



MY WORLD OF NEIGHBORS

REVISED EDITION - 2007

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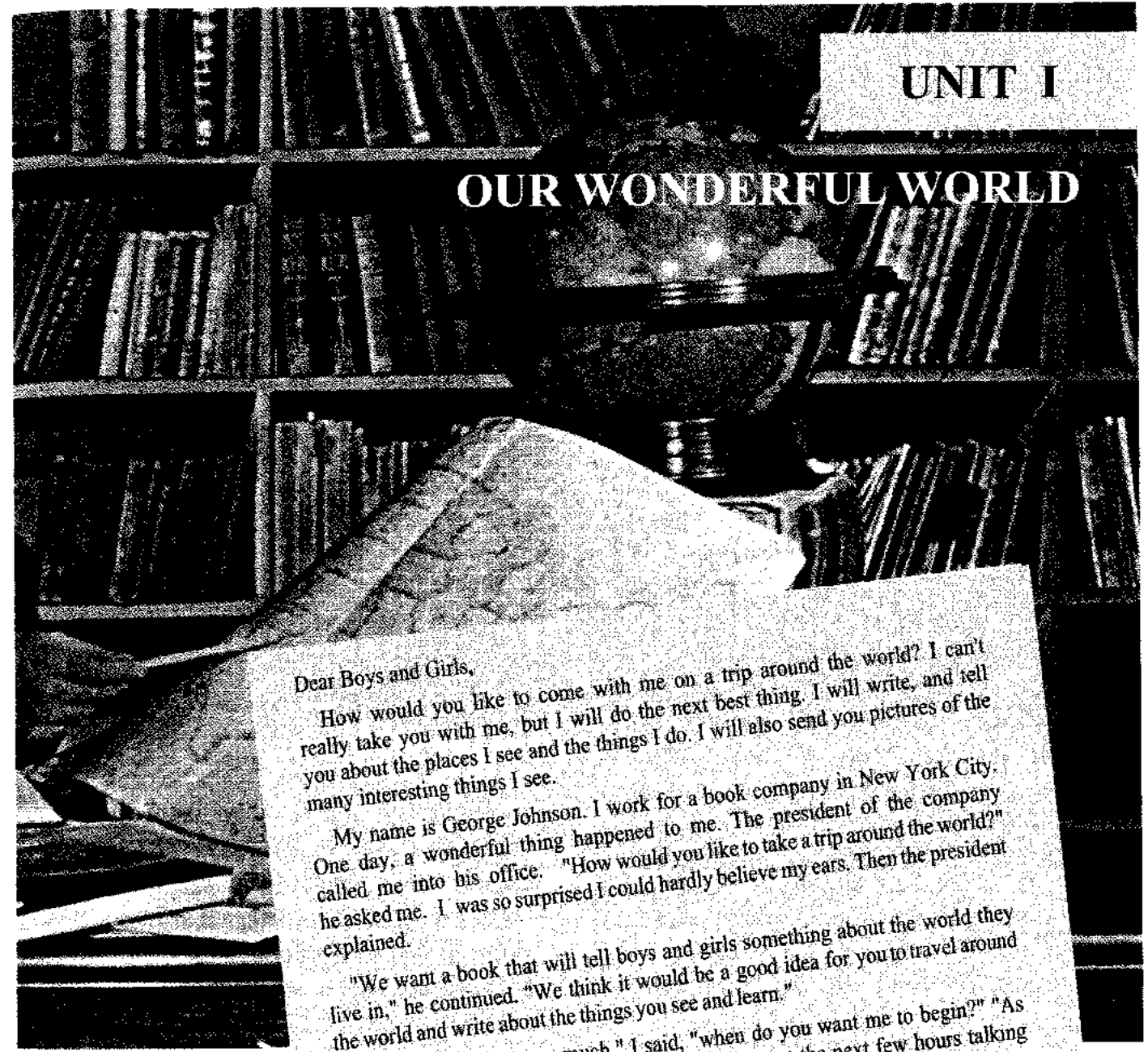
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OUR WONDERFUL WORLD

Dear Boys and Girls,

How would you like to come with me on a trip around the world? I can't really take you with me, but I will do the next best thing. I will write, and tell you about the places I see and the things I do. I will also send you pictures of the many interesting things I see.

My name is George Johnson. I work for a book company in New York City. One day, a wonderful thing happened to me. The president of the company called me into his office. "How would you like to take a trip around the world?" he asked me. I was so surprised I could hardly believe my ears. Then the president explained.

"We want a book that will tell boys and girls something about the world they live in," he continued. "We think it would be a good idea for you to travel around the world and write about the things you see and learn."

"I would like that very much," I said, "when do you want me to begin?" "As soon as possible," the president answered. We spent the next few hours talking about the trip. He told me what countries he wanted me to visit and what things he wanted me to look for. The first part of my trip, we decided, would be a journey across the United States.

I went home and started making my plans. Then I sat down to write this letter to you. It is the first of many letters you will receive from me. It is all very exciting and adventurous. After these first letters, the ones to follow will come from many different parts of the world.

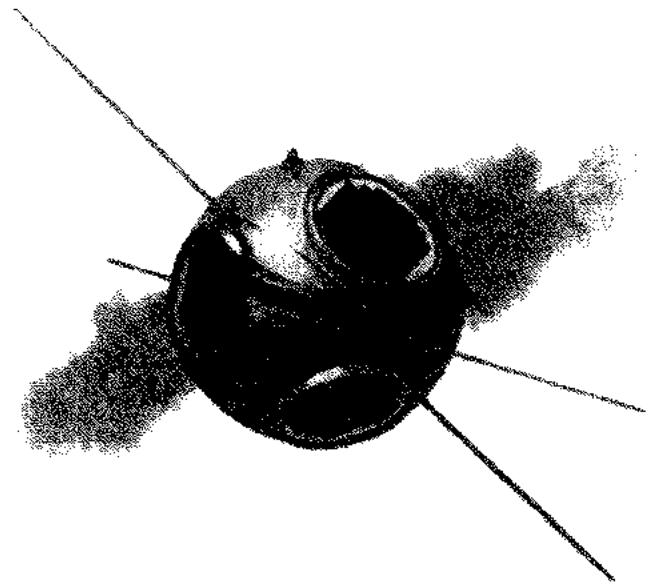
Yes, I am very excited about the coming trip. I am sure I will enjoy seeing our own country and lands far away. It will be fun to see how other people live. I hope you will enjoy it, too. However, before we start on our trip, it will be a good idea to learn a little more about the earth and the other parts of God's universe.



