
First Lessons in Geography

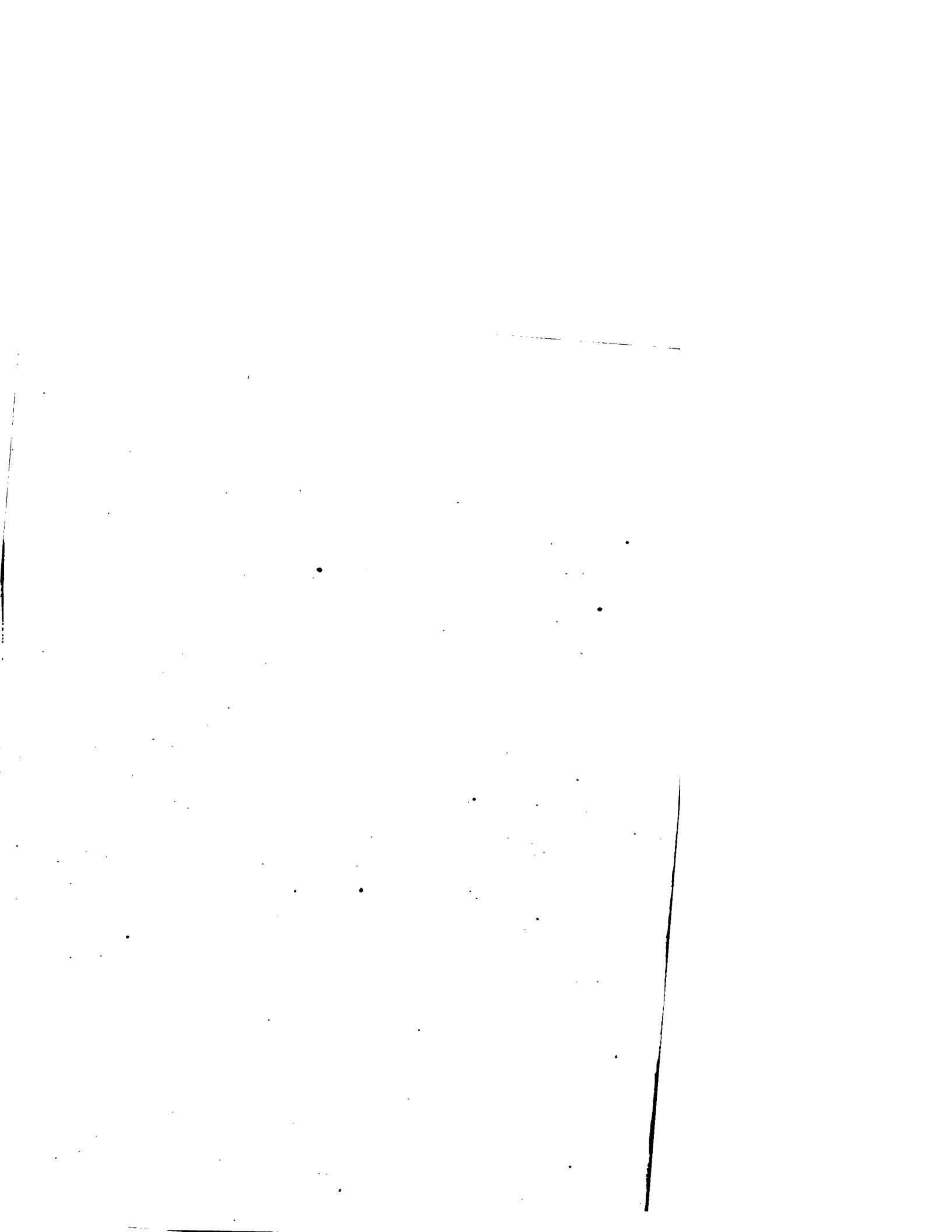
Maury Matthew Fontaine

Title: First Lessons in Geography

Author: Maury Matthew Fontaine

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MAURY'S GEOGRAPHICAL SERIES

FIRST LESSONS

IN

G E O G R A P H Y



UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING CO
NEW YORK AND BALTIMORE

1878.

GIFT
OCT 25 '51

→ MAURY'S →
GEOGRAPHICAL SERIES.

FIRST LESSONS IN GEOGRAPHY,

For Young Learners; in which the Author, in an imaginary voyage and journey, takes the pupil twice round the world, shows him various parts of it, and easily and pleasantly introduces him to the study of Geography.

