

Introducing the World

NAME _____

The world's surface consists of land and water. Water covers about 70 percent of the world's surface. The oceans separate large land masses, called continents. Most of the countries of the world lie on the continents. Others lie on islands.

World Facts

- Number of independent countries:
- Population:

Did you know?

By 2000, the world's population was over 6 billion. By 2050, the world's population is expected to be over 9 billion.

Land Area Facts

- Total land area: 57,900,000 square miles (150,000,000 sq km)
- Largest continent: Asia
- Largest country: Russia
- Largest island: Greenland
- Largest desert: Sahara
- Highest elevation: Mount Everest

Did you know?

Actually, the largest island is Australia and the largest desert is Antarctica. Since both are continents, they are not considered in these two categories.

Water Area Facts

- Total water area: 139,500,000 square miles (361,000,000 sq km)
- Largest ocean: Pacific Ocean
- Largest sea: South China Sea
- Largest saltwater lake: Caspian Sea
- Largest freshwater lake: Lake Superior
- Longest river: Nile

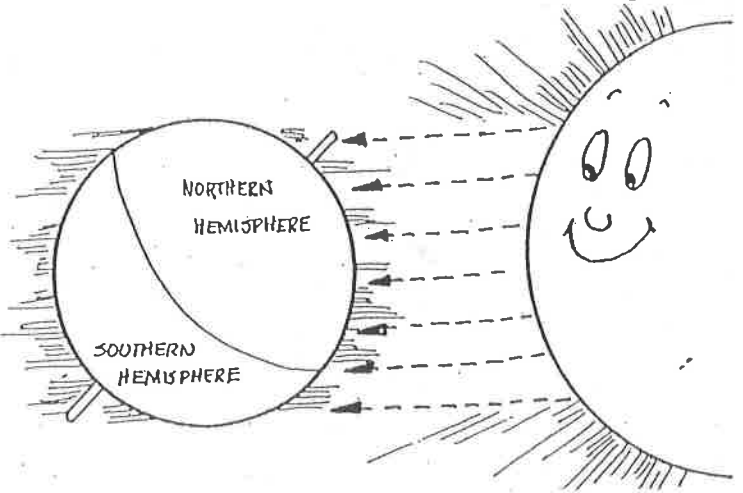
Did you know?

There are really five main oceans of the world. Besides the Atlantic, Arctic, Indian, and Pacific, there is the Southern Ocean. The Southern Ocean is considered the fourth-largest ocean.

