

A. It is nearly 25,000 miles in circumference, and 8,000 in diameter.*

108. What is meant by the circumference of the earth?

Circumference is the distance round the middle of its surface or outside.

109. What is meant by diameter?

The distance across or through the middle part of it.

110. If you were to run a thread round the outside of an apple, the length of it would be the extent of the circumference; and if you were to cut the apple through the middle and measure it across the cut part, that would be the diameter.



111. So great is the circumference of the earth, that if a man could travel without interruption from water, it would take him one thousand days, or three years, to come round to the place he started from, reckoning that he travelled twenty five miles every day.

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112. What are the circles of the earth?

The equator, the tropics, the polar circles, and the parallels and meridians.

113. Are these circles alike in extent?

The equator and meridians only are of the same extent, and are called the great circles.

114. What are the other circles?

The Tropical and Polar circles, and the Parallels. These being smaller in extent than the former are called small circles.

115. What is the Equator?

An imaginary great circle extending east and west round the globe, and at an equal distance from each pole.

On map of the World, No. 1, the Equator is the line that passes through the middle of both hemispheres. You will find the word equator near it.

116. What is the distance of the Equator from the Poles?

It is 90 degrees, or about 6250 miles from the North Pole, and the same from the South Pole.

* The exact size and figure of the earth are not yet known: further measurements on all parts of its surface are necessary to determine these points rigidly.