

# **FIRST STEPS IN GEOGRAPHY**

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First steps in geography by O. F. T.

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**O. F. T.**

# **FIRST STEPS IN GEOGRAPHY**



FIRST STEPS  
IN  
GEOGRAPHY,

*For the Use of Beginners,*

CORRECTED TO THE PRESENT YEAR

BY  
D. F. C.

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LONDON;  
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1866.

## P R E F A C E.

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THE author has frequently been asked to recommend a good, simple, Geography, for the use of beginners; one, in fact, which, while affording all necessary information on the subject, would still be written in a style suitable to the understanding of the young; but, as he has never been fortunate enough to meet with such a work himself, he has hitherto not been in a position to comply with these requests. Latterly, the subject has been again brought to his notice, and he has been induced to write the following pages, which he now offers to the public, trusting that parents and teachers will find in this little book a sort of stepping-stone between the first catechisms on Geography and those very advanced and abstruse works, which are, but too often, quite incomprehensible to the unformed mind.

## CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. Definitions . . . . .	5
II. Europe . . . . .	8
III. The British Empire—England . . . . .	11
IV. Scotland . . . . .	16
V. Ireland . . . . .	19
VI. British Possessions in Europe . . . . .	22
VII. British Possessions in Asia . . . . .	23
VIII. British Possessions in Africa . . . . .	27
IX. British Possessions in America . . . . .	29
X. The Bermudas, the West Indies, and the Falk- land Isles . . . . .	36
XI. Australasia . . . . .	39
XII. Definitions and Explanations, (continued from page 8) . . . . .	43
XIII. Asia . . . . .	47
XIV. Africa . . . . .	51
XV. North and South America . . . . .	53
XVI. Polynesia . . . . .	58
XVII. Divisions of Europe—France . . . . .	59
XVIII. Spain and Portugal . . . . .	61
XIX. Switzerland . . . . .	62
XX. Italy . . . . .	63
XXI. Austria . . . . .	65
XXII. Prussia . . . . .	67
XXIII. Germany . . . . .	68
XXIV. Holland . . . . .	70
XXV. Belgium . . . . .	71
XXVI. Denmark . . . . .	72
XXVII. Sweden and Norway . . . . .	72
XXVIII. The Russian Empire . . . . .	74
XXIX. Greece . . . . .	76
XXX. The Turkish Empire . . . . .	77

# FIRST STEPS IN GEOGRAPHY.

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## CHAPTER I.

### DEFINITIONS.\*

The word Geography means a description of the surface of the earth.

The surface of the earth is divided into land and water ; but there is nearly twice as much water as land.

The earth is round, and something like an orange in shape ; it is often called a globe, or sphere ; and these words both mean a round, solid ball.

The word Globe is also commonly used when speaking of a model of the earth's surface.

A Map is a picture of part of the surface of the globe.

An Atlas is a number of maps bound up together.

In almost every map the top is the North, the bottom the South, the right hand side the East, and the left hand side the West.

The Map of the World is often divided into two parts, each containing half the globe, or sphere, which is therefore called a hemisphere.

The Eastern Hemisphere contains the whole of

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\* The student should be supplied with an atlas before learning these definitions.



the Old World, and also Australia, and some islands which belong to the New World.

The Western Hemisphere contains North and South America, and the remainder of the Polynesian Islands.

The Old World consists of those countries which have been known to mankind in general for many ages.

The New World consists of those countries which have been discovered since Christopher Columbus first sailed to America, during the reign of Henry the Seventh of England.

The Old World is divided into three parts, which were formerly called "quarters of the world," but are now termed "great divisions;" they are named Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The New World is also parted into three great divisions, namely, America, Australasia, and Polynesia, or "the many islands" in the Pacific Ocean.

A Continent is a very large tract of land; like the continent of Europe, for instance.

An Island is a piece of land, smaller than a continent, entirely surrounded by water. Great Britain and Ireland are both islands.

A Peninsula is a tract of land nearly surrounded by water; like the kingdom of Italy.

An Isthmus is a narrow neck of land which joins two large tracts of land together; the Isthmus of

Suez, and the Isthmus of Panama in America, may both be taken for examples.

A Cape, or Headland, is a piece of land running out into the sea; like the Cape of Good Hope, and Cape Horn.

A cape is sometimes called a Promontory, when the land is high and the cliffs steep.

A Plain is a tract of flat land.

When a plain is very much higher than the level of the sea it is called a Table Land, or Plateau.

A Mountain is a very high hill.

A chain of mountains means a row of very high hills.

A Valley is the hollow space between two hills.

An Ocean is a large tract of salt water.

There are five large oceans marked on the globe, namely, the Northern or Arctic Ocean, the Southern or Antarctic Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and the Indian Ocean.

A Sea is a large piece of water, but it is smaller than an ocean; like the Mediterranean Sea, for instance.

A Gulf is a piece of water nearly surrounded by land; like the Persian Gulf.

A Bay is a piece of water only partly surrounded by land; like the Bay of Biscay.

A Harbour, or Port, is a small gulf, or creek, fit for ships to anchor in.

A Strait is a narrow strip of water which joins

two oceans, or seas, together. The Gibraltar Strait, for instance, connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean.

A Channel is a large strait ; like the English Channel.

A River is a stream of water, which runs for some distance inland, before flowing into a sea or lake.

In sailing *down* a river, the right hand side is called the right bank, and the left hand side the left bank.

The mouth of a river is where it falls into the sea.

A Lake is a piece of water quite surrounded by land, except where streams flow in or out of it.

A Pond is a small lake.

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*N.B.—Other definitions will be found at page 43, which can be learnt by the student when convenient.*

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## CHAPTER II.

### EUROPE.

Europe is the smallest of the three great divisions of the Old World, but it is also the most important of them, on account of the courage, skill, and wealth of its inhabitants. It is bounded on the North by the Northern Ocean ; on the South by the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea ; on the East by