Mastering the Four Hemispheres

A globe is a round model of the earth, which is shaped like a sphere. Globes display continents and oceans, which are the largest masses of land and water on earth. There are seven continents and four oceans. Maps are flat drawings that display places on earth as well but contain distortions, due to the fact a cartographer is creating a flat image from a 3D model.

Some points and imaginary lines are placed on globes and maps to help us locate places on Earth. The North Pole is the highest point on earth. The South Pole is the lowest point on Earth. We use the poles to know the four main cardinal directions: north, south, west and east.

The Equator is an imaginary line around the center of the Earth. It divides the Earth into two hemispheres. Hemisphere means half of a sphere or globe. The half of the earth north of the Equator is called the Northern Hemisphere. The Southern Hemisphere is the half of the earth south of the Equator.

The Earth can also be divided into hemispheres using the Prime Meridian. The Prime Meridian is the imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole and it divides the globe into the Western Hemisphere and Eastern Hemisphere. The half of the earth west of the Prime Meridian is called the Western Hemisphere. The Eastern Hemisphere is the half of the earth east of the Prime Meriden.

Study the maps above. It shows the world maps sectioned up into the four hemispheres. Answer the following questions. Highlight the Equator. Highlight the Prime Meridian in another color.

1. Which continents are entirely in the Northern Hemisphere?
2. Which continents are entirely in the Southern Hemisphere?
3. Which continents are in BOTH the Northern and Southern Hemisphere?
4. Which continents are entirely in the Western Hemisphere?
5. Which continents are entirely in the Eastern Hemisphere?
6. Which continents are in BOTH the Western and Eastern Hemisphere?
Hemispheres Review

Highlight the Equator. Use another color to highlight the Prime Meridian. Use the map to complete the answers.

Find each place listed below in at least TWO of the hemispheres shown above. Some continents and oceans are in THREE or FOUR hemispheres. Name the hemispheres in which you find each place. Your answer choices are: Northern, Southern, Western and/or Eastern Hemisphere.

1. North America _________________________________________________________
2. Pacific Ocean _________________________________________________________
3. Arctic Ocean _________________________________________________________
4. Europe ______________________________________________________________
5. Atlantic Ocean _________________________________________________________
6. Antarctica ____________________________________________________________
7. Indian Ocean _________________________________________________________
8. Africa ________________________________________________________________
9. Asia _________________________________________________________________
10. South America ________________________________________________________