

**AN ABSTRACT OF GENERAL  
GEOGRAPHY, COMPREHENDING  
A MORE MINUTE DESCRIPTION  
OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE; AND OF  
PALESTINE, OR THE HOLY LAND**

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An abstract of general geography, comprehending a more minute description of the British Empire; and of Palestine, or the Holy Land by John White

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**JOHN WHITE**

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AND INCLUDING THE  
SACRED GEOGRAPHY OF EGYPT, ARABIA, SYRIA, MESOPOTAMIA,  
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WITH NUMEROUS EXERCISES.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DEFINITIONS.

**GEOGRAPHY** means a description of the earth. A *Map* is a drawing or picture of the surface of the earth, or of a part of it. The *top* of a map is north; the *bottom*, south; the *right-hand side*, east; the *left-hand side*, west.

The surface of the earth consists of *land* and *water*. The *land* consists of continents and islands;—the *water*, of oceans, seas, lakes, and rivers.

A *Continent* is the greatest portion of land, nowhere entirely separated by water. A *Country* is a large tract of land known by a particular name. An *Island* is much smaller than a continent, and wholly surrounded by water. A *Peninsula* is a portion of land almost surrounded by water.

An *Isthmus* is a narrow portion of land, joining two larger portions together. A *Cape*, *Promontory*, *Point*, *Head*, *Naze*, *Ness*, or *Mull*, is the extremity of a portion of land stretching into the sea. A *Coast* or *Shore* is that part of the land which borders on the sea.

An *Ocean* is the largest division of salt water. A *Sea* is a smaller division than an ocean. A *Bay* and *Gulf* are parts of the sea running into the land. A *Strait* is a narrow passage of water joining two seas. A *Lake* is a collection of water surrounded by land. A *Frith* or *Estuary* is the widening of a river into an arm of the sea. A *River* is a considerable stream of water, running into the sea, or into another river.

The *Equator* is the line that divides the *map of the world* into *northern* and *southern hemispheres* or *halves*. The *Poles* are ninety degrees on each side from the equator. *Parallels of Latitude* are the lines drawn from side to side of the map.

The *Tropic of Cancer* is about twenty-three degrees and a half north from the equator; and the *Tropic of Capricorn*, the same distance south from it. The *Arctic Circle* is about twenty-three degrees and a half from the north pole; and the *Antarctic*, the same distance from the south pole.

These circles divide the globe into five portions or belts, called *zones*,—viz. the *torrid zone*, the north and south temperate, and the north and south frigid zones. The *Torrid Zone* is between the tropics; the *North Temperate*, between the tropic of Cancer and the arctic circle; the *South Temperate*, between the tropic of Capricorn and the antarctic circle; the *North Frigid*, between the arctic circle and the north pole; and the *South Frigid*, between the antarctic circle and the south pole.

*Meridians* are the lines that pass from pole to pole through the equator. The meridian that passes through London or Greenwich is called the *First Meridian*.

*Longitude* is the distance of a place *east* or *west* from the first meridian; the greatest longitude is one hundred and eighty degrees. *Latitude* is the distance of a place *north* or *south* from the equator: the greatest latitude is ninety degrees. On the *map of the world*, the degrees of latitude are marked on the *circles* that surround each hemisphere, and those of longitude on the *equator*. On the map of a *particular country*, the degrees of latitude are marked on the *sides*, and those of longitude at the *top* and *bottom*.



**EXERCISES.**—What does the word geography mean? Of what does the surface of the earth consist? What is a continent? What is an ocean? What is the line called that divides the map of the world into northern and southern hemispheres? How many degrees of latitude are between the equator and each tropic? What is the meridian that passes through Greenwich called?

What is the greatest longitude, counting either east or west from the first meridian? What is a map? What is a country? What is meant by a sea? What is the distance of each pole from the equator? What is longitude? What is an island? What is a lake? Name the five zones, and tell where they are situated. What is the distance of the arctic circle from the north pole?

What is a peninsula? What is an isthmus? What is a strait? What are the lines that extend from one side of a map to the other called? What are those lines called that are drawn from the top to the bottom? What is latitude? What are the different names given to portions of land which stretch into the sea? What are those parts of the sea called that extend into the land? What is a frith or estuary? What is the distance of the antarctic circle from the south pole?

## MAP OF THE WORLD.

**CONTINENTS.**—Eu'rope, A'sia, Africa, North Amer'ica, South America.

**OCEANS.**—The *Atlantic Ocean* separates Europe and Africa from America; the *Pacific Ocean* separates Asia and Australia from America; the *Indian Ocean* is south of Asia, and extends from Africa to Australia; the *Northern or Arctic Ocean* extends from the North of Europe, Asia, and America, to the north pole; the *Southern or Antarctic Ocean* extends from the south of America, Africa, and Australia, to the south pole.

