

Q. Name the months in each season.

A. The *Spring* months are March, April, and May; *Summer*, June, July, and August; *Autumn*, September, October, and November; *Winter*, December, January, and February.

Q. Describe, in your own words, the seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter.

Q. What promise did God make to Noah in regard to the certainty of the return of these seasons?

CONVERSATION III.

Sketch of Geography.

1. The word Ge-og-rä-phy (which is derived from two Greek words) means a "writing about the Earth." We now understand Geography to be a description of the Earth, of its people, and of its products.

2. If the Earth were an immense flat surface (which it looks like, and which people in the olden times used to think it was), we could see a great deal more of it at one time than we do; and with a telescope we could see more still. But the Earth is an immense round ball shaped something like an orange.

3. This can be proved if we stand on the shore of a lake or of the sea and look at a ship coming toward us. At first we can just see the top of its masts, then the hull or body of the ship, and afterward the full size of the ship. This varying appearance which a ship or any other moving object has from the shore, is the same all round the Globe. (See Fig. 2.)

4. For convenience, Geography has been divided into three parts. The first part is called *Math-e-mat-i-cal* or *As-tro-nom-i-cal* Geography, because it relates to the connection of the Earth with the Sun, Moon, and Stars; the second part is called *Phys-i-cal* Geography, because it relates to the land and water divisions of the Earth's surface; and the third part is called *Po-lit-i-cal* Geography, because it relates to the various nations on the Earth, and to the boundaries of different countries.

EXAMINATION LESSON III.

What Geography Teaches.

Q. What is this book intended to teach you?

A. General Geography.

Q. What is General Geography?

A. A general description of the Earth.

Q. What is the Earth?

A. The great Globe on which we live.

Q. Who made the Earth?

A. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."—Genesis i. 1.

Q. What appearance does the Earth present to us?

A. It appears to us to be nearly flat, and to be covered overhead with a lofty sky, which seems to over-arch us like a dome.

Q. Is this a correct description of the Earth?

A. No: the Earth is rounded like an orange, as shown in Figures 1 and 2; and has the sky on all sides of it, as shown in Fig. 1.

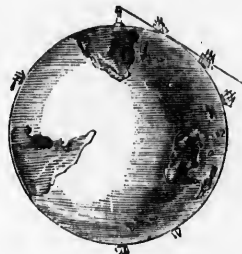


Fig. 2.—ROTUNDITY OF THE EARTH ILLUSTRATED.

Q. How can we prove that the Earth is round?

A. By the appearance of a ship at sea. At first we can only see the top of its masts; but afterward, as it comes nearer, its full size.

Q. Into how many branches is Geography usually divided, and name them?

A. Three,—*Math-e-mat-i-cal* or *As-tro-nom-i-cal*, *Phys-i-cal*, and *Po-lit-i-cal* Geography.

Q. What is Mathematical or Astronomical Geography?

A. A description of the Sun, Moon, and Stars; and of the Earth, as one of the planets in the Heavens.

Q. What is Physical Geography?

A. A description of the natural divisions of land and water on the Globe.

Q. What is meant by the Natural Divisions of the Earth?

A. The divisions formed by nature, such as Islands, Lakes, Seas, Oceans, &c.