

**A GRAMMAR OF  
GEOGRAPHY,  
PART I**

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A grammar of geography, part I by The Jaffna Book Society

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# GRAMMAR OF GEOGRAPHY.

## PART I.

### CHAPTER I.—SECTION FIRST.

#### (Definitions.)

1. **GEOGRAPHY** is the description of the earth; or it is the science which describes the surface of the globe; the various divisions of that surface, both natural and artificial; the inhabitants of the earth, and the variety of its productions; together with the various lines, real and imaginary, which are drawn or supposed to be drawn upon it.

2. The surface of the earth is divided into land and water.

#### *The Natural Divisions of Land.*

3. *Continent* is the name applied to the two principal divisions of the land; one of which is called the old or Eastern Continent; and the other the New or Western Continent.

4. An *Island* is a portion of land entirely surrounded by water, as Great Britain, Ireland; Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Jamaica, Ceylon, &c.

5. A number of islands situated at short distances from each other constitutes a *group of Islands*; as the Philippines, the Canaries, the Orkneys.

6. An *Archipelago* is composed of a great number of islands, or of numerous groups of islands, near each other; as the Archipelago of Mergui; the Eastern Archipelago; the Grecian Archipelago. The term Archipelago is also applied to a sea, or part of a sea, in which there are several groups of islands.

7. An *Isle* is a small island; the term is generally applied to islands that are situated in lakes; it is also frequently used in the plural number instead of islands.

8. A *Peninsula* is a tract of land, nearly surrounded by water; as the Peninsula of Malaya, the Morea.

9. An *Isthmus* is a narrow neck of land which joins a peninsula to a continent, or two large portions of a continent to each other; as the Isthmus of Suez, which joins Asia and Africa; the Isthmus of Kraw, which connects the Peninsula of Malaya with the mainland of Asia.

10. A *Plain* is a small space of land without any considerable eminence.

11. *Champaign* is a term applied to a large level tract of land.

12. A *Mountain* is an eminence on the surface of the earth considerably elevated above the surrounding plains.



13. A number of mountains, joining each other, and running through an extent of country, forms a *Chain of mountains*.

14. A single mountain, or one of a chain, is sometimes called a *Mount*.

15. A *Volcano* is a burning mountain, which throws out fire, stones, and liquid matter, called *Lava*.

16. A *Hill* is a small mountain.

17. A number of Hills, contiguous to each other, forms a *Range of Hills*, sometimes called *Downs*.

18. A *Pass* or *Defile* is a narrow passage over a mountain or hill, or between two mountains.

19. *Ghaut* is applied in India to a pass or defile, to a landing place on the banks of a river or tank; and in the plural, *Ghauts*, means a chain of mountains.

20. A *Valley*, *Vale*, or *Dale*, is the name given to low land between mountains or hills.

21. *Rocks* are huge masses of stone scattered over a mountain or forming a mountain.

22. When a side, or the face of a mountain is perpendicular, or nearly so, it is called a *Precipice*.

23. When a range of high land stretches out into the Sea the termination of it is called *Cape*, *Head-land*, *Promontory*; the latter designation is sometimes applied to the range itself.

24. A *Forest* is an extensive tract of land, covered with trees and shrubs.

25. A *Wood* is a small forest.

26. A *Jungle* is the Indian name for a Forest or Wood: it is also given to a tract of country covered with high coarse grass; frequently the word is used to signify the trees, shrubs and grass growing in desert places.

27. A *Desert* is a space of barren land; also a large tract of fertile land which is uninhabited.

28. A *Marsh, Morass, Bog, or Fen*, is a tract of low swampy ground. The Sooder bunds are extensive marshes covered with wood or jungle.

29. A *Meadow* is a tract of land (generally inclosed) producing grass fit for pasturage, or for making hay.

30. A *Common* is an open piece of land generally covered with coarse herbage.

31. A *Coast or Shore* is that part of a country which borders on the sea. Shore is also applied to that part of a sea adjoining the land.

## SECTION SECOND.

### *The Artificial and Political Divisions of Land.*

1. *Country* is an indefinite term which may be applied to any extent of land.

2. *Territory* signifies the country or portions of land belonging to any prince or people.

3. *Monarchy* is the government of a single

person; sometimes it is applied to the country governed by a sovereign; sometimes to the mode in which any particular country is ruled.

4. An *Empire* is the extent of territory under the dominion of an emperor.

5. A *Kingdom* is the dominion of a King.

6. A *Republic* is an extent of country governed by the people of it.

7. An *Electorate* is the dominion of an elector.

8. A *Principality* is a country whose sovereign has the title of Prince.

9. A *Dukedom* or *Duchy* signifies the territory of a Duke.

10. A *Province* is a division of a country comprising several cities and towns.

11. A *County* or *Shire* is the term applied to the divisions of Great Britain and Ireland.

12. A *Zillah* is an Indian division of a province.

13. A *Zemindarree* is a tract of country, the property of an individual called a Zemindar.

14. A *Presidency* is one of the grand divisions of British India: there are three Presidencies, which are divided into Provinces, and these provinces are again divided and subdivided into Zillahs, Zemindarrees, &c.

15. A *Vice-Royalty* is part of the dominions of a prince governed by a nobleman, acting as his representative, who is called a Viceroy.

16. The term *Quarter* is applied either to a division of the earth in general, that of a prince, or of a part of a city.