is in the Southern Hemisphere. In which of these hemispheres do you live?

Another imaginary line divides the Earth into Eastern and Western Hemispheres. This line is called the Prime Meridian. Generally, the area east of the Prime Meridian is in the Eastern Hemisphere. Everything west of the Prime Meridian is in the Western Hemisphere.

Dividing the Earth into hemispheres helps geographers locate places on the planet's surface. Which oceans are located in the Western Hemisphere? Which oceans are in the Eastern Hemisphere?

Content Vocabulary

- **special-purpose map**
- **scale**
- **cardinal directions**
- **choropleth**
- **migration**
- **culture**

hemisphere a “half sphere,” used to refer to one-half of the globe when divided into North and South or East and West