GOD'S GREAT UNIVERSE

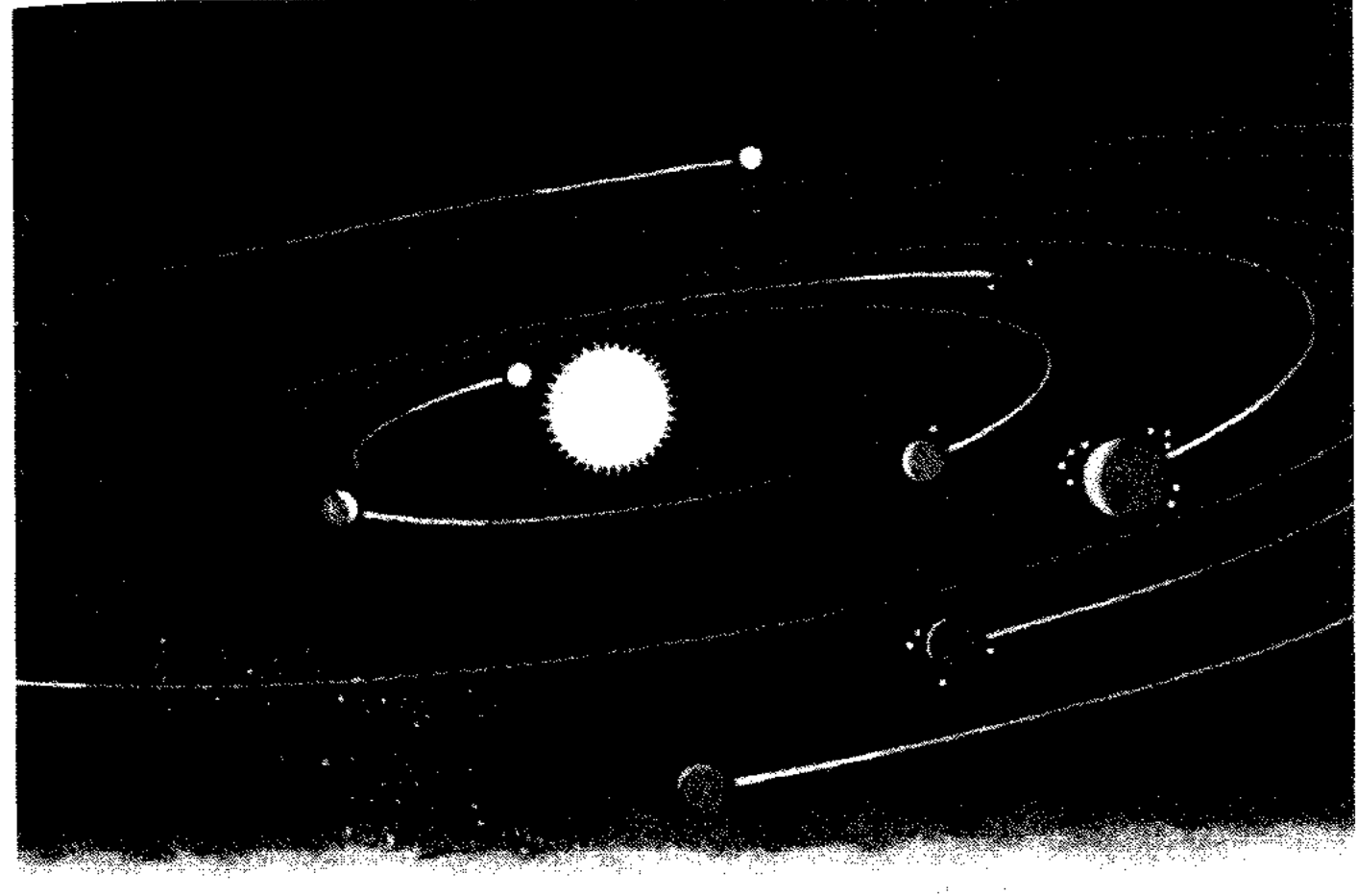
Big as it is, the earth seems very small when compared with the great universe. The universe is everything God created. The newspapers these days are full of exciting news about outer space. For the first time in history, men have shot objects so far into space that they are now circling the earth. These are man-made satellites. (A little later we shall find out what the word "satellite" means.) Men are also planning rocket ships which will carry people to the moon. It's exciting to read about these things and to think about them.

All of this reminds us of the great universe in which we live. When you look into the sky on a clear night, you see hundreds of "tiny" stars. They seem tiny, but most of them are many times as big as our earth. The reason they look small is that they are so very, very far away. They are



so far away that it takes their light many years to reach us. (And light travels very fast.) Look up at the stars tonight. Each star is a great flaming body like the sun. The light by which you see the stars started on its journey toward the earth many years ago.

Millions of miles farther out into space are many other stars which can be seen only with big telescopes. A *telescope* is like a spy glass, but is much more powerful. There are, no doubt, other stars which cannot be seen even with telescopes. All of this is part of God's great universe. When we think about the universe, we are reminded of God's great power and majesty because God created all this.



THE SUN

We could not live if we did not have the sun. The sun gives us our light and heat. If it were not for the sun, our earth would be so cold and dark that nothing could live on it.

The sun is a big fiery star. It is many times larger than the earth. It is so big and so hot that it sends out tongues of flame that are a million miles long. We can be thankful that we are so far from the sun. We couldn't live if we were too close to it, and we couldn't live if we were too far away from it.

THE FAMILY OF THE SUN

The star that is closest to us is called the sun. There are nine great balls traveling in circles around the

sun. These balls are called *planets*. They are not hot like the sun and the stars, and they do not give off any light of their own. Our earth is one of these nine planets. It takes the earth 365 days to travel around the sun. This is how we figure out the length of a year.

The earth goes around and around the sun in a regular path. The path is called its *orbit*. The earth, in turn, has the moon going around it. The moon goes around and around the earth in a regular orbit. We call the moon the earth's satellite. A *satellite* is a smaller body that moves around a larger body. Most of the other eight planets have satellites also.

Do you see why the man-made objects that are circling the earth are called satellites? They are traveling obediently in orbit just as God's satellites are. The man-made satellites are very tiny when compared with God's satellites. In a way, our whole earth is a satellite of the sun.

The sun and its family together are called the *solar system*. The solar system includes the sun itself, the nine planets that go around the sun, the satellites of each planet, and some other smaller bodies which also travel around the sun. The solar system is very large. For example, it

We compare the spinning of the earth with the spinning of a top. This motion causes day and night.



is 93 million miles from the earth to the sun. Do you realize how far that is? If you were to ride a bicycle just as fast as you could, riding day and night, it would take you over 1,000 years to travel that far - more than ten lifetimes! And yet the solar system is only a very small part of the universe.

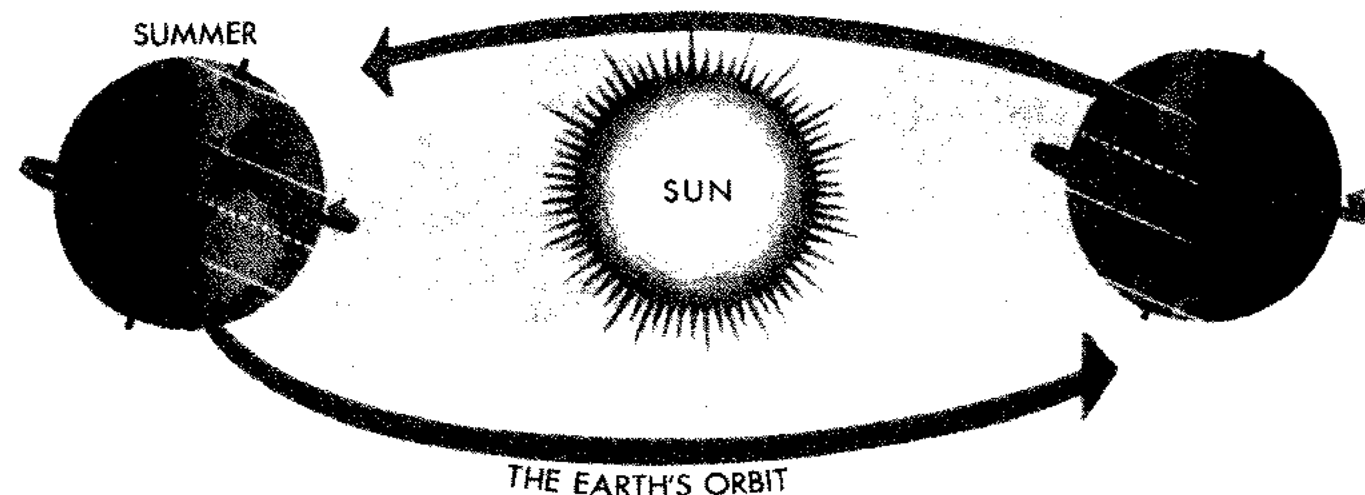
If you were millions of miles out in space, you would see thousands and thousands of stars. You would have a hard time finding our bright sun among all the other blazing stars, because with all its glory it is smaller than many of them. It would be just one tiny star among millions.

