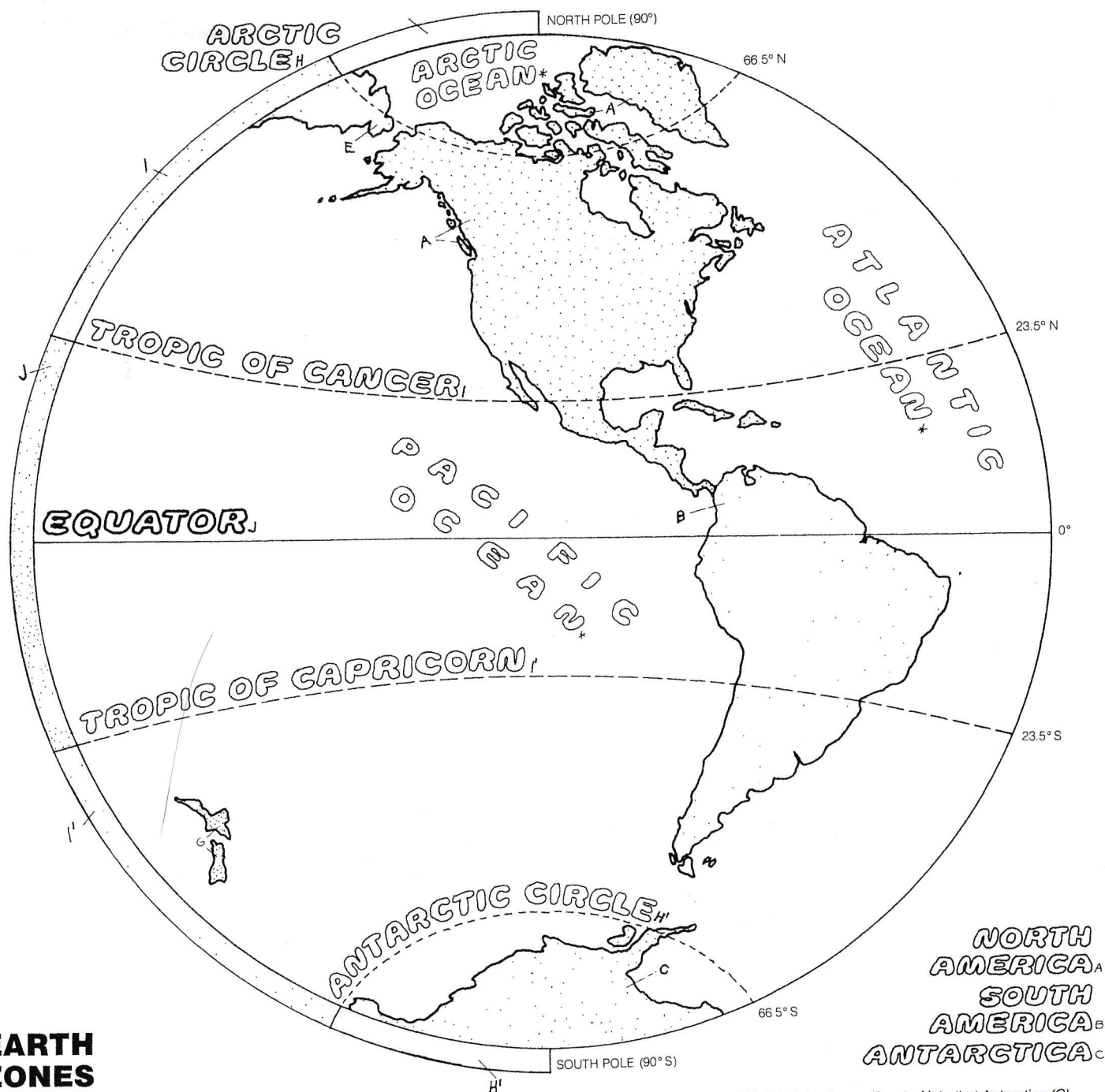


# CONTINENTS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE



## EARTH ZONES

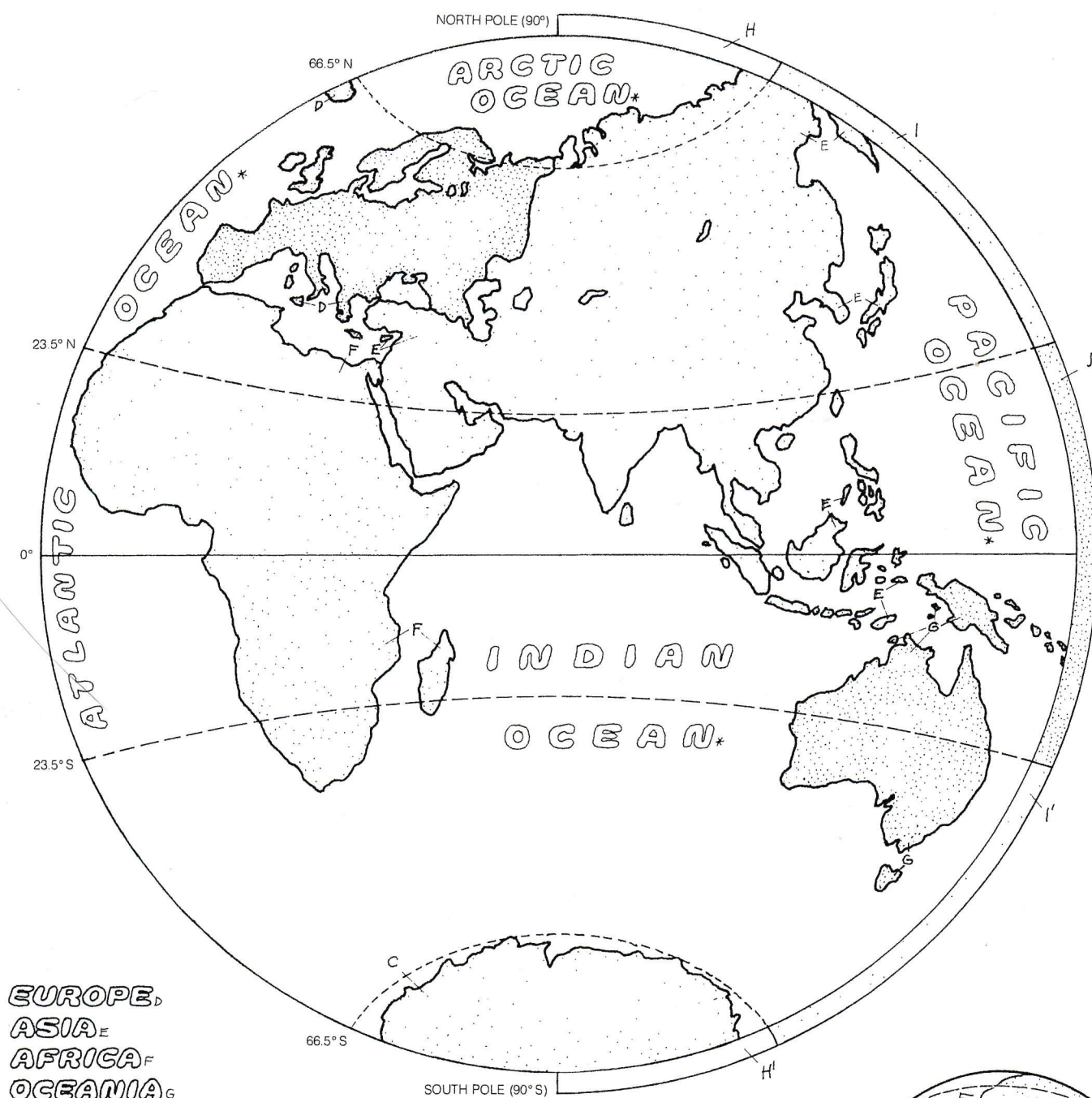
ARCTIC OR NORTH POLAR<sub>H</sub>  
 NORTH TEMPERATE<sub>I</sub>  
 TROPICAL OR TORRID<sub>J</sub>  
 SOUTH TEMPERATE<sub>I'</sub>  
 ANTARCTIC OR SOUTH POLAR<sub>H'</sub>

