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Mr. Schmidt Science 7

Glencoe Earth Science Chapter 2 – Vocabulary

cartography equator International Date Line latitude longitude

prime meridian conic projection contour interval contour line geologic maps

gnomonic projection map legend map scale Mercator projection

topographic map Geographic Information System Global Positioning System

Landsat satellite remote sensing sonar

1. Map legend – a key that explains what the symbols on a map represent.
2. Topographic map – map that uses contour lines, symbols, and color to show changes in the elevation of Earth’s surface and features such as mountains, bridges, and rivers.
3. Cartography – science of mapmaking.
4. Latitude – distance in degrees north and south of the equator.
5. Longitude – distance in degrees east and west of the prime meridian.
6. Geologic map – a map that shows the distribution, arrangement, and types of rocks below the soil, and other geologic features.
7. Map scale – ration between the distances shown on a map and the actual distances on Earth’s surface.
8. Sonar – use of sound waves to detect and measure objects underwater.
9. Prime meridian – imaginary line representing 0 degree longitude, running from the north pole through Greenwich, England, to the south pole.
10. Contour interval – difference in elevation between two side-by-side contour lines on a topographic map.
11. Gnomonic projection – map useful in plotting long-distance trips by boat or plane by projecting points and lines from a globe onto a piece of paper that touches the globe at a single point.
12. Equator – imaginary line that lies 0 degrees latitude and circles Earth midway between the north and south poles, dividing Earth into the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere.
13. Landsat satellite – information-gathering satellite that uses visible light and infrared radiation to map Earth’s surface.
14. Global Positioning System – satellite-based navigation system that permits a user to pinpoint his or her exact location on Earth.
15. Remote sensing – process of gathering data about Earth from instruments far above the planet’s surface.
16. Mercator projection – map with parallel lines of latitude and longitude that shows true direction and the correct shape of landmasses but distorts areas near the poles.
17. International Date Line – the 180 degree meridian, which serves as the transition line for calendar days.
18. Conic projection – map that is highly accurate for small areas, made by projecting points and lines from a globe onto a cone.
19. Geographic Information System – a mapping system that uses worldwide databases from remote sensing to create layers of information that can be superimposed upon each other to form a comprehensive map.
20. Contour line – a line on a topographic map that connects points of equal elevation.