Earth and its moon are so tiny in the midst of the whole universe that, from millions of miles away, you wouldn't even see them. Our earth will seem very big to us as we travel around it, but remember it is only a small part of the solar system. The solar system, in turn, is only a very small part of the universe.

OUR EARTH

Here is a picture of our earth. I drew it as if a stick had been poked through it from top to bottom. I did this because people talk about the earth as if it had a stick through its center. This imaginary stick is called the earth's *axis*. People say that the earth spins on its axis, and it really does spin around like a top.

This means that the earth moves in two ways. It goes around the sun and it spins on its axis at the same time. We do not feel either motion.



I want to say one more thing about that imaginary stick, or axis. The place where it comes out at the top is called the North Pole. The place where it comes out at the bottom is called the South Pole. You will hear more about the North Pole and the South Pole.

The earth is tilted a little from the line of its orbit as you can see in the picture. It is always tilted the same amount and in the same direction.

As the earth spins on its axis, one side of it faces the sun. It is daylight on the part of the earth that faces the sun. The side that is away from the sun gets no sunlight, so it is night on that side. As the earth spins, the sides change. The side that had day now has night. So the spinning of the earth causes day and night.

Sometimes we talk about the rising and setting of the sun. Really, the sun does not rise or set. It stays in the same place. The spinning of

All the planets move in orbits around the sun. It takes the earth 365 days to circle this "fiery star."

the earth makes it seem as though the sun were moving.

It takes the earth twenty-four hours to make one complete turn on its axis. That is why our day is twenty-four hours long.

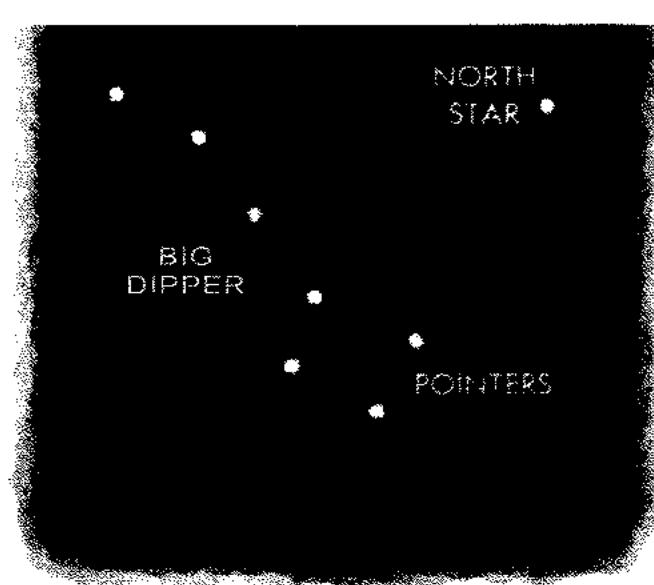
The journey of the earth around the sun causes the seasons to change. I showed you in the picture that the earth is tilted. This means that at certain times of the year our part of the world is tilted away from the sun. Then we have cold weather and short days. We call this time of the year winter. At another time of the year our part of the earth is slanted toward the sun. During this season the hot rays of the sun beat down on us. We have long days and hot weather. This is the summer season. Between winter and summer comes spring. The autumn season comes between summer and winter.

THE MOON

The moon, the earth's satellite, is our closest neighbor in space. It is about 240,000 miles away. It would only take you 2 1/2 years to get there on your bicycle instead of the 1,000 years it would take to get to the sun. The moon is much smaller than the earth. It takes the moon in its orbit about a month to move around the earth. The moon has no light of its own. It reflects light like a mirror. Moonlight then is really light that has already traveled from the sun to the moon.

On July 20th 1969, astronauts from the U.S.A. first landed on the moon. They returned several times to explore different areas of the moon.

Well, that is enough for now about our earth and the universe. You will learn more about them when you are older.



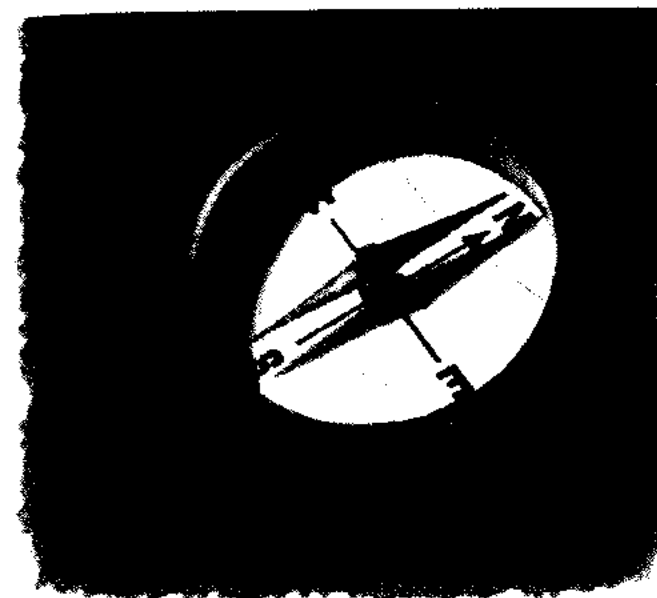
FINDING DIRECTIONS

I have mentioned the North Pole and the South Pole many times. The North Pole is the place that is farthest north in the whole world. The South Pole is the place that is farthest south.

How can we tell which way is north and which way is south? On which side of your house does the sun rise every morning? That is east. On which side does, the sun set every evening? That is west.

Now stand with your arms stretched out. Have your right arm point east and your left arm point west. You are now facing north. Behind you is south. This gives you all four directions.

At night, the North Star is a great help in finding directions. To find the North Star we first have to find the group of stars called the Big Dipper. Notice the two bright stars at the front of the Dipper. These stars point to the North Star. When you face the North Star, you are facing north. Your back is to the south. East is to your right, and west is to your left.



USING THE COMPASS

Suppose you are in a strange place, and you don't know where the sun rises or sets. The stars are not out. You can still tell the directions if you have a compass.

