

MODERN SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY.

INTRODUCTION.

GEOGRAPHY is a description of the Earth, its surface, its divisions, and its inhabitants. The Earth is round, like an orange, slightly flattened at the poles, and bulging out a little in the middle. To prove that the Earth is round, although it appears to us to be flat, we know that we can see only the surface of the ground about three miles on a level plain; and at sea the view, not being interrupted by mountains or any great inequalities in the surface, is bounded on all sides by the horizon. When a vessel appears in sight, the masts are always seen before the hull. A vessel can sail round the world and come back to her starting-point without changing the direction of her course.

The **Earth** is nearly 25,000 miles in circumference, and about 8,000 miles in diameter.

About one-quarter of the Earth's surface is land, and three-quarters water.

DEFINITIONS IN MATHEMATICAL GEOGRAPHY.

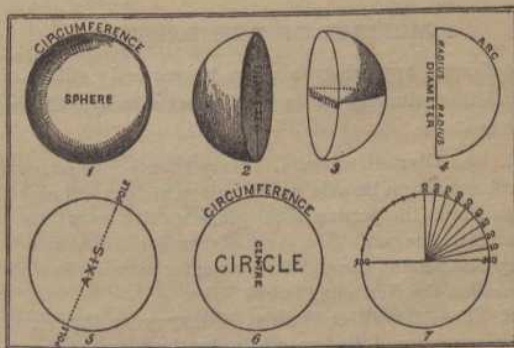


DIAGRAM OF MATHEMATICAL FIGURES.

1. A **sphere** is a solid bounded by a surface, all points of which are equally distant from a point within called the centre.