

Mapping the Blue Marble: A Global Perspective

Learning objective: To identify and describe the location of the world's continents and oceans, and explain their significance in global geography.

Read the passage below carefully, then answer the questions that follow. Use your geography knowledge and the text to support your explanations.

Finn the dolphin spends his days traversing the vast, interconnected world of our oceans. While we often name them separately—the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, and Arctic—Finn knows they form one global ocean. Covering over 70% of the Earth's surface, these basins regulate our climate and provide essential habitats. Rising above these waters are the seven continents: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania, and South America. These vast landmasses vary significantly in their topography, from the icy, uninhabited plains of Antarctica to the dense, biodiverse rainforests of South America. Scientists and geographers study these continents by observing how they are positioned across the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The Equator acts as an invisible horizontal line, dividing the Earth into two halves. Understanding the spatial relationship between these landmasses and the oceanic basins is vital for grasping global trade, weather patterns, and the migration of wildlife. As Finn glides through the currents, he reminds us that despite the distance between these continents, our world remains a single, fragile ecosystem held together by the tides.

Word bank: Hemisphere · Landmass · Equator · Tectonic · Basin · Topography · Latitude

1. Name the five oceans identified in the text and describe what percentage of the Earth's surface they cover. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what is the purpose of the Equator? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author describes the world as a 'single, fragile ecosystem' despite the continents being separated by oceans. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the environments of Antarctica and South America based on the descriptions provided. (3 marks)

5. Justify why it is important for humans to study the relationship between continents and oceans. Provide two reasons for your answer. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the world. Label all seven continents and the five oceans. Add an arrow to show the location of the Equator.



Extension challenge: Research a specific continent. Write a short paragraph explaining how its unique topography affects the people or animals that live there. If the continents were to shift over millions of years, what might happen to the climate of your chosen continent?