Chapter 1:
The World of Geography
Chapter 1: What is Geography?

*It is the study of our earth; our home.

OR

*Anything that can be mapped!
*Geography mixes up the physical and human aspects of our world into one field of study.

*Geography shows the relationship between people and the environment.
What is a geographer?

- Someone who analyzes the Earth from many points of view.
Things that geographers study:

- oceans
- plant life
- landforms
- people
- how the Earth and its people affect each other
The Geographer’s Tools

• Globes and Maps:
  – As people explored the Earth, they collected information about it.
  – Mapmakers wanted to present this information correctly.
  – The best way was to put it on a globe, a round ball that represented the Earth.
Because globes are not practical or easy to use to carry, flat maps were invented. However, the earth is round and a map is flat. Mapmakers had to find ways to make maps accurate.
How Latitude and Longitude Form the Global Grid
Globes and Maps

- The most accurate way to present information on the islands, continents, and bodies of water of the world is to put it all on a globe, a round ball like the Earth itself.

- The only difference between a globe and the Earth itself is the scale, or size, represented on the globe.
• Globes have a disadvantage: They cannot be complete enough to be useful and at the same time be small enough to be convenient.

• Therefore, people invented flat maps.
• Maps try to show the Earth, which is round, on a flat surface.
• This causes **distortion**, or a change in accuracy of the shapes and distances of places.
• It is impossible to show the Earth on a flat surface without some distortion.
In 1569, a geographer named Gerardus Mercator created a flat map to help sailors navigate long journeys across the globe.

The Mercator projection, or method of putting a map of the Earth onto a flat piece of paper, is used by nearly all deep-sea navigators.

The Mercator projection is a conformal map, meaning that it shows correct shapes, but not true distances or sizes.

There are many types of other projections of the globe.
The Parts of a Map

Compass Rose

- A compass rose is a model of a compass. It tells the cardinal directions, which are north, south, east, and west.

Scale

- The scale on a map tells you the relative distance on the map to the real world. For example, a map’s scale may tell you that one inch on the map equals one mile in the real world.
Key

- The key, or legend, on a map explains what the symbols on a map represent, such as triangles representing trees.

Grids

- Some maps use a grid of parallels and meridians. On a map of a small area, letters and numbers are often used to help you find your location.