

## SOL 3.2 - Major geographic features of Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America

### 3.2a. Seven Continents, Five Oceans

a) locate and describe the seven continents and the five oceans

#### Continents

Continents are large landmasses that have different climates and ecosystems that affect the way people and animals live.

- The continents of Africa, Asia, Antarctica, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America have unique geographic features.
- Some continents are more populated than others and contain multiple countries.
- **Australia** is both a continent and a country.



#### The seven continents

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

#### Oceans

An **ocean** is a large body of salt water that covers a large portion of the surface of Earth.

#### The five oceans:

Arctic Ocean                      Atlantic Ocean

Indian Ocean                    Pacific Ocean

Southern Ocean

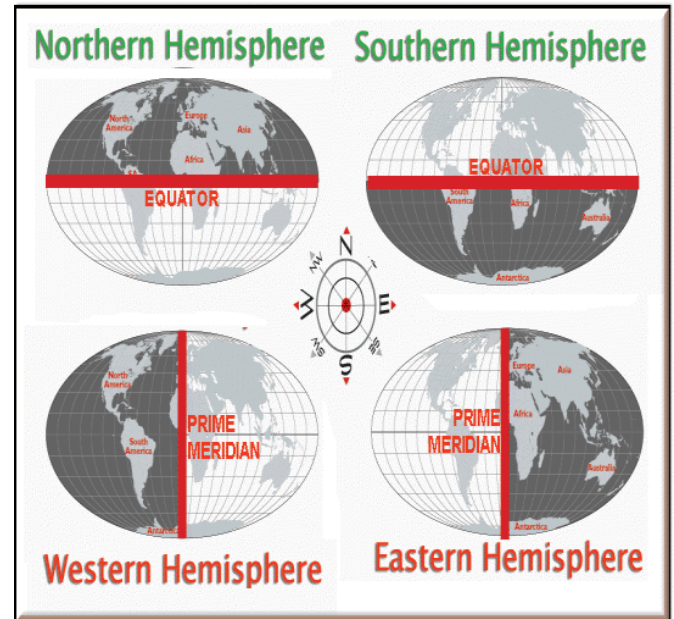


### 3.2b. Hemispheres

b) locate and describe the equator, the Prime Meridian, and the four hemispheres

#### The four hemispheres

- Northern
- Southern
- Eastern
- Western



- **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 **United States** is in the **Northern Hemisphere** and the **Western Hemisphere**. What about Australia?

**Continents** located near the **equator** (Africa and South America) will have **warmer climates**.

**Antarctica**, **farthest** from the equator, has the **coldest** climate.