## EUROPE

Is bounded on the North by the Northern or Arctic Ocean; on the West, by the Atlantic Ocean; on the South, by the Mediterra'nean, the Archipel'ago, the Sea of Marmora, the Black Sea, and Mount Cau'casus; and on the East, by the Cas'pian Sea, the river U'ral, and the Ural Mountains.

**COUNTRIES.**—Eng'land, Scot'land, Ire'land, Portu'gal, Spain, France, Swit'zerland, It'aly, Turkey, Greece, Aus'tria, Ger'many, Bel'gium, Hol'land or the King-

dom of the Neth'erlands, Den'mark, Nor'way, Swe'den, Rus'sia, Prus'sia.

CHIEF TOWNS IN ENGLAND.—LON'DON, on the river Thames; *Liv'erpool*, on the Mer'sey; *Man'chester*, on the Ir'well; *Bir'mingham*, in the interior; *Leeds*, on the Aire; *Bris'tol*, on the A'von.

SCOTLAND.—ED'INBURGH, near the Frith of Forth; *Glas'gow*, on the Clyde; *Aberdeen'*, on the Dee; *Dundee'*, on the Frith of Tay; *Pais'ley*, on the Cart; *Green'ock*, on the Frith of Clyde.

IRELAND.—DUB'LIN, on the Liffey; *Cork*, at the mouth of the Lee; *Lim'erick*, on the Shan'non; *Bel'fast'*, at the head of Carrickfer'gus Bay; *Wa'terford*, at the mouth of the Suir; *Gal'way*, on Galway Bay.

PORTUGAL.—LIS'BON, on the Ta'gus, almost destroyed by an earthquake in 1755; *Opor'to*, on the Dou'ro, noted for its trade in port-wine; *El'vas*, in the east, near the Guadia'na; *Bra'ga*, near the Cava'do; *St Ubes* or *Setubal'*, at the mouth of the Sa'do; *Coin'bra*, on the Monde'go, famous for its university.

SPAIN.—MADRID', on the Manzana'res; *Seville'*, in the south-west, on the Guadalquiv'er; *Barcelo'na*, in the north-east, on the coast of the Mediterranean; *Valen'cia*, on the east coast, at the mouth of the Guadala'viar; *Cad'iz*, a principal seaport of Spain, in the south-west, on the Isle of Le'on; *Gran'ada*, in the south, the ancient capital of the Moorish kings; *Saragos'sa*, on the E'bro, famous for its gallant defence against the French; *Gibra'l'tar*, in the south, a remarkably strong fortress, belonging to the English.

FRANCE.—PAR'IS, on the Seine, next to London, the largest city in Europe; *Lyons*, at the junction of the Rhone and Saone, noted for its silk manufactures; *Mar-*

*seilles*, on the coast of the Mediterranean; *Rouen*, on the Seine; *Nantes*, in the west, on the Loire; *Bordeaux*, in the south-west, on the Garonne; *Lille*, in the north, on the Deule; *Cherbourg* and *Brest*, on the west coast, and *Toulon*, on the Mediterranean, the chief stations for the French navy.

SWITZERLAND.—*BERNE*, on the Aar; *Geneva*, at the western extremity of the Lake of Geneva; *Basle*, on the Rhine; *Lausanne*, on the north of the Lake of Geneva; *Zurich*, on the northern extremity of the Lake of Zurich.

ITALY.—*ROME*, on the Tiber, the seat of the Pope, contains some of the finest buildings, ancient and modern, of any city in the world; *Naples*, on the west coast, the largest city in Italy; *Paler'no*, on the north, and *Messi'na*, on the north-east coast of Sicily; *Milan*, between the rivers Ad'da and Tici'no; *Ven'ice*, in the north-east, on the coast of the Gulf of Venice, is built on a great number of islands; *Gen'oa*, on the Gulf of Genoa; *Flor'ence*, on the Ar'do; *Turin*, in the north-west, on the Po.

TURKEY IN EUROPE.—*CONSTANTINO'PLE*, the capital of the Turkish Empire, on the Straits of Constantinople; *Adriano'ple*, on the Marit'za; *Salon'ica*, on the coast of the gulf of the same name; *Bu'charest*, in the north, on the Dembrowit'za.

GREECE.—*ATH'ENS*, near the Gulf of Egi'na, the most celebrated city of ancient Greece, still contains several interesting buildings of antiquity; *Nap'oli di Roman'ia*, on the Gulf of Napoli; *Tripolit'za*, near the centre of the More'a; *Missolon'ghi*, on the Gulf of Lepad'o, where Lord Byron, the poet, died; *Patras*, in the north-west of the Morea, on the coast; *Corfu*, on an island of the same name, near the coast of Albania.