

Q. What is meant by the natural divisions of the earth?

A. The divisions formed by nature, such as continents, islands, oceans, seas, lakes, &c.

Q. What is Political Geography?

A. A description of the various political divisions of the world, and of their inhabitants, forms of government, commerce, trade, &c.

Q. What is meant by the political divisions of the world?

A. Those divisions of the world which have been formed by man; such as empires, kingdoms, and republics.

LESSON 4.

The Hemispheres.

Q. What is the earth called?

A. A planet, a world, a globe, or a sphere.

Q. How is the world pictured to us?

A. On a globe or a map.

Q. What is a globe?

A. A globe is a ball with drawings on it, to represent the surface of the earth.

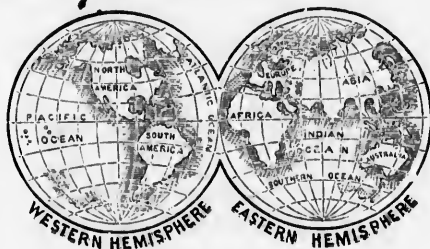


Fig. 3.

Q. What is one half of a globe called?

A. A hemisphere.

Q. What is a map?

A. A map is a representation of the earth, or of a part of it, on a flat surface.

Q. Which is the more natural way of showing the whole earth?

A. On a globe; for we can then see its different sides, and how the land and water are connected.

Q. How is the earth, when it is shown on a map, made to look like a ball?

A. By means of curved or circular lines, which are drawn upon it to make it appear round, as in Fig. 3.

Q. How is it that we can see only one-half of the round world on a map?

A. Because the surface of the map is flat, and it is impossible to show on a flat surface more than half of a round body.

Q. How, then, is the other half of the world shown?

A. By means of a second map.

Q. What are these maps called?

A. Maps of the hemispheres.

Q. Which two are most generally shown or used in geographies?

A. Those of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

Q. Why are they called the Eastern and Western Hemispheres?

A. Because the chief part of the land and water described in them lies east and west of Europe, where these names were first given.

Q. Why is one of these divisions also called the Old World?

A. Because it was first known to our forefathers.

Q. Why is the other division called the New World?

A. Because it was not known to Europeans till discovered by Columbus in 1492.

Q. How do the proportions of land and water in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres compare?

A. The Eastern Hemisphere contains more land and less water than the Western Hemisphere.

Q. Point out on the map and name the great land-divisions in the Eastern Hemisphere.

A. Europe, Asia, Africa, and the greater part of Oceania.

Q. What are these great land-divisions called?

A. Continents; except Oceania, which consists of the continent of Australia and a great number of islands scattered over one of the oceans.

Q. What are the proportions of land and water in the Western Hemisphere?

A. The Western Hemisphere contains much more water than land.