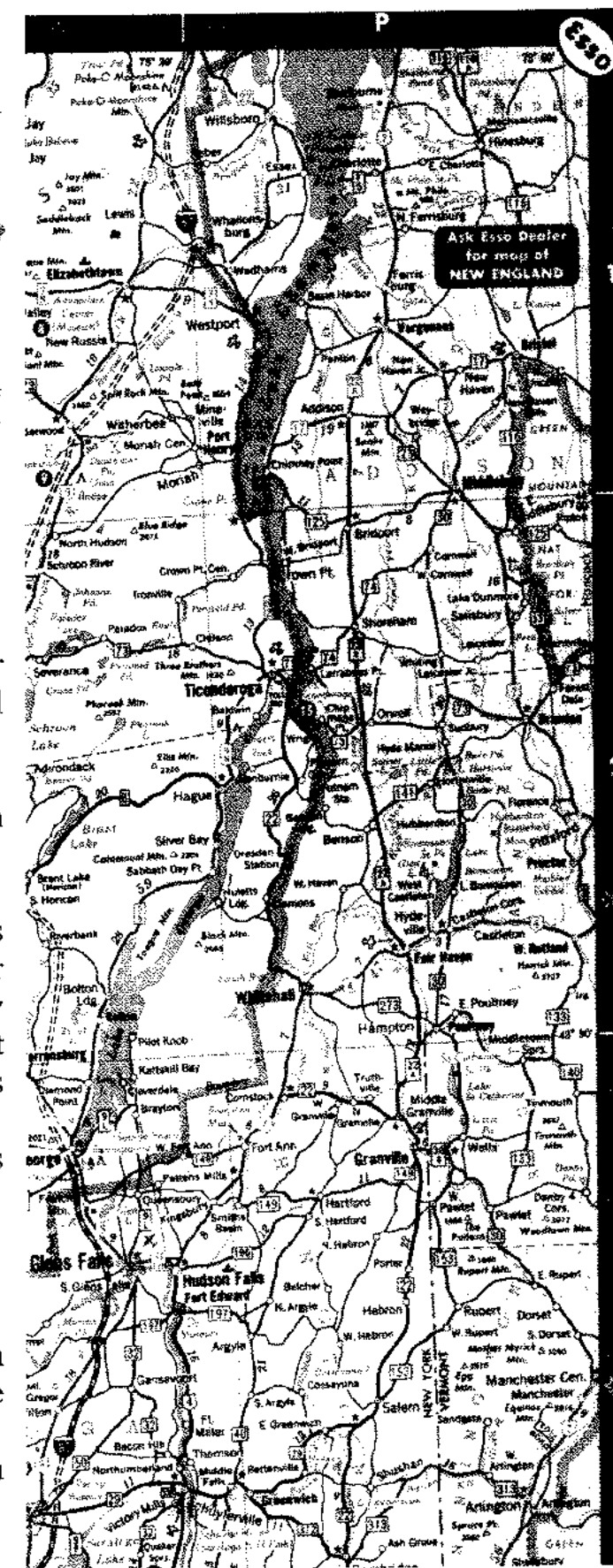
A compass looks something like a watch. The compass has a needle which always points north. A strange force in the earth causes it to do this.

The face of the compass has the letters N, S, E, and W, which stand for the four directions. We turn the compass carefully until the N for North lies under the point of the needle. Then the other letters tell us where the different directions are.

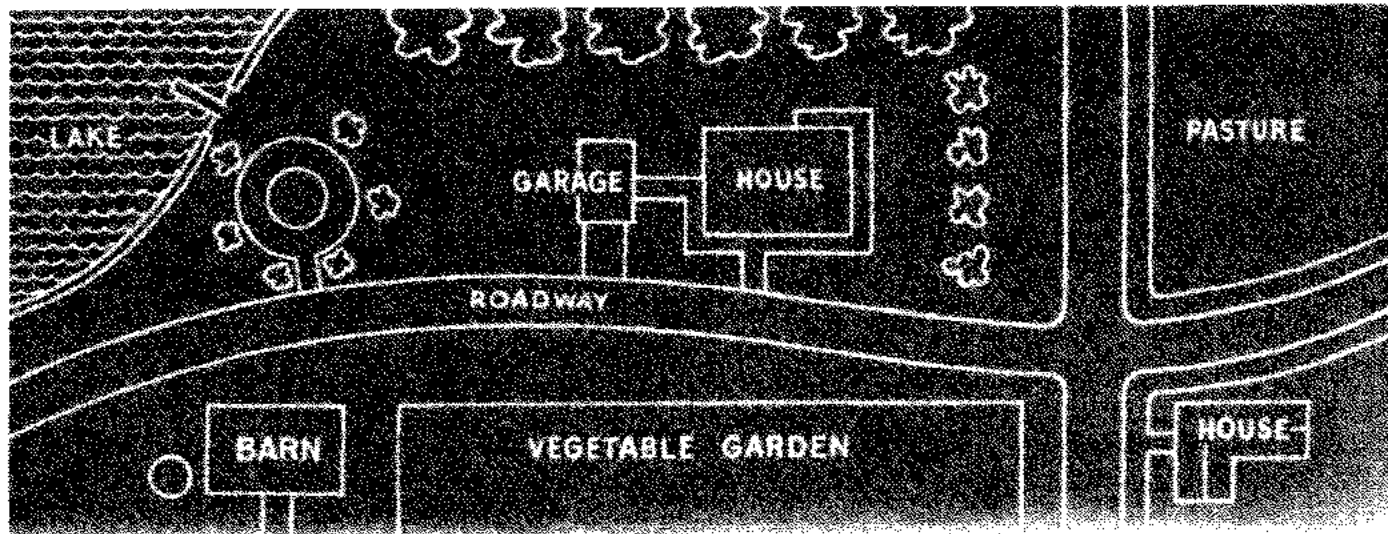
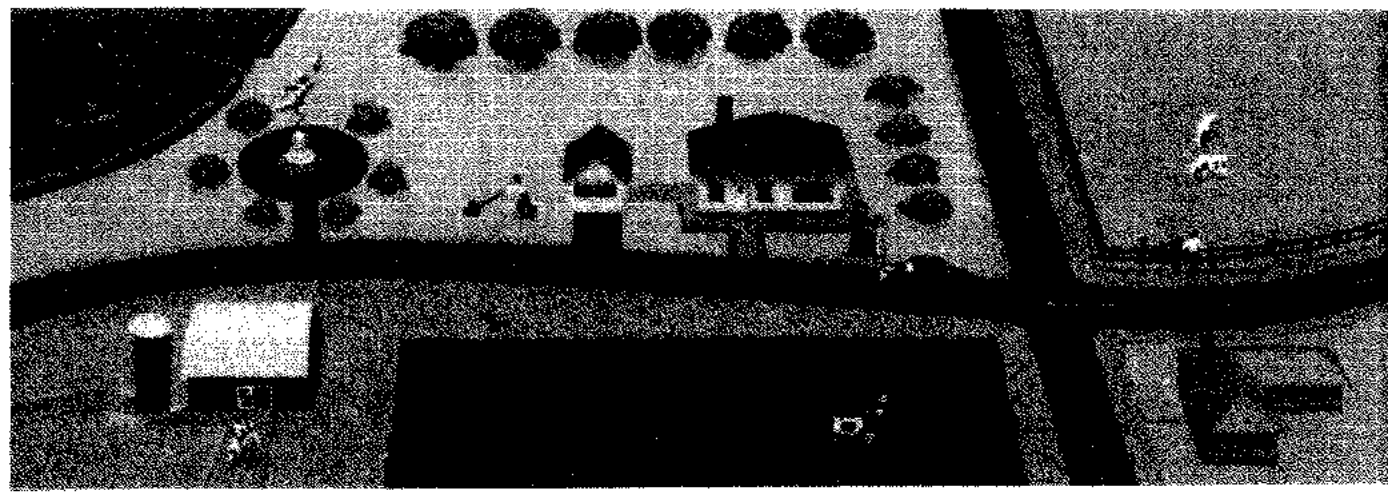
You may be sure I will take a compass with me on my trip. If I should ever become lost, the compass will help me find my way.

READING MAPS

A map shows where places are. In order to find our way from place to place we have to know more than directions. We have to know how to read maps. You have probably seen a road map. This helps you when you are taking an auto trip. There are many other kinds of maps.



General Drafting Co. Inc. Map courtesy Esso Standard Division of Humble Oil & Refining Company.



The drawing at the top is a picture of what a farm looks like. How is it different from the map?

On this page I have drawn a picture of a small farm in New Rochelle. The houses, barns, and garages look like real buildings, and you can see the garden, pasture, driveways, roads, and the waters of the lake.

