

Grades 1-3 Geography Standards

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ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

Symbols and **cardinal directions** are used to determine where objects and places are located on maps and globes.

The **United States** and **Virginia** can be identified by their **shapes** on maps and globes.

The locations of the **capital cities** of **Washington, D.C.**, and **Richmond, Virginia**, are identified by specific **symbols**.

Maps can be used to locate land and water features.

Maps and globes help people study the Earth.



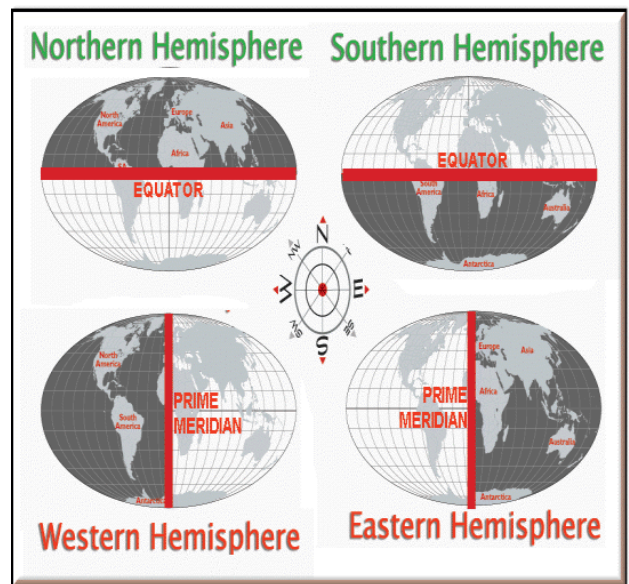
Symbols to identify on a map

- **Land**
- **Water**
- **Cities**
- **Roads**
- Terms to know
- **map**: A drawing that shows what places look like from above and where they are located
- **globe**: A **round model** of the Earth
- **symbol**: A *picture or thing that stands for something else*
- **continent**: A large body of land on Earth
- **cardinal directions**: The terms **north**, **east**, **south**, and **west** (**cardinal directions**) are used to determine **location** on simple maps.
- **title**: The **name** of a map or what kind it is

STANDARD 1.5 & 2.6 – Maps and Locations

- **map legend**: A list of **shapes** and **symbols** used on a map and an explanation of what each one stands for
- **compass rose**: A symbol that shows **direction** (**north**, **east**, **south**, and **west**) on a map
- **land**: The solid surface of Earth
- **equator**: An imaginary line around the middle of Earth that divides it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres
- **Prime Meridian**: An imaginary line that divides Earth into the Eastern and Western Hemispheres
- **hemisphere**: Half of a sphere (globe); created by the Prime Meridian or the equator

The four hemispheres



- Northern
- Southern
- Eastern
- Western



The seven continents

- North America
- South America
- Europe
- Asia
- Africa
- Australia
- Antarctica



The five oceans

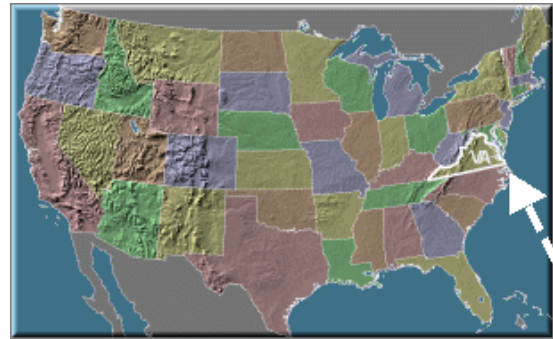
- Arctic Ocean,
- Atlantic Ocean
- Indian Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- Southern Ocean



Selected rivers, mountain ranges, and lakes in the United States

- James River,
- Mississippi River,
- Rio Grande,
- Appalachian Mountains,
- Rocky Mountains,
- the Great Lakes

Virginia and the United States may be located by their physical shapes on maps and globes.



Students should know where the United States is located...



on the globe



and on a world map



The capital cities of Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia, may be located by using symbols on a United States map.

STANDARD 3.6 - Major Geographic Features

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

The continents of Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America have unique geographic features.

Africa



- **Nile River:** The **longest river** in the world
- **Atlas Mountains:** Separate the coastlines of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean from the Sahara Desert

- **Sahara Desert:** The **largest hot desert** in the world

Asia



- **Huang He River:** Flows through much of China
- **Himalaya Mountains:** Home to some of **highest peaks**

on Earth

- **Gobi Desert:** Asia's largest desert

Europe



- **Mediterranean Sea:** An **intercontinental sea** situated between Europe to the north, Africa to the south, and Asia to the east
- **Alps Mountains:**

The **largest mountain system** in Europe

- **Italian Peninsula:** A **boot-shaped peninsula** in southern Europe extending into the Mediterranean Sea

North America



- **Mississippi River:** One of the **longest** rivers in North America
- **Rio Grande:** Marks part of the **boundary** between Mexico and the United States
- **Rocky Mountains:** Located in western North America and extend from **Canada to New Mexico**
- **Appalachian Mountains:** Located in **eastern** North America and extend from Canada to Alabama
- **Great Lakes:** A series **of interconnected freshwater lakes** located in northeastern North America

South America



- **Amazon River:** The **second longest river** in the world
- **Andes Mountains:** The **longest** continental mountain range in the world
- **Amazon rainforest:** The **largest tropical rainforest** in the world; includes many types of plants and animals

STANDARD 1.6 – Virginia’s Location Affects How We Live

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

Virginia is located on the **southeastern coast** of the United States.

Landforms of Virginia include hills, mountains, valleys, and the coastal plain.



Virginia has **four distinct seasons** that include **spring, summer, fall, and winter**.

Landforms affect where people **build houses** and **communities**.

Location, climate, and **physical surroundings** affect the way people in Virginia meet their **basic wants**.

Terms to know

- **climate:** The kinds of **weather** an area has over a **long period** of time
- **physical surroundings:** **Land** and bodies of **water** present in a given location
- **season:** Any one of the four phases of the year (**spring, summer, fall, or winter**)
- **location:** The place where a particular point or object exists on the surface of Earth
- **landform:** A shape or feature of **Earth’s surface**

The **climate** of Virginia is **mild**.