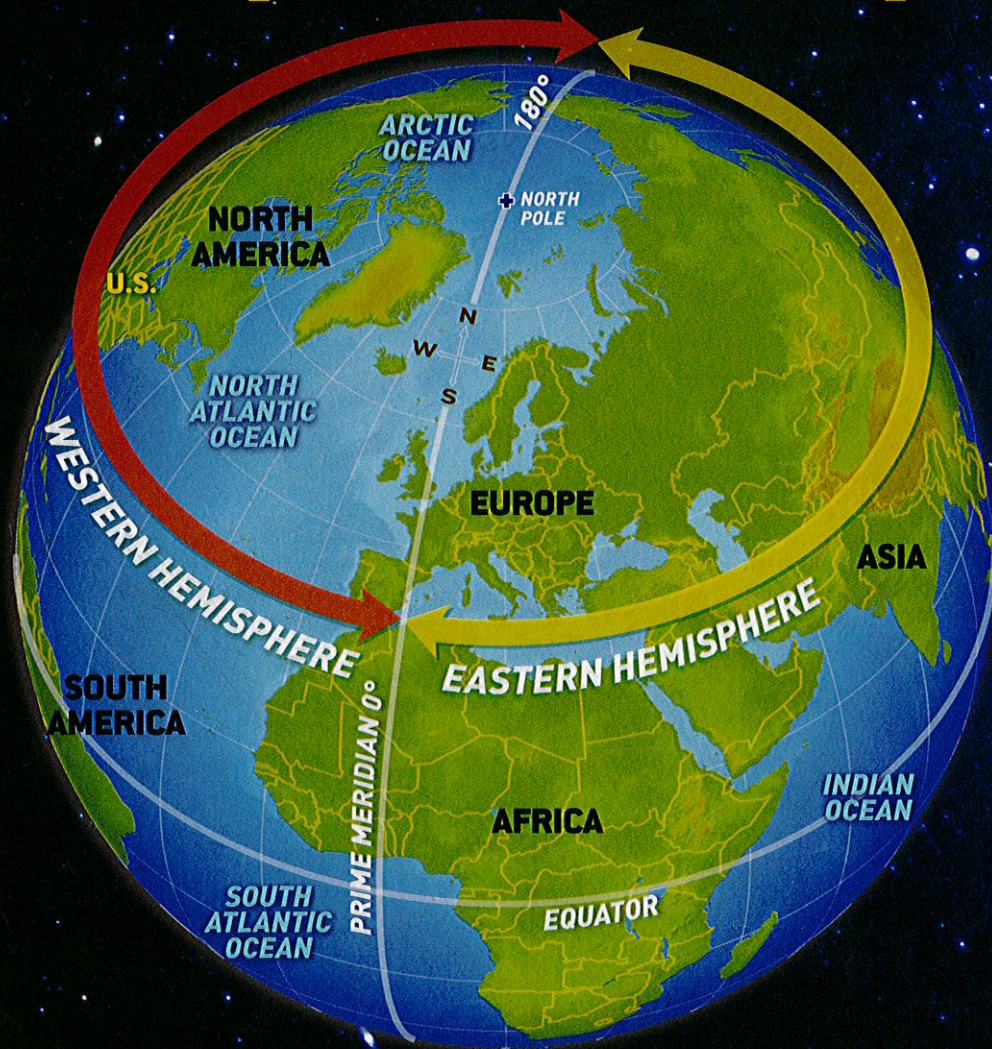


Hemisphere Helper



January can mean frigid days in New York City, but perfect beach weather in Australia. That's one difference, we often say, between the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

The word *hemisphere* comes from a Greek word that means "half a sphere." Geographers divide Earth into four different hemispheres, generally as a way to locate places more easily on a map. The Northern and Southern hemispheres are separated by the equator. This imaginary line circles Earth halfway between the North and South poles at 0° latitude.

Geographers also divide Earth into Western and Eastern hemispheres along two other imaginary lines—the prime meridian (0° longitude) and 180° longitude. North America and South America are located in the Western Hemisphere.

The Southern Hemisphere is less densely populated than the Northern. Australia, for example, has about the same land area as the 48 contiguous states, but only 23 million people. The U.S. population is 312 million.