Now here is a map of the same place. There is a little square to show where the house is. It does not look like a house, and it is not supposed to. You know it is the house because I have written the word "house" on it. There is another square to show

where the garage is. There are lines for the driveway and other things. A map is not supposed to show what things look like. It is supposed to show where they are.

You might say: "But I like the picture better than the map. The picture also shows where the things are, and it looks nicer."

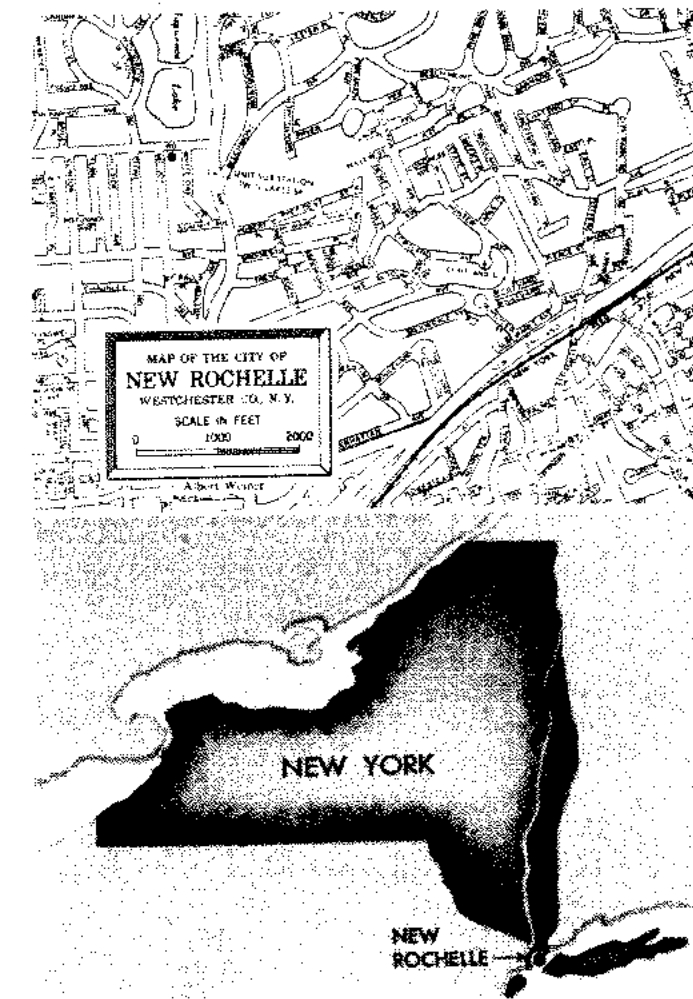
But suppose I wished to show you a place bigger than my house and grounds. Suppose I wished to show you how to find your way around the city of New Rochelle. I could not draw a picture of the whole town, could I? I could not show every house just as it really looks. No, I

would have to draw you a map. And if I cannot show one city in a picture, how could I show the whole state of New York, or the whole United States, or the whole world? You can see why maps are important.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF MAPS

When I drew a map of the farm in New Rochelle, I showed everything on the grounds. I even showed every tree. But suppose I were to draw a map of the city of New Rochelle in the same space. I would not be able to show every tree in the city. There would not be enough room. I could just show where the main streets are, and the parks, and the principal buildings. Now, suppose I were to draw a map of the whole state of New York in the same space. I would not be able to show any streets or buildings. New Rochelle would be just a little dot on the map. If I were to draw a map of the whole United States, I probably would not be able to show New Rochelle at all.

That is one way in which maps are different from each other. A map that shows a large place has to leave out many things which appear on a map that shows just a small place. Both kinds of maps are needed. If you wanted to find your way around in New Rochelle, you would need a map of that city; a map of the United States would not help you. On the other hand, a map of New Rochelle would not help you if you wished to travel across the United States.



Here is a map of New Rochelle. The lower map shows where the city is located in New York State.

Maps are different in other ways, too. One kind of map shows the boundaries of states or countries. (See page 237.) Another kind of map shows which land is high and which is low. (See page 23.) Many newspapers have a weather map. This map shows what kind of weather each part of the country is going to have. There are many, many different kinds of maps. All are useful for different purposes.



Experiments are fun. Try cutting an orange this way and you will learn something about map making.

If the globe is sectioned like the orange above, the map is more exact but very difficult to read.

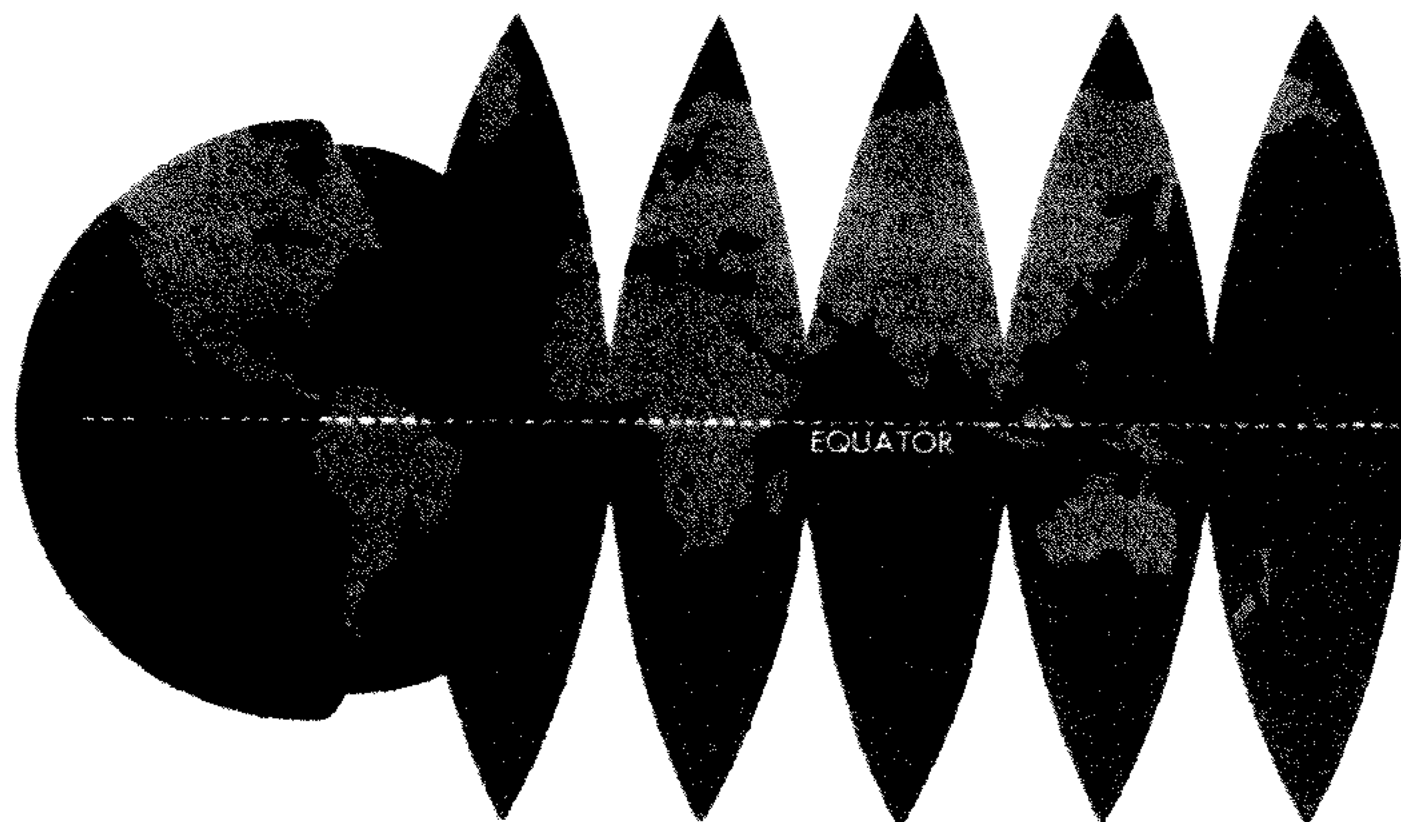
THE GLOBE - A ROUND MAP

It is very hard to show the whole world on a flat map. I will try to tell you why.