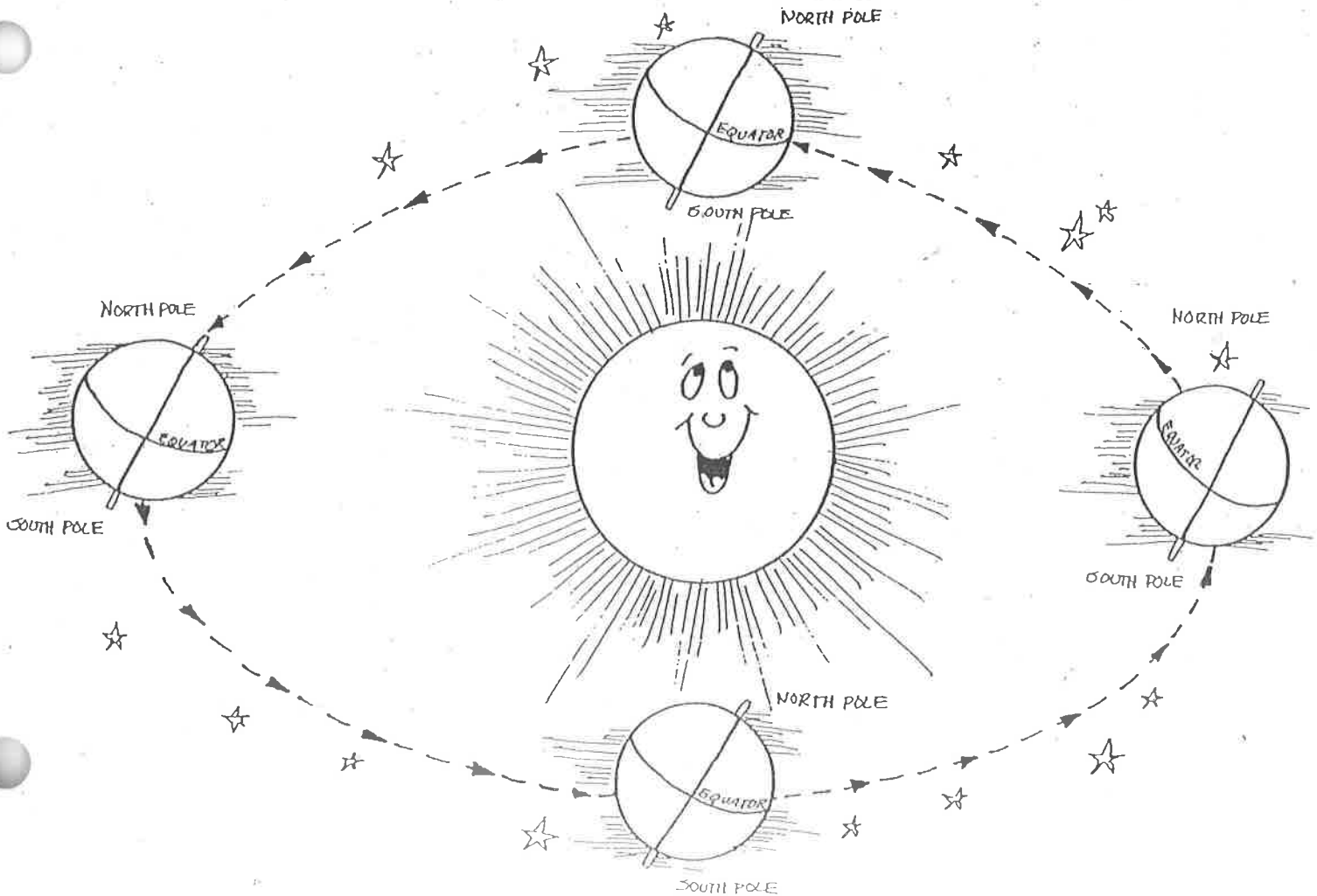
OUR CHANGING YEAR

While the earth is constantly rotating on its own axis to give us day and night (as we learned earlier), it is also revolving around the sun. This revolving of the earth is part of the reason we have seasons. It takes $365\frac{1}{4}$ days for the planet Earth to make one complete revolution in its orbit around the sun. The other part of the reason we have winter and summer is the fact that the earth is tilted on its own axis at an angle of $23\frac{1}{2}$ degrees.

Look at the drawing to the right. Notice that the position of the earth makes the sun's rays shine directly on the Northern Hemisphere. When this happens, we have summer. Notice also that the rays hitting the earth in the Southern Hemisphere are less direct. When this happens, the Southern Hemisphere is experiencing winter. Because the earth continues to change its position relative to the way the sun's rays strike the earth (as it revolves around the sun), we have four seasons:



In the drawing below are shown the four positions of the earth during the four seasons. Label each season as it would appear in the Northern Hemisphere. Also label each globe's season in the Southern Hemisphere. Use any labels or additional drawings or explanation you need to explain the concept of why we have seasons.



