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PART FIRST.

Geographical Definitions.

Q. What is Geography?

A. A description of the Earth.

Q. What is the Earth?

A. It is a large globe or ball: its diameter is about eight thousand miles, and its circumference nearly twenty-five thousand.

[The *diameter* of the earth, is the distance from one side to the other, through the centre. The *circumference* of the earth, is the distance round its outside.]

Q. Of what is the surface of the earth composed?

A. Of land and water.

Q. How much of the Earth's surface is land?

A. About one third: the rest is water.

Questions.—What is the shape of the earth? Can you mention any thing that resembles the earth in shape? What do you mean by the diameter of the earth? If you should take an apple or an orange, and run a wire through the centre or middle of it, would that show its diameter, or circumference? If you should tie a thread round an apple or an orange, would that show the circumference, or diameter? What do you understand by the circumference of the Earth? If a man could travel one thousand miles in a month, and if the surface of the Earth consisted entirely of land, how long would it take him to travel round the Earth? Why? If he could travel through the centre of the Earth, how long would it take him to go through it? Why? Did you ever hear of