Here is a picture of an orange. The earth is about this same shape. Now do you think we can take the skin of this orange and flatten it out?

We'll take a knife and cut part way around the skin, but not all the way. Then we'll reach in and pull out the orange. Now, we can put the skin back together and it is still round. We'll let the skin dry out a little. Then we'll put it on the sidewalk and step on it very carefully to get it nice and flat.

Look what happened! It has not flattened out very well has it? It has



doubled up in some places. It has torn in other places. It is jagged around the edges.

The same thing happens when a map maker tries to show the whole earth on the flat page of a book. He can't do a perfect job. In order to make the map look neat, he must make some parts of the world bigger than they really are. He must make other parts of the world smaller than they really are.

That is why the best map of the world is a globe. A *globe* is round, just as the earth really is. No parts of the world have to be stretched or shrunk. Do you have a globe in your classroom or somewhere in your school? Do you have one at home? I hope you will be able to look at the

This map maker is drawing just on part of the globe on a flat map. He must work very carefully.

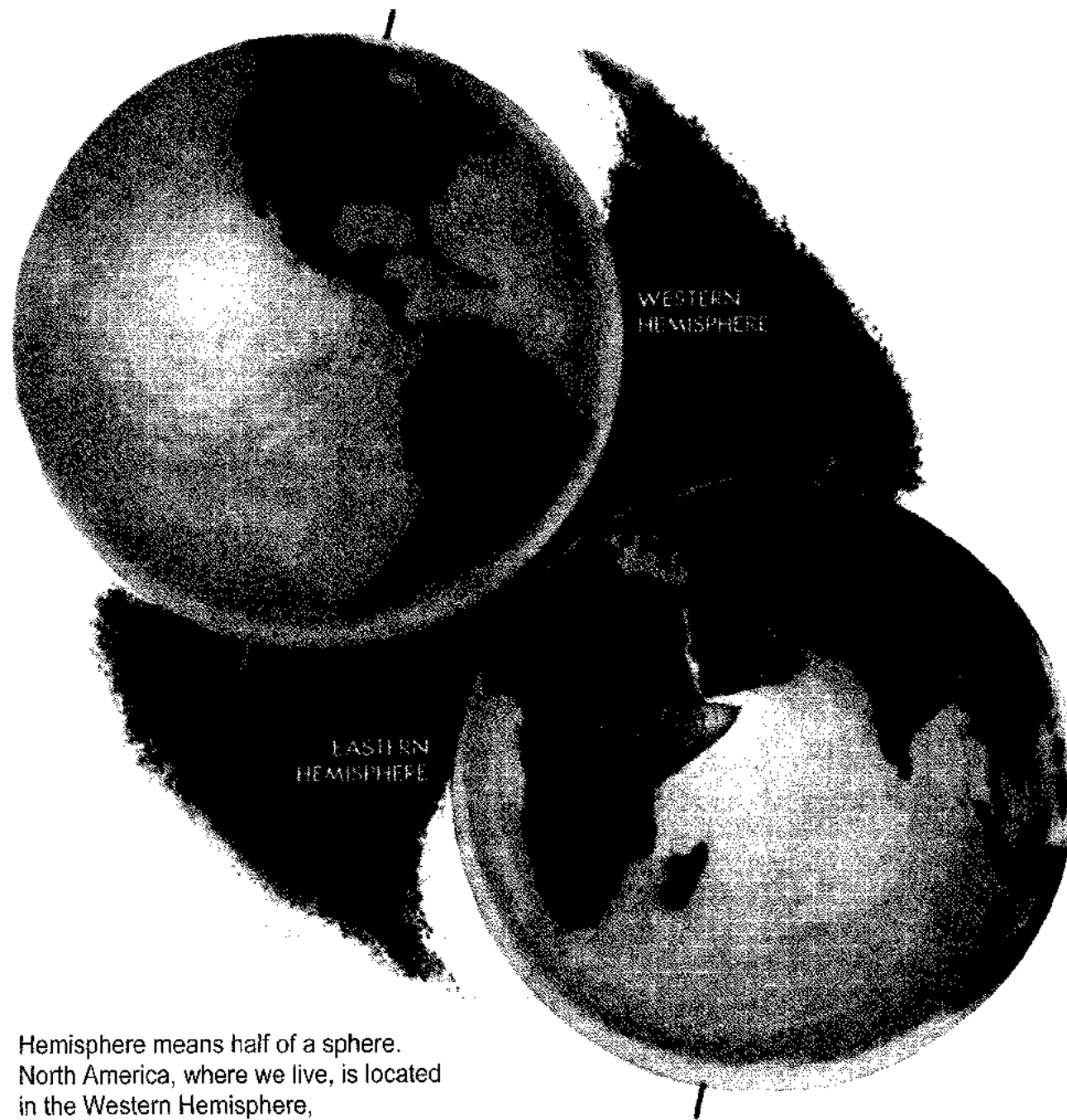
globe from time to time as you follow my trip around the world.

Although a globe is better for showing the whole world, flat maps are better for showing just a part of the world. On such a map the artist does not have to do much stretching or shrinking. He can show more things than can be shown on a globe.

I won't be able to take a globe with me when I go on my trip around the world. You may be sure, however, that I will have several different kinds of flat maps. And I will draw some maps to send back to you.

