

GEOGRAPHY OVERVIEW

Continents & Oceans

10pts

Complete knowledge of the features of the earth's surface is only a few hundred years old. As recently as the 1300s, the Atlantic Ocean was a mysterious "Sea of Darkness" on a flat surface. The regions of the Arctic, Pacific, and Antarctic oceans were unknown. There were also great misconceptions about the world. For example, Europeans knew of the region of the Indian Ocean but thought it was a great salt lake surrounded by land. They assumed Asia could be reached from the west only by land.

Today the earth is completely mapped and classified. The largest units of Earth's land are called continents. Except for the division between Europe and Asia, they are generally well defined. Two continents are islands, and isthmuses—narrow necks of land—clearly separate others. The oceans are merely names given to the largest sections of the body of salt water that covers 71 percent of the globe. Study the map below.

Name: _____

Period: _____

DIRECTIONS

- Label the seven continents (color them each different)
- Label the five oceans
- What geography feature separates the Americas and separates Asia from Africa? _____
- What geographic feature separates Europe from Asia?

- Most of the earth's land mass is north **or** south of the Equator.