Special Names on a Globe



1. _____

4. _____

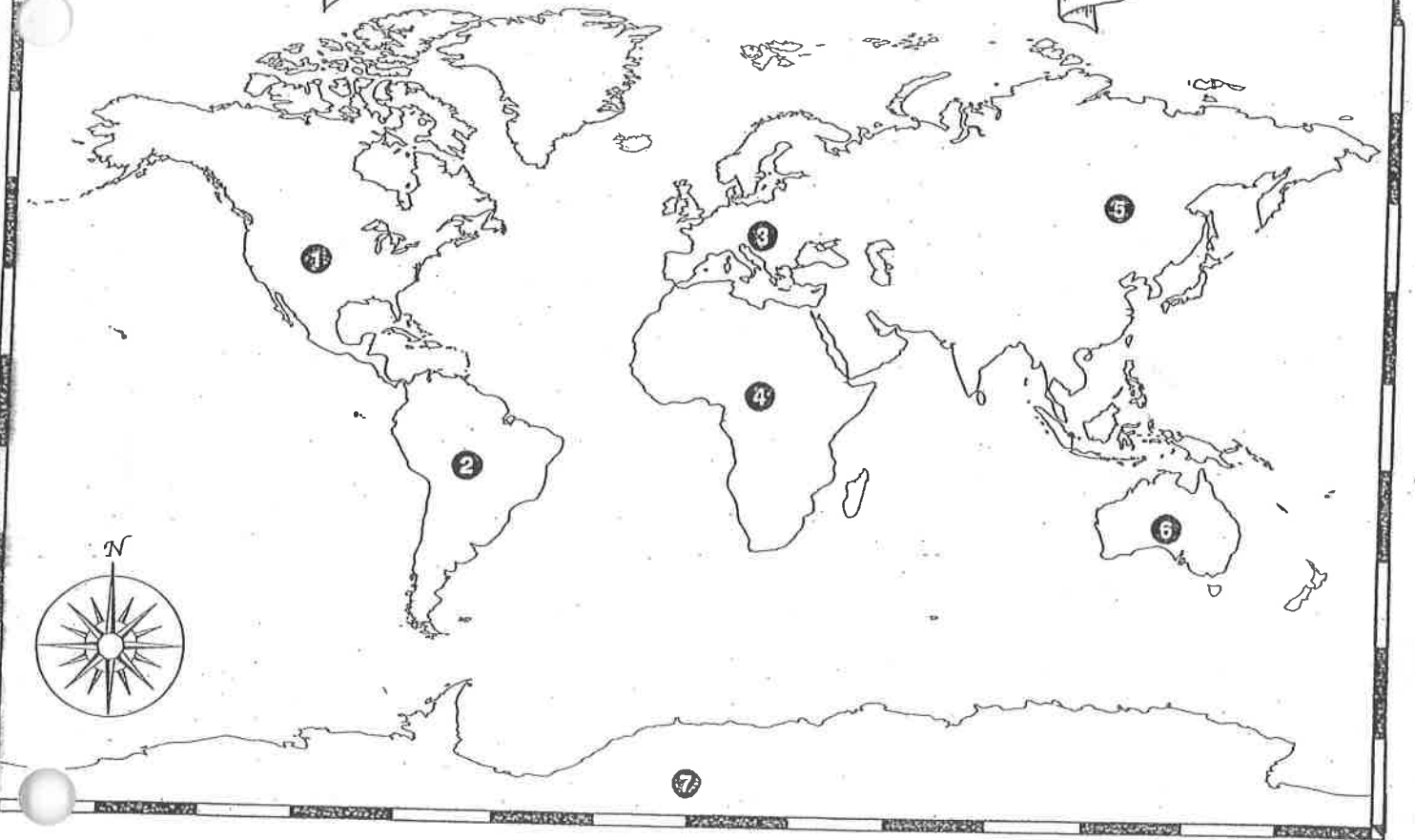
2. _____

5. _____

3. _____

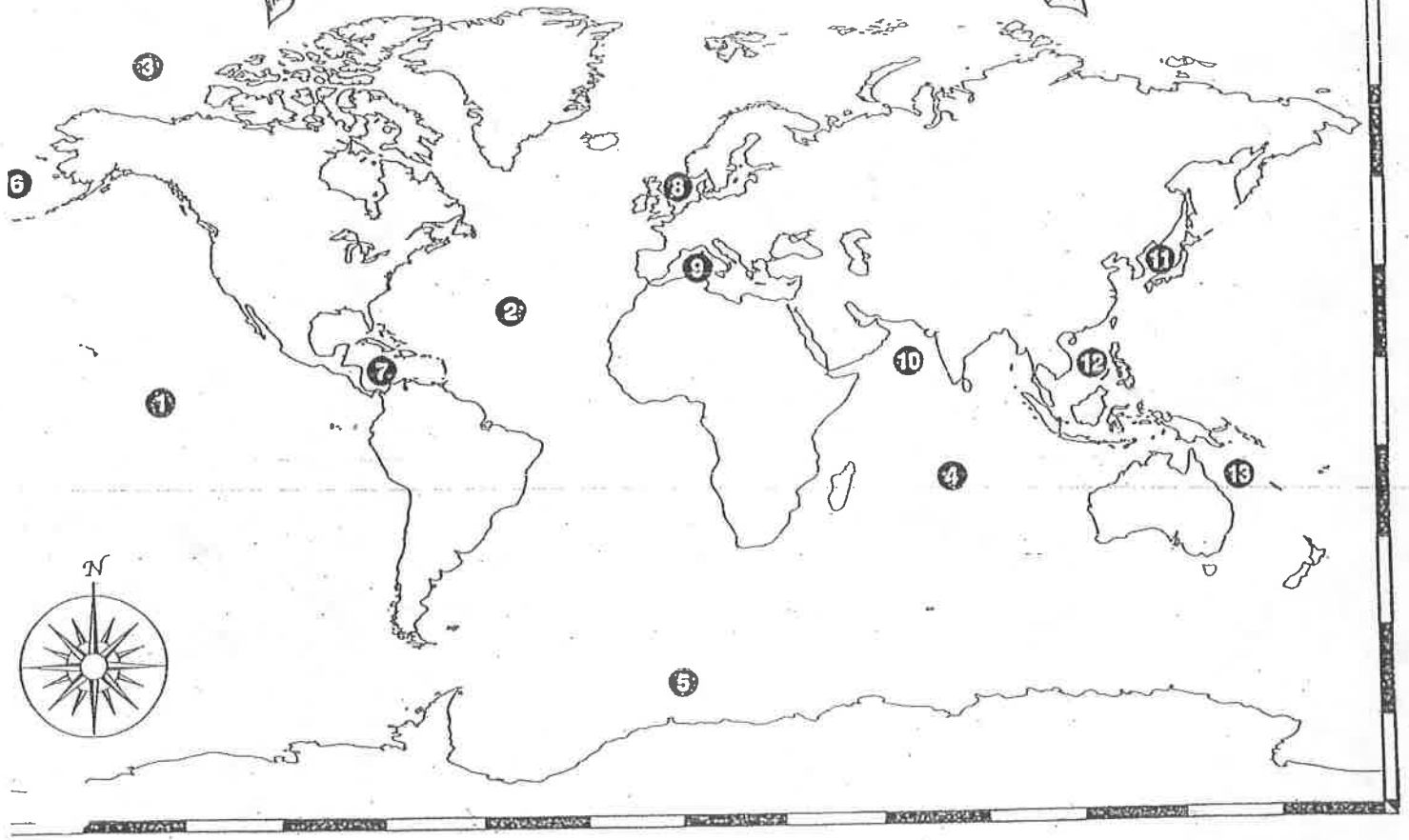
6. _____

Continents of the World



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Oceans and Seas of the World