THE CONTINENTS AND THE OCEANS

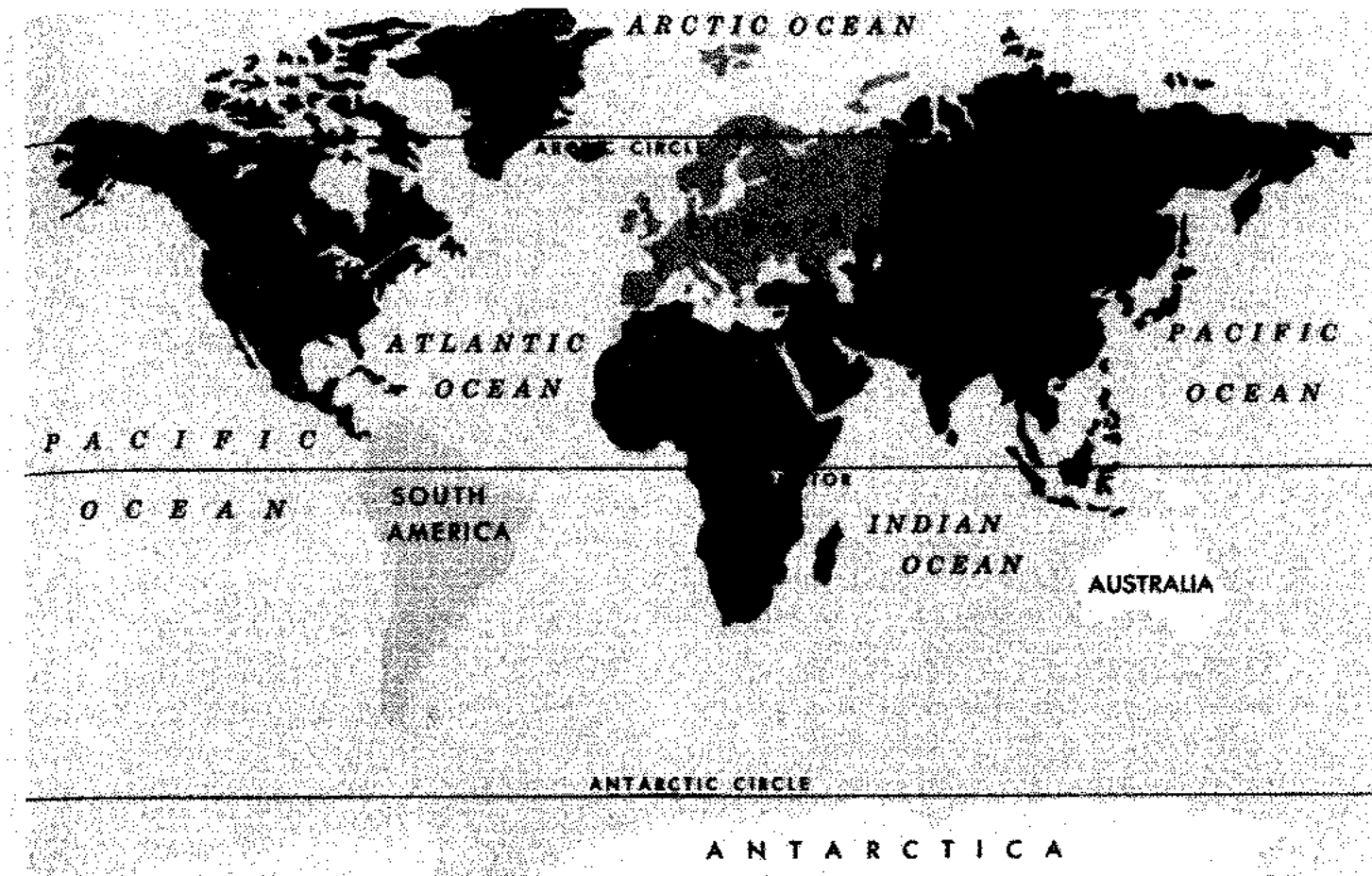
Let us imagine that we are on a rocket ship many, many miles above the earth's surface. First we look at one side of the earth and then we fly around and look at the other side. I have drawn two pictures of what we might see. From here, the



Hemisphere means half of a sphere. North America, where we live, is located in the Western Hemisphere,

earth looks like a great round ball floating in space, and that is exactly what it is.

We are so far away that we cannot see trees and roads and rivers and cities. We can see only the land and water of the world. The green



color is land and the blue is water. The large bodies of land are called *continents*. To make things easier for you, I have put in the names of the continents. (If you were in a rocket ship, you would have to figure them out for yourself.) There are seven continents. They are Asia, Europe, Africa, South America, North America, Australia, and Antarctica. All of the United States, except the state of Hawaii, is on the continent of North America.

I have also named the four oceans. *Oceans* are the large bodies of salt water between the continents. They are the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Arctic Ocean, and the Indian Ocean.

This flat map shows the seven continents and four oceans of the world. Which continent is the largest?

Are you surprised to see that most of the earth is covered by water? There is about three times as much water as land. Just one ocean, the Pacific, is bigger than all the land put together. All the continents could fit into the Pacific Ocean and there would still be room for water.

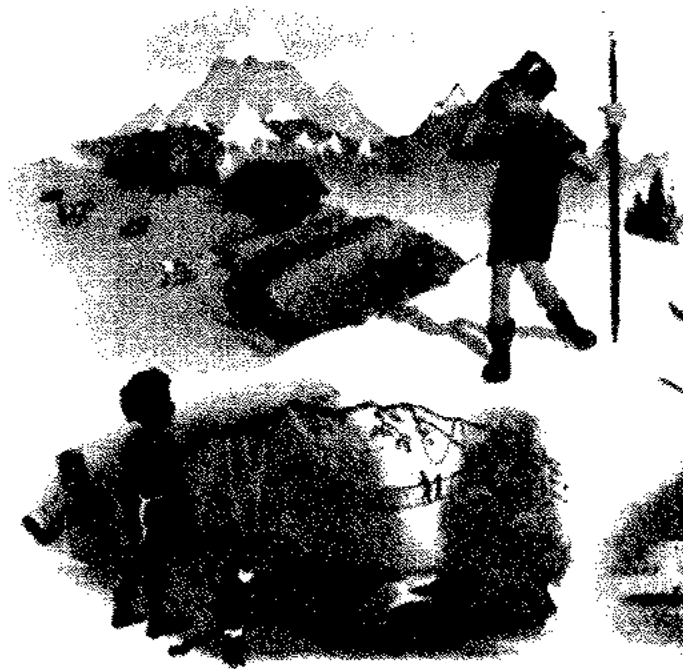
There are other large salt water bodies called seas. They are smaller than oceans.

On our trip we shall visit six of the seven continents, and we shall cross all four of the oceans. The flat map on this page shows the location of the continents and the oceans of the world.

PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT

Now we come to the most important subject of all - the people of the world. The world is big, but it will come to an end some day. So will the moon, and the sun, and the stars. But the people of the world will live forever. Of all the things in the universe, only human beings have immortal souls made in the image and likeness of God.

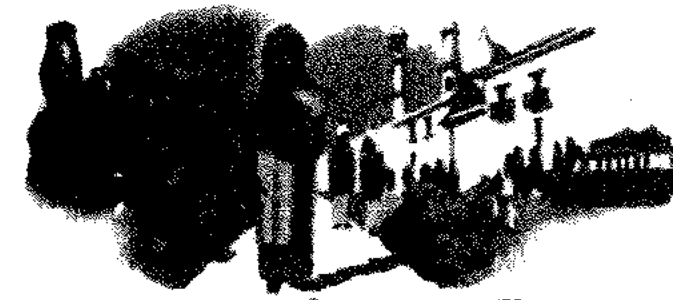
As we travel about the world, we will meet people of many lands. They will have different ways of living. It will be interesting to see how other people live. Some of them will be living in houses that are different from our houses. Some of them will be wearing different kinds of clothes. Some will be eating food which we have never seen before. We will meet people who speak many different languages. This is



one of the things that makes travel so interesting; it is fun to see how other people live.

While we are noticing the things that make these people seem different from us and from each other, we must remember that they are not really very much different. In things that are really important, all people are very much alike. All people have the same need for food, for a house to live in, and for clothes to wear. All people have sorrows, and fears, and joys. In all lands people must work for a living, but they also find time to play. And in the most important matter of all, we are all the same - we are all children of God.

Tonight I will finish my packing. The next time you hear from me, I will be on my way.



Some Things to Remember

The earth is only a small part of the universe which God created. The distant stars, the sun, and other bodies in space are all part of the universe.

The solar system is the name given to the sun and all the bodies that move around it.

The earth spins on its axis once in twenty-four hours causing night and day. The earth also moves around the sun in an orbit once in a year.

The tilting of the earth's axis causes the changing seasons as the earth moves around the sun.

The moon moves around the earth in an orbit. The moon is the earth's satellite. Manmade satellites have also been put into orbits around the earth by rockets.

The four directions are north, south, east, and west. You can tell directions by the sun, by the North Star, and by using a compass.

Maps show where places are. A globe is the best kind of map to show the whole world.

Flat maps are better for showing parts of the world.

