

# **I. Mapping Earth's Surface Chapter 1**

## **A. Exploring earth's Surface Section 1**

### **1. Topography**

- a. The shape of the land (flat, sloping, hilly, or mountainous)
- b. The topography of an area is determined by the area's elevation, relief, and landforms
- c. Elevation-The height above sea level of a point on Earth's surface
- d. Relief- the difference in elevation between the highest and lowest parts of an area
- e. Landforms- a feature of topography formed by the processes that shape Earth's surface
  - i. All have elevation and relief
  - ii. Landform region- large area of land where topography is similar

### **2. Types of Landforms**

- a. Three main types of landforms, plains, mountains and plateaus
- b. Plains- landform made up of flat or gently rolling land with low relief
  - i. Coastal plain- plain that lies along sea coast
  - ii. Interior plain- lies away from seacoast
- c. Mountains-landform with high elevation and high relief
  - i. Mountain range- group of mountains related in age, shape and structure
  - ii. Mountain belts- mountain ranges and systems connected

### **3. Earth's Four Spheres**

- a. Lithosphere-Earth's solid rocky outer layer
- b. Atmosphere- outermost sphere, mixture of gases that surrounds a planet
- c. Hydrosphere- Earth's oceans, lakes, rivers and ice

- d. Biosphere- All living things in the air, oceans or beneath Earth's surface

#### 4. Earth's Structure

- a. Core- solid inner core and hot liquid inner core
- b. Mantle- hot but solid material
- c. Lithosphere- rigid outer covering
- d. Crust- thin outer layer

#### 5. Development of Geology

- a. Uniformitarianism- geologic process that took place in the past also happen today ( James Hutton)
- b. Changes are small and subtle and take a long time
- c. Constructive Surfaces- build up mountains
- d. Destructive forces- slowly wear away mountains

## **B. Models of Earth - Section 2**

### 1. Maps and Globes

- a. Map- model on a flat surface as seen from above
- b. Globe- is a sphere that represents Earth's entire surface
- c. Maps and globes are drawn to scale and use symbols to represent topography and other features on Earth's surface
- d. Scale- relates distance on Earth's surface
- e. Symbols- stand for features on Earth's surface
- f. Key- list of all the symbols used on a map with an explanation

### 2. An Earth Reference System

- a. Equator
  - i. Forms the imaginary line between the northern and southern hemisphere
  - ii. Hemisphere- one half of the sphere that makes up Earth's surface

- b. The Prime Meridian
  - i. Makes a half circle from the North Pole to the South Pole
- c. Measurements on a sphere
  - i. Degree-  $1/360$  of the way around a full circle
  - ii. Measures distances around a circle

### 3. Locating Points on Earth's Surface

- a. Latitude- measures distance in degrees north or south of the equator
- b. Longitude- distance in degrees east or west of the prime meridian

### 4. Map Projections

- a. A framework of lines that helps to show landmasses on a flat surface
- b. Mercator Projection- lines appear straight
- c. Equal Area Projection- solves the problem of distortion