

**AN INITIATORY
GEOGRAPHY, IN
QUESTION AND ANSWER**

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An Initiatory Geography, in Question and Answer by George Meaby

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GEORGE MEABY

**AN INITIATORY
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QUESTION AND ANSWER**

AN
INITIATORY GEOGRAPHY,

In Question and Answer,

WITH THE NAMES OF PLACES ACCENTED,
AND THEIR PRONUNCIATION ADDED.

BY
GEORGE MEABY, B.A., LL.D.,
HEAD MASTER OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, CANNING, AND
AUTHOR OF "FIRST LESSONS IN GRAMMAR."

Second Edition.

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150, ALDERSGATE STREET, LONDON.

1862.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS book is, as it professes to be, a book for those pupils whose inclination or whose time allotted for learning does not permit of more than an acquaintance with the broad features or elementary parts of Geography.

The almost universal defect of school books is that their writers are more anxious to display their own acquirements than to produce only what their experience may have taught them young pupils may reasonably be expected to learn.

It is hoped that this little book will be found to contain much information in a concise and easy style—quite as much as young pupils generally gather by great labour from larger works, and which, if thoroughly mastered, by a constant reference to a map or atlas, will enable the learner to pass muster at any ordinary examination on the subject.

In this edition, besides an entire revision, a chapter has been added on the Exports and Imports, Products and Manufactures, of Great

Britain, which it is believed will be found both interesting and useful, the figures being so far as possible those of the past year (1859). The proper names have all been accented, and, when thought to be necessary, the pronunciation introduced immediately after, instead of being, as in the first edition, placed in a vocabulary at the end.

With these additions and alterations the book is again submitted to the notice of teachers.

Grammar School, Carmel,
1860.

CATECHISM OF GEOGRAPHY.

INTRODUCTION.

Question. What is meant by Geography ?

Answer. A description of the Earth and its inhabitants.

Q. What is the Earth ?

A. The Earth on which we live is a planet, or moving body, and forms part of what is called the Solar System.

Q. What is comprehended in the Solar System ?

A. The Sun and all the other heavenly bodies which move about it, or are attracted by it.

Q. Into what classes are these bodies divided ?

A. Planets are said to be either primary or secondary : primary planets being those which move round the sun as their centre of attraction ; and secondary planets being those which move round some primary planet as a centre.

Q. Give the primary planets in their order ?

A. Mercury, Venus, the Earth, Mars, the Asteroids, Jupiter, Saturn, U'ranus, and Neptune.

Q. How does the Earth move ?

1 From the Greek words *ge*, the earth, and *graphis*, a writing or description. Geography is divided into Mathematical, Physical or Descriptive, and Political. Mathematical Geography treats of the laws which regulate the motions and distances of our earth ; physical geography treats of its natural features and its products ; political geography, of its division into nations and their forms of government.

A. It has two principal motions.—One, which is called its annual motion, (from *annus* which means a year) is its motion round the Sun as a centre at a mean distance of 95 millions of miles.

Q. Why do you say at a mean distance ?

A. Because the Earth does not move in an exact circle. In Winter it is nearer the Sun by about a million of miles.¹

Q. You said that the Earth had two motions, what is the other ?

A. It is its motion round its axis, which it performs once in little less than twenty-four hours, and is called its diurnal motion (from *diurnus*, which signifies daily).

Q. What do you mean by the axis of the Earth ?

A. An imaginary line round which it is supposed to turn.

Q. In what direction does it turn ?

A. From West to East, and produces the apparent motion of the Sun from east to west.

Q. Do you know any other effect of the Earth's motion round its axis ?

A. Yes : the succession of day and night ; for the Earth being globular, one half only can receive the Sun's rays at the same time.

Q. How are the Seasons produced ?

A. By the manner in which the Earth revolves about the Sun, having its axis inclined $23\frac{1}{2}$ degrees.

Q. What are the extremities of the Earth's axis called ?

A. They are called Poles—that towards the north is called the Arctic, that towards the south the Antarctic.²

¹ The fact of its being colder in Winter, though the Earth is then nearest the Sun, is owing to the Sun's rays falling more obliquely on our portion of the Globe at this season of the year.

² From *Arctos*, a Greek word, which signifies the Bear ; the constellation so called being in the North. Antarctic means opposite to the Arctic.

Q. What is the form of the Earth ?

A. It is round except at the Poles, where it is a little flattened.

Q. Can you give any proof of the rotundity of the Earth ?

A. When a ship goes out to sea we first lose sight of the body, then the rigging, and lastly the top of the mast.—The Earth also reflects a circular shadow, at the time of an eclipse, on the face of the moon. Another proof is, that several celebrated voyagers (Drake, Anson, &c.) have, by sailing continually in one direction, arrived at the same place from which they set out.

Q. What is meant by the diameter of the Earth ?

A. The diameter of the Earth or any round body is a supposed line passing through the centre and terminated by two opposite points of the surface.

Q. What is the length of a line drawn thus through the Earth ?

A. The mean diameter of the earth is 7,916 miles. The polar diameter is about 26 miles less than the equatorial.¹

Q. What is the circumference ?

A. The circumference of the earth is a line drawn round it so as to divide it into two equal parts, or halves, called hemispheres, from Greek words signifying half globe.

Q. What is the length of this line ?

A. About 24,860 miles ; the circumference of the equator is about 40 miles greater than that which is made to pass through the Poles.

Q. How is distance measured on the globe ?

A. By degrees, minutes, and seconds, each degree is the 360th part of the circumference, and is equal to 69½ English miles ;—a minute is the 60th part of a degree ;—a second is the 60th part of a minute.

Q. What is the Equator ?

¹ Polar diameter 7,900. Equatorial diameter 7,926.