Geography
Vocabulary
Atlas

A book of Maps
Compass Rose

- A circle showing the cardinal directions, North, East, South & West.
Continents

- A large landmass.
Eastern Hemisphere

- A geographical term for the half of the earth which is east of the prime meridian
Equator

An imaginary line drawn around the earth equally distant from both poles, dividing the earth into northern and southern hemispheres and at the parallel of latitude 0°.
International Date Line

An imaginary line on Earth's surface defining the boundary between one day and the next.
Latitude

- The distance north or south of the equator measured in degrees.
Legend

- Also known as the map key, is an explanation of the symbols found on the map.
Longitude

The angular distance of a place east or west from the Prime Meridian (Greenwich, England).
Map

- A representation of an area of land or sea showing physical features, cities, roads, etc.
Map Scale

- A visual of the size of features, and distance between features, on the map.
Mercator Projection

- A cylindrical map projection presented by the Flemish geographer and cartographer Gerardus Mercator in 1569.
Northern Hemisphere

- The half of Earth that is north of the equator.
North Pole

The point in the Northern Hemisphere where the Earth's axis of rotation meets its surface.
Prime Meridian

- The earth's zero of longitude, which by convention passes through Greenwich, England, and divides the earth into Eastern & Western Hemispheres.
Southern Hemisphere

- The half sphere of Earth which is south of the equator.
South Pole

- One of the two points where the Earth's axis of rotation intersects its surface.
Western Hemisphere

- The half of the earth which lies west of the Prime meridian (which crosses Greenwich, UK)