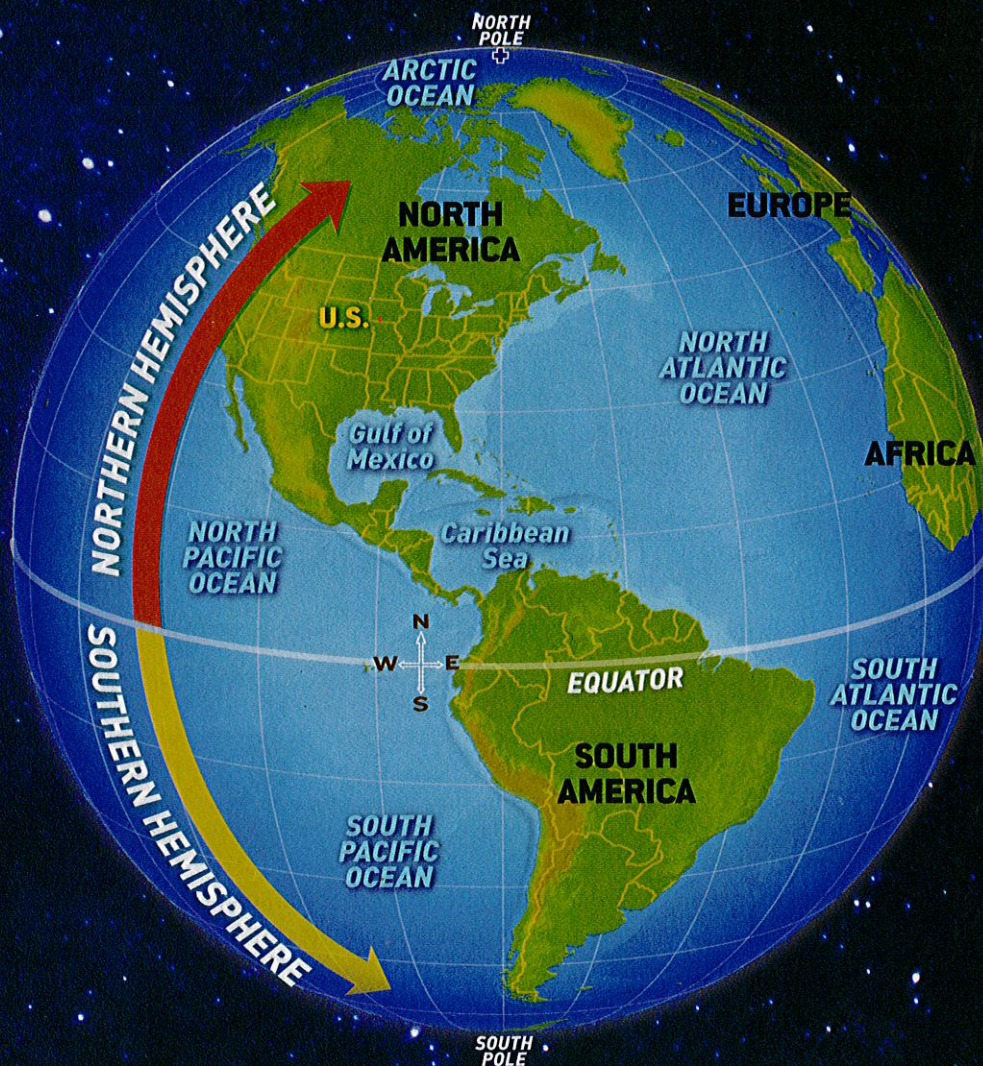
After studying these maps, answer the questions.

—Jim McMahon

Why geographers divide the planet into four hemispheres



WEB WATCH
Myths About the Hemispheres
www.scholastic.com.js



QUESTIONS

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Which two continents shown are located in both the Eastern and Western hemispheres?
2. South America is located in which three hemispheres?
3. Which continents are located entirely in the Northern Hemisphere?
4. South America is entirely in which hemisphere?
5. The Indian Ocean is entirely in which hemisphere?
6. Which ocean is entirely in the Northern Hemisphere?
7. The prime meridian passes through which two continents shown?
8. Name two continents through which the equator passes.
9. Which two labeled imaginary lines meet at the North Pole?
10. Which oceans are in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres?

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