

The World by Kate Ruttle

Continents

The world is made up of seven continents which are called: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania and South America. Each continent is a large area of land and most continents are made up of a lot of different countries. Most of North America is one country, the United States of America, which is separated into **states**. Canada is also in North America and is a separate country. No people live on Antarctica so it doesn't need different **countries**. Although Antarctica (which is at the bottom of a globe) is a continent, the Arctic (which is at the top of a globe) is not a continent. This is because the Arctic is made entirely of ice – there is no land under the ice. In Antarctica, there are rocks and land under the ice.

Oceans

The continents are surrounded by **oceans**. The 5 oceans of the world are called the Atlantic Ocean, the Arctic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, The Pacific Ocean and the Southern Ocean. Parts of the oceans which are near to land are sometimes called **seas**, like the North Sea, the Irish Sea and the Caribbean Sea. The Arctic Ocean is at the north of the world and the Southern Ocean is at the south of the world. They are the two coldest oceans.

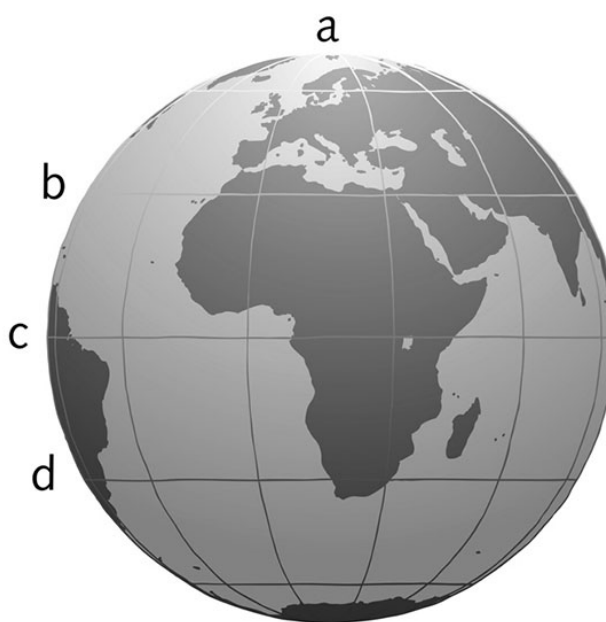


The equator and the poles

If you could draw a line across the middle of the world you would be drawing a line around the fattest part of the **globe**. Most globes and **maps** show this line although it is imaginary and you can't see it on the ground. It is called the **equator**. Countries which are nearer the equator are usually hotter than those that are further away from it. The coldest places in the world are furthest away from the equator, at the top and bottom of the globe, and these are called the **poles**. The place which is at the very top of the world is called the North Pole and the place at the very bottom of the world is called the South Pole.

Climate and seasons

The **climate** of different places on the globe is very different. At the top and bottom of the earth, around the poles, the climate is very cold all year round. In these places, there are two climates which are called Winter and Summer. In Summer it is cold and the ice is thick but in Winter it is even colder and the ice is even thicker.



Near the equator, it is hot all year round but there are usually two seasons: a dry season and a wet season. During the wet season the rain comes every day and is often very heavy. In the dry season, there may be no rain at all for a few months. Most of the world's tropical rainforests are near the equator because rainforest plants need a lot of water to survive.

In between the equator and each of the poles, the climate is not as hot as the equator or as cold as the poles. Places in these parts of the world usually have 4 seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter, although the months in which they have those seasons is different in different places.

Glossary

Climate - the kinds of weather a place usually has.

Country - cities, towns and countryside which share the same laws.

Equator - a line across the middle of a map or a globe.

Globe - a model of the world which is the same shape as the world. It shows land and sea.

Map - a flat drawing of the world. It shows land and sea.

Ocean - a very large area of salty water.

Poles - the places at the top and bottom of the world.

Sea - areas of water near to where people live can be called seas.

States - large areas of North America which share the same laws.