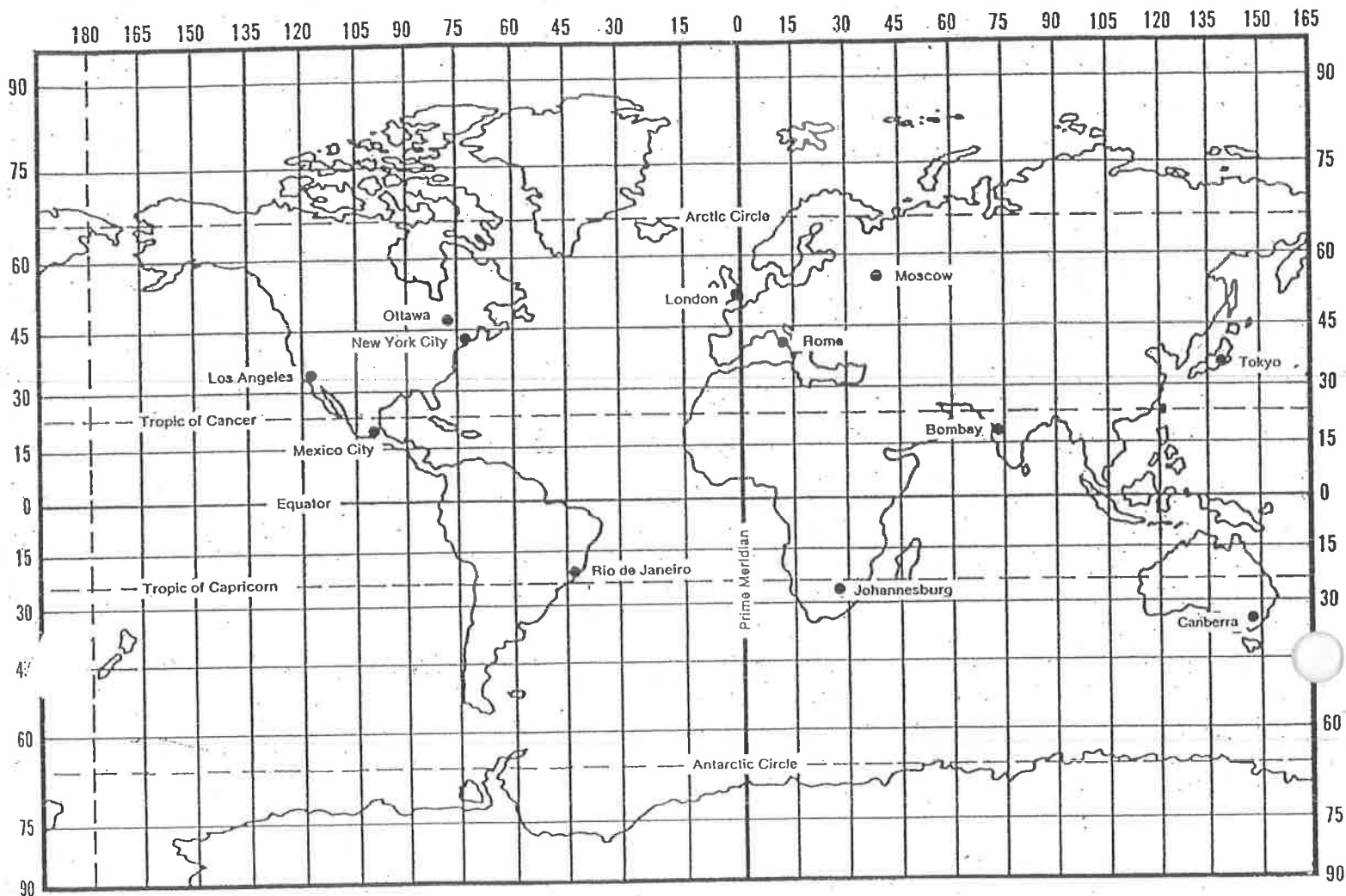
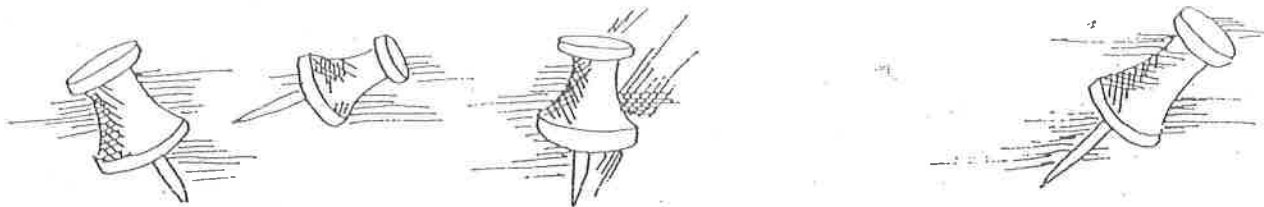
Oceans

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) Southern Ocean

Seas

6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. Sea of Japan
12. _____
13. _____

PINPOINTING MAJOR CITIES



Find each of the cities in the list below on the above map and determine both its latitude and longitude in the blank spaces provided. Be certain to indicate both number of degrees and direction from equator (north or south) and prime meridian (east or west).

City	Latitude	Longitude	City	Latitude	Longitude
1. Moscow	_____	_____	7. Los Angeles	_____	_____
2. New York City	_____	_____	8. Canberra	_____	_____
3. Tokyo	_____	_____	9. Johannesburg	_____	_____
4. Rio de Janeiro	_____	_____	10. Rome	_____	_____
5. Mexico City	_____	_____	11. Ottawa	_____	_____
6. London	_____	_____	12. Bombay	_____	_____