The earth's surface is made up of land and water. A continent is a large body of land. An ocean is a large body of salt water.

The people of the earth are more alike than they are different. They all have need for food, shelter, and clothing. They are all children of God.

For your Geography Notebook

- 1 Take a flashlight and a globe or a beach ball, and show how the turning of the earth on its axis causes night and day.
- 2 Make a drawing to show how the North Star can be used to find directions. Show the stars in the Big Dipper. Draw circles around the "pointer" stars. Label the North Star and draw a dotted line from the "pointers" to the North Star.
- 3 Can you explain why
 - summer is warm and winter is cold?
 - flat maps are not always right?
 - all people are God's children?
- 4 Draw a map of your classroom showing the location of your desk, the teacher's desk, the wardrobe, the supply closet, the doors

and windows, the blackboard, and the bulletin board. Use a compass to find the directions of north, south, east, and west, and label your map N, S, E, and W.

5 Use each of the following geography words in a sentence which shows you know its meaning: (do not copy the sentence from the textbook.)

universe solar system
telescope axis

planet globe
satellite continent
orbit ocean

6 Do you want to know more about some of the things we've read about in this unit? Go to the library and use *Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia* or another reference book. To learn more about these topics and map reading, see the *Maps, Charts & Graphs Series*. (Available through O.L.V.S.)

Unit Test

I

Complete each sentence on your paper after choosing the correct ending.

- 1 God's great universe consists of
the earth the Solar System
all bodies in space
- 2 The sun is a
star planet satellite
- 3 The body in space nearest the earth is the
sun moon North Star
- 4 The turning of the earth on its axis takes a
day month year
- 5 The earth moves once around the sun in a
week month year
- 6 The path of the earth around the sun is
called its
axis orbit satellite
- 7 The moon is a
satellite planet star
- 8 When you face the North Star the direction
to your left is
south east west
- 9 To see the most distant stars you need a
compass telescope map
- 10 Of the following, the largest is
the Pacific Ocean the Atlantic Ocean
North America
- 11 The seven large bodies of land on the earth
are called
countries continents planets
- 12 The imaginary stick through the earth that
ends at the North Pole and the South
Pole is the
orbit axis equator

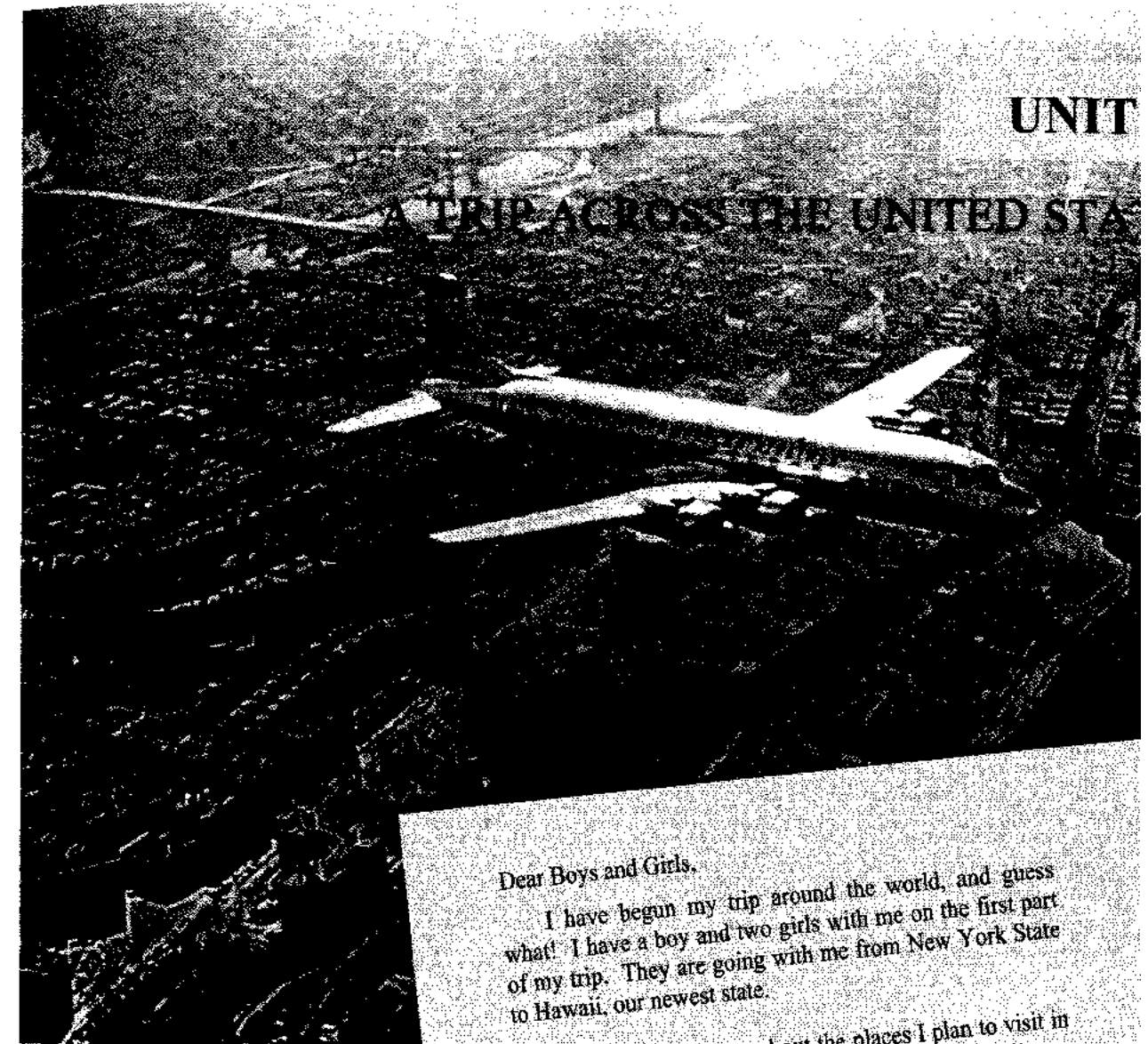
- 13 When our part of the earth is slanted away
from the sun we have
summer spring winter
- 14 The earth is heated most by the
moon sun stars
- 15 If we were watching a sunset, we would
be looking toward the
east north west

II

Choose the best ending for each.

- 1 We should help and pray for other peoples
because
a they are unhappy.
b they do not know how to live.
c they belong to God's family.
- 2 We should give to people who do not have
enough because
a we are sorry for them.
b we have a duty to share with others.
c we need their help.
- 3 The best reason for studying geography is
that it will help us
a to learn about other peoples of the world.
b to find our way by maps.
c to enjoy our travels.
- 4 The thing we must remember as we travel
around the world is that
a all men are brothers.
b everyone should live in the same way.
c we cannot learn from others.
- 5 Children who travel are doing God's work
when they
a give things away.
b set a good example for others.
c buy things to bring home.

A TRIP ACROSS THE UNITED STATES



Dear Boys and Girls,

I have begun my trip around the world, and guess what! I have a boy and two girls with me on the first part of my trip. They are going with me from New York State to Hawaii, our newest state.

First, let me tell you about the places I plan to visit in our country. Before each new venture I will tell you where I plan to go. Then you can imagine what the new places will be like.

We will see New York City and the capitol city of our country, Washington, D. C. We will visit a big steel mill city and other cities where goods you see every day are made. It will be interesting to see where tires and automobiles are made, won't it? We will fly over some high mountains in our country. We will see trees over a thousand years old.

Finally, we will fly across the ocean to the newest part of our country. We have a long way to go and many interesting things to see on this first part of our trip.

