

Social Studies: Map Vocabulary

1. **hemisphere** ½ of a circle, or sphere
2. **equator** 0° latitude. The line of latitude that divides the world in half between the north and the south
3. **prime meridian** 0° longitude. The line of longitude that divides the world in half between the east and west
4. **latitude** (parallels) lines that measure the distance north or south of the equator
5. **longitude** (meridians) lines that measure the distance east or west of the Prime Meridians
6. **cardinal directions** The main directions: North, South, East, West
7. **intermediate directions** in between the main directions: Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest
8. **scale** a measure of distance on a map
9. **symbol** an object that represents something on a map
10. **map key** explains the map symbols
11. **vegetation** the plant life of a region
12. **environment** all the surroundings of a place
13. **weather** can change daily – the precipitation and temperature
14. **climate** weather patterns over a long period of time told in precipitation and temperature
15. **precipitation** the moisture that falls from the sky (rain, snow, sleet, hail)
16. **Three time zones**
 - A. Polar (cold)
 - B. Temperate (4 seasons)
 - C. Tropical (hot)
17. **political map** shows boundaries of states and/or countries
18. **physical map** shows the physical features of a map: mountains, deserts