The four seasons occur only in the temperate zones. The *Arctic Circle*, 23.5° from the *North Pole*, is the southern boundary of the *Arctic or North Polar Zone*. In this zone, the sun fails to rise during the winter months. The sun stays below the horizon for one day at the *Arctic Circle* and for six months at the *North Pole*. During the summer, the sun fails to set for a comparable period of time. The *Tropic of Capricorn* is the southern boundary of the *Tropical Zone* and the southernmost parallel (23.5° S) where the sun appears overhead (noon of the winter solstice; see p. 44). This line also marks the northern border of the *South Temperate Zone*, which is limited to the south by the *Antarctic Circle* (23.5° from the *South Pole*); this is also the northern boundary of the *Antarctic Zone or South Polar Zone or Region*.

CN: (1) Color the continents. Note that Antarctica (C) can be seen in its entirety on the small globe. (2) Color the titles of the oceans gray. (3) Color the names of the Earth Zones and the outer bands of the large maps, which represent the regions of each zone.

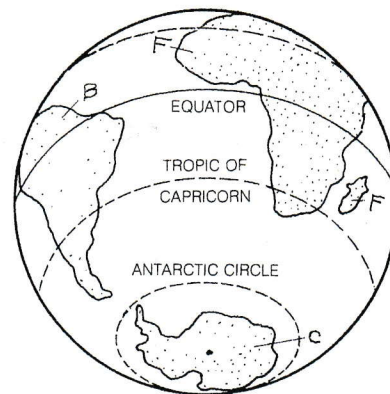
Earth zones are defined by imaginary lines of latitude circling the globe, parallel to the *Equator*. The latitude lines shown above are not parallel because of the type of map projection used (they are parallel in the small global view to the right). The *Tropical or Torrid Zone* is the largest and hottest. The sun is always shining directly over some part of this zone. It is bounded by the *Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn*. The *Equator* passes through the center of the *Tropical Zone*, halfway between the two poles, dividing the earth into *Northern and Southern Hemispheres*. The northern boundary of the *Tropical Zone* is the *Tropic of Cancer*, the northernmost parallel (23.5° N latitude) where the sun shines directly overhead (noon of the summer solstice; see p. 44). About 75% of the earth's population lives in the *North Temperate Zone*.

# CONTINENTS OF THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE



EUROPE<sub>D</sub>  
 ASIA<sub>E</sub>  
 AFRICA<sub>F</sub>  
 OCEANIA<sub>G</sub>

Continents are large land masses with adjacent islands, surrounded or nearly surrounded by water. The seven continents cover slightly less than 30% of the earth's surface. The rest of our "water planet" is covered by four oceans and many seas (shallower extensions of oceans, partially surrounded by land).



CONTINENT	% OF TOTAL	LAND AREA	% OF TOTAL	POPULATION
Asia	29.5	17,230,000 sq. mi. (44,625,700 km <sup>2</sup> )	60.4	3,695,000,000
Africa	20.0	11,700,000 sq. mi. (30,279,600 km <sup>2</sup> )	12.9	820,000,000
North America	16.3	9,400,000 sq. mi. (24,346,680 km <sup>2</sup> )	8.2	485,000,000
South America	11.8	6,000,000 sq. mi. (17,871,400 km <sup>2</sup> )	5.7	345,000,000
Antarctica	9.6	5,400,000 sq. mi. (13,986,000 km <sup>2</sup> )	—	—
Europe	6.5	3,810,000 sq. mi. (9,867,900 km <sup>2</sup> )	12.4	740,000,000
Oceania	5.2	3,300,000 sq. mi. (8,547,000 km <sup>2</sup> )	0.4	28,500,000

OCEAN	% OF TOTAL	OCEAN AREA	MAXIMUM DEPTH
Pacific	49.2	64,100,000 sq. mi. (165,890,800 km <sup>2</sup> )	36,170 ft. (11,027 m)
Atlantic	24.6	32,220,000 sq. mi. (83,385,360 km <sup>2</sup> )	30,200 ft. (9,207 m)
Indian	22.0	28,900,000 sq. mi. (74,793,200 km <sup>2</sup> )	24,440 ft. (7,451 m)
Arctic	4.2	5,300,000 sq. mi. (13,716,400 km <sup>2</sup> )	—