

Grades 1-3 Geography Standards

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ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

Symbols and **cardinal directions** are used to determine where objects and places are located on maps and globes.

The **United States** and **Virginia** can be identified by their **shapes** on maps and globes.

The locations of the **capital cities** of **Washington, D.C.**, and **Richmond, Virginia**, are identified by specific **symbols**.

Maps can be used to locate land and water features.

Maps and globes help people study the Earth.



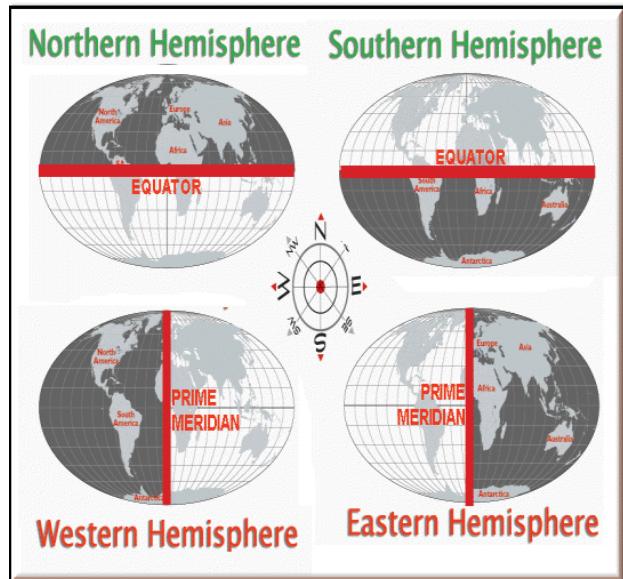
Symbols to identify on a map

- **Land**
- **Water**
- **Cities**
- **Roads**
- Terms to know
- **map**: A drawing that shows what places look like from above and where they are located
- **globe**: A round model of the Earth
- **symbol**: A picture or thing that stands for something else
- **continent**: A large body of land on Earth
- **cardinal directions**: The terms **north, east, south, and west** (**cardinal directions**) are used to determine **location** on simple maps.
- **title**: The **name** of a map or what kind it is

STANDARD 1.5 & 2.6 – Maps and Locations

- **map legend**: A list of **shapes** and **symbols** used on a map and an explanation of what each one stands for
- **compass rose**: A symbol that shows **direction** (**north, east, south, and west**) on a map
- **land**: The solid surface of Earth
- **equator**: An imaginary line around the middle of Earth that divides it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres
- **Prime Meridian**: An imaginary line that divides Earth into the Eastern and Western Hemispheres
- **hemisphere**: Half of a sphere (globe); created by the Prime Meridian or the equator

The four hemispheres



- Northern
- Southern
- Eastern
- Western



The seven continents

- North America
- South America
- Europe
- Asia
- Africa
- Australia
- Antarctica



The five oceans

- Arctic Ocean,
- Atlantic Ocean
- Indian Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- Southern Ocean



Selected rivers, mountain ranges, and lakes in the United States

- James River,
- Mississippi River,
- Rio Grande,
- Appalachian Mountains,
- Rocky Mountains,
- the Great Lakes

Virginia and the United States may be located by their physical **shapes** on maps and globes.



Students should know where the United States is located...



on the globe



and on a world map



The capital cities of **Washington, D.C.**, and **Richmond**, Virginia, may be located by using **symbols** on a United States map.

STANDARD 3.6 - Major Geographic Features

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

The continents of Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America have unique geographic features.

Africa



- **Nile River:** The **longest river** in the world
- **Atlas Mountains:** Separate the coastlines of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean from the Sahara Desert

- **Sahara Desert:** The **largest hot desert** in the world

Asia



- **Huang He River:** Flows through much of China
- **Himalaya Mountains:** Home to some of **highest peaks** on Earth

- **Gobi Desert:** Asia's largest desert

Europe



- **Mediterranean Sea:** An **intercontinental sea** situated between Europe to the north, Africa to the south, and Asia to the east
- **Alps Mountains:**

The **largest mountain system** in Europe

- **Italian Peninsula:** A **boot-shaped peninsula** in southern Europe extending into the Mediterranean Sea

North America



- **Mississippi River:** One of the **longest** rivers in North America
- **Rio Grande:** Marks part of the **boundary** between Mexico and the United States
- **Rocky Mountains:** Located in western North America and extend from **Canada to New Mexico**
- **Appalachian Mountains:** Located in **eastern** North America and extend from Canada to Alabama
- **Great Lakes:** A series of **interconnected freshwater lakes** located in northeastern North America

South America

- **Amazon River:** The **second longest river** in the world
- **Andes Mountains:** The **longest** continental mountain range in the world
- **Amazon rainforest:** The **largest tropical rainforest** in the world; includes many types of plants and animals



STANDARD 1.6 – Virginia’s Location Affects How We Live

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

Virginia is located on the **southeastern coast** of the United States.

Landforms of Virginia include hills, mountains, valleys, and the coastal plain.



Virginia has **four distinct seasons** that include **spring, summer, fall, and winter**.

Landforms affect where people **build houses** and **communities**.

Location, climate, and physical surroundings affect the way people in Virginia meet their **basic wants**.

Terms to know

- **climate:** The kinds of **weather** an area has over a **long period** of time
- **physical surroundings:** **Land** and bodies of **water** present in a given location
- **season:** Any one of the four phases of the year (**spring, summer, fall, or winter**)
- **location:** The place where a particular point or object exists on the surface of Earth
- **landform:** A shape or feature of **Earth’s surface**

The **climate** of Virginia is **mild**.