Map Skills Vocabulary

1. ocean - One of the Earth's largest bodies of water. (Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific)

2. continent - One of Earth's seven great bodies of land. (Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America)

3. hemisphere - Half a sphere (Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western)

4. equator - An imaginary line that lies half way between the North Pole and South Pole at 0 degrees latitude.

5. cardinal directions - The main directions of the globe. (north, south, east, and west)

6. compass rose - A small drawing on a map that shows directions.

7. intermediate directions - The directions between the cardinal directions. (northeast, southeast, northwest, and southwest)

8. symbol - Anything that stands for something else.

9. map key - An explanation of what the symbols on a map represent.

10. scale - The relationship between the distance shown on map and the real distance on Earth.

11. locator - A small map or globe set onto another map that shows where the main map is located.

12. political map - A map that shows information such as cities, capitals, states, and countries.

13. physical map - A map that shows natural features of Earth

14. landform map - A map that shows the landforms of the area.

15. transportation map - A map that shows how to travel from one place to another.

16. historical map - A map that shows information about past events and where they occurred.