



DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS.

1. Geography is a description of the earth.
2. The earth is a great globe, sphere, or ball, composed of land and water.
3. About one quarter of the surface is land, and three quarters water.

NOTE.—In the map of the world and the other maps inserted above, the light parts represent land, and the dark parts, water.

Questions.—1. What is geography? 2. What is the earth? Of what is it composed? 3. How much of the surface is land, and how much water?

[The teacher may here speak of the sun, moon, and stars as also great globes or worlds, like the earth, moving through space like balls through the air. He may also speak of the force of gravitation, by which all bodies on the surface are drawn as by a powerful magnet toward the centre of these globes, so that ships, steeples, and mountains, on opposite sides of the earth, and pointing toward opposite points in the heavens, are all firmly supported, and men may go all round the world like ants round an orange without falling off.]

I. DIVISIONS OF THE LAND.

4. The land is divided into continents and islands.
5. A continent is a great extent of land nowhere entirely separated by water.
6. There are two continents, the Eastern and Western.

NOTE.—Some geographers also call New-Holland a continent; and the great body of land recently discovered near the South pole has been called the Southern continent.

7. The grand divisions of the Eastern continent are Europe, Asia, and Africa. The grand divisions of the Western continent are North America and South America.
8. An island is a small body of land entirely surrounded by water.
9. A peninsula is a portion of land almost surrounded by water.
10. An isthmus is the narrow neck which joins two bodies of land.
11. A cape is the end or point of a body of land projecting into the sea beyond the general line of the coast. If the land at the point is high or rocky, it is called a promontory or headland.

12. A mountain is a portion of land elevated to a great height above the surrounding country. When the land rises to a small height, it is called a hill. A valley is a hollow or low place between hills or mountains.

13. A volcano is a mountain that throws out fire, smoke, melted lava, &c. The opening from which the fire, &c., issues is called the crater.

14. A coast or shore is the margin of land bordering on the water.

15. A desert is a large tract of sand or rock where nothing will grow, as the Sahara, or Great Desert of Africa.

16. An oasis is a fertile spot surrounded by the desert, like an island by the ocean.

Questions.—4. How is the land divided? 5. What is a continent? 6. How many continents are there? 7. What are the grand divisions of the Eastern continent? of the Western continent? 8. What is an island? 9. What is a peninsula? 10. What is an isthmus? 11. What is a cape? What is a promontory? 12. What is a mountain? a hill? a valley? 13. What is a volcano? a crater? 14. What is a coast or shore? 15. What is a desert? 16. What is an oasis?

II. DIVISIONS OF THE WATER.

17. The great body of salt water on the globe is called the sea or ocean. The great divisions of the sea are also called oceans.

18. There are five oceans: viz., 1. The Pacific, called also the South Sea; 2. the Atlantic; 3. the Indian; 4. the Arctic, or Northern; 5. the Antarctic, or Southern.

19. A sea is a large body of salt water nearly enclosed by land.

20. An archipelago is a sea filled with islands.

21. A lake is a broad expanse of fresh water surrounded, or nearly surrounded, by land. Small lakes are called ponds.

22. A bay is a part of an ocean, sea, or lake extending into the land. Large bays are often called gulfs.

23. Small bays so encircled by the land as to be protected from winds and the swell of the sea, and where ships may anchor with safety, are called ports, harbors, or havens.

24. A road or roadstead is a part of the open

sea, at some distance from the shore, where ships may safely ride at anchor.

25. A strait is a narrow passage between two bodies of water.

26. A channel is a wide passage between two bodies of water. A channel so shallow that the bottom may be found by sinking a ship's lead is called a sound.

27. A river is a large and long stream of water. Small streams are called brooks, creeks, or rivulets.

28. The basin, or valley, of a river is the tract of country from which it derives its water. The ridge which divides the basins of rivers is called the water-shed, or height of land.

29. The banks of a river are the land bordering on it on both sides. The right bank is the bank on the right-hand side as you descend the stream; and the bank on the opposite side is the left bank.

30. The part of a river where the water passes swiftly over rocks, or other obstructions in the channel, is called the rapids of the river; and where it rushes down a steep place, or over a precipice, the falls or cataract.

31. The mouth of a river is the termination, where it enters into a sea, lake, or other river.

32. Some rivers divide into several streams, and enter the sea through many mouths, and the triangular space embraced by these streams is called the Delta of the river, from its resemblance to the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet (Δ).

33. A frith or estuary is the part of the river near its mouth, which is affected by the tide.

34. A canal is a large ditch or artificial channel dug in the earth, and filled with water, for the purpose of floating boats from one place to another.

Questions.—17. What is the great body of salt water on the globe called? 18. What are the grand divisions of the sea called? 19. How many oceans are there? 20. What is a sea? 21. An archipelago (ar-ke-pel-a-go)? 22. A lake? 23. A bay? 24. A gulf? 25. A harbor? 26. A road or roadstead? 27. A strait? 28. A channel? 29. A sound? 30. A river? 31. A brook? 32. The basin or valley of a river? 33. The watershed? 34. What are the banks of a river? Which is the right bank? 35. What are the rapids of a river? the falls? 36. What is the mouth of a river? 37. What is the delta of a river? 38. What is a frith? 39. What is a canal?

[To make water more or brooks, bays, peninsulas, there are other things till]



35. The diameter of a circle is a line passing through the center, and whose ends are on the circumference. 36. The surface of a body is the part of it which is exposed to the view. 37. The thickness of a body is the distance between its two opposite surfaces. 38. The weight of a body is the force which tends to draw it toward the center of the earth. 39. The roundness of a body is the property which enables it to roll.

40. The line, part, or reveal