

**A CONCISE SYNOPSIS OF
GEOGRAPHY, FOR THE USE OF
THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT OF THE
ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE AT
SANDHURST**

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A Concise Synopsis of Geography, for the Use of the Junior Department of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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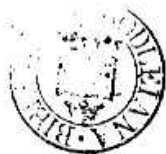
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PRELIMINARY
OBSERVATIONS, DEFINITIONS,

ſc.

GEOGRAPHY is a description of the earth, and of the different parts of its surface.

The form of the earth is nearly spherical.

Its diameter is about eight thousand miles; its circumference about twenty-five thousand.

The surface of the earth consists of *land* and *water*, the denominations of the different parts of which are as follows:—

LAND.

A *Continent* is a wide extent of land, nowhere entirely separated by water; as the eastern and western continents; the former including Europe, Asia, and Africa, and the latter North and South America.

An *Island* is a tract of land entirely surrounded by water; as Great Britain, Ireland, &c.

A *Peninsula* is a portion of land surrounded on all sides but one by water; as the Morea in Greece, South America, &c.

A *Promontory* is a high land jutting into the sea.

A *Cape* is the extremity of a promontory, or of a peninsula: as Cape Horn, Cape Clear, Cape St. Vincent, &c.

An *Isthmus* is a narrow tract of land, uniting a peninsula to a continent, or one continent to another; as the isthmus of Suez, which joins Africa to Asia.

A *Mountain* is a vast protuberance of the earth; as the Oural mountains, between Europe and Asia; the Andes in South America.

WATER.

An *Ocean* is a vast extent of water, nowhere entirely separated by land; as the Atlantic ocean.

A *Sea* is a branch of the ocean nearly surrounded by land; as the Mediterranean sea.

An *Archipelago* is a sea interspersed with numerous islands; as the Archipelago between Turkey in Europe and Asia.

A *Gulf* is a part of the sea running up far into the land; as the gulf of Finland.

A *Bay* is a wide expanse of sea, reaching not far into the land; as the bay of Biscay.

A *Strait* is a narrow passage of water joining a sea to an ocean, or one sea to another; as the straits of Gibraltar.

A *Channel* is a wider passage of water from one sea to another; as St. George's channel.

A *Sound* is a strait so shallow that it may be sounded; as the sound of Mull.

A *Creek* is a narrow branch of the sea, running into the land.

A *Haven* or *Harbour* is a small portion of sea surrounded by land, excepting at a narrow neck which communicates with the sea; as Portsmouth harbour.

A *Lake* is a portion of water, entirely surrounded by land; as the lake of Geneva.

A *River* is a considerable stream of inland water running into the sea; as the Thames.

A *Frith* or *Estuary* is the widening of a river into an arm of the sea; as the frith of Forth, the Humber.

The land is generally divided into four great portions, called *Quarters*: they are, Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. The three first form the *ancient* Continent, and the fourth the *new*.

The water upon the surface of the earth occupies nearly four times the space of the land; and has for its grand divisions the following oceans;—viz.

1. The *Arctic Ocean*, extending from the arctic circle towards the north pole.

2. The *Antarctic Ocean*, reaching from the antarctic circle towards the south pole.

3. The *Pacific Ocean*, flowing between the eastern shores of Asia and the western shores of America.

4. The *Atlantic Ocean*, occupying the space between the eastern shores of America and the western shores of Europe and Africa.

5. The *Indian Ocean*, lying between the eastern shores of Africa and the East Indies.

Many considerable branches of these are likewise denominated oceans, with distinct names.

ON MAPS.

A *map* is a representation of the whole, or any part, of the earth's surface upon a plane.

The top or upper part of a map is towards the north; the bottom towards the south; the right-hand side is towards the east; and the left-hand side towards the west.

The figures along the sides of the map express the *latitudes*, or distances of places north or south from the equator.

The figures along the top and bottom express the *longitudes*, or distances east or west from the first meridian.

Land is distinguished from the sea or ocean by strong black lines, shaded towards the sea. Divisions of land are distinguished by dotted lines, and frequently by different colours. The situation of cities, towns, &c. is pointed out by a cipher or the figure of a house. Rivers are delineated by black waving lines; lakes and mountains by appropriate shading; and sand banks in the water by small dots. In maps intended chiefly to show the coasts, bays, harbours, &c. of countries, the depth of the water is indicated by figures, signifying fathoms.

CHAPTER I.



EUROPE.

Europe is bounded on the

North, by the Arctic ocean ;

South, by the Mediterranean sea ;

West, by the Atlantic ocean.

East, by Asia, Black sea, Sea of Marmora, and
the Archipelago.

Its extent from Cape St. Vincent to the Oural or Uralian mountains, is computed at nearly 3,300 miles, and from the North Cape in Lapland to Cape Matapan in the Morea, is about 2,400. Its superficies is estimated at 2,760,000 British square miles, and it contains above 200 millions of inhabitants.