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

An Intermediate Geography; in which the Author has sought to present the leading facts and principles of Geographical Science in a familiar and attractive manner, with constant reference to the Maps, and with carefully adapted Questions, Exercises, and Map Studies.

MANUAL OF GEOGRAPHY:

A complete Treatise on Mathematical, Civil, and Physical Geography; presented in an attractive manner, with abundant helps and adaptations to awaken and sustain the interest of the pupil in intelligent study.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY:

In which the Natural Features of the Earth, its Atmospherical Phenomena, and its Animal and Vegetable Life, are fully treated, with an attractiveness of style, and freshness and interest of detail, that charm the pupil and the general reader. Quarto, illustrated with numerous Maps and Engravings.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1868, by
C. B. RICHARDSON,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the
Southern District of New York.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1870,
By M. F. MAURY,
In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington

Virginia

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P R E F A C E.

THE Author's aim, in the preparation of this little volume, has been to introduce young learners, in a simple and attractive manner, to the study of Geography. To this end, they are taken on imaginary voyages and journeys twice around the world—once by sea, and again by land. In the familiar narrative description of these travels, the pupil will become easily and progressively acquainted with the leading features of the earth's surface, and the people inhabiting the various lands; he will be more interested than in a formal and scientific treatise; his attention will be arrested, and the principal landmarks of Geography recognized and remembered; and he will be trained for the study of a higher book.

The definitions of the most important terms are introduced as they occur incidentally in the young traveller's progress round the world. They are also grouped together near the close of the volume, where they may be referred to and studied at the teacher's pleasure.

To every lesson is attached a map-study—at first very short and simple. The object should be to familiarize the child from the first with the use of the maps—to form the habit of consulting them intelligently. The early and continual use of map-sketching by the pupil on slate and black-board will also be found to be both pleasing and profitable.

The Author would also suggest to teachers the importance of discretion and patience in teaching the child *how to study* this first-book in Geography. The earliest exercises with the pupil or class should be largely conversational. The teacher should read the text to his pupils, with questions and remarks, or the pupils may read the same to the teacher. After this, they are prepared to read by themselves again and again, and to examine themselves by the questions preparatory for the next recitation.

The teacher should *teach*, as well as *hear recitations*.

M. F. MAURY.

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[SUGGESTION TO TEACHERS.—With young children, special daily attention should be given to reading the lesson for the subsequent day and showing them *how to study* intelligently. See fourth paragraph of Preface.]

FIRST LESSONS IN GEOGRAPHY.

LESSON I.

About the Round Earth.

Teacher. Do you know what is the shape of the World, or the Earth, as you must call it, now that you are learning Geography?

Pupil. They say the Earth is round.

T. Yes; it is the shape of an orange, and many ships have sailed round it. It turns over once every day. Here is a picture of the side of it on which we live; it is called a map. We live on the out-

Our country is in that part of the map which you see marked NORTH AMERICA: that is where we live. On the other half, where you see Eu'-rope, the English and the French live. Where you see A'-sia, the Chinese live; and where you see Af'-ri-ca, the negroes live.

When it is day on our side of the Earth, it is night on theirs; and when it is day with them, it is night with us.

What is a Map?

P. A Map is a drawing of any country, or part of the Earth's surface.



side, or surface, of the Earth, and move about on it like so many little ants on an apple—only we are not so large to the Earth as the ant is to the largest apple.

MAP STUDY.

Point out on the map and spell A-mer-i-ca; At-lan-tic O'-cean; Pa-cif-ic Ocean; Eu'-rope; A'-sia; Af'-ri-ca.

Where do we live? Where do the English and French live? The Chinese? The negroes?

What shape is the Earth? How do we know it is round?

LESSON II.**About Maps.**

T. You know that the Sun rises in the east and sets in the west, and that when it is twelve o'clock, or noon, your shadow points to the north.

To learn Geography, you must understand the map. Before you can understand the map, you must know what part of it is north, what part east, what part south, and what part west. Can you tell?

P. The top of the map is always north.

T. What part is east?

P. The right hand.

T. What part is south?

P. The bottom.

T. What part is west?

P. The left-hand side is west.

T. Here is a map of Virginia. Can

you show me which is the northern part of the State? Which is the eastern? Which is the southern? Which is the western?

Look on the right-hand side of the map, and you will find Nor'-folk. In what part of the State do you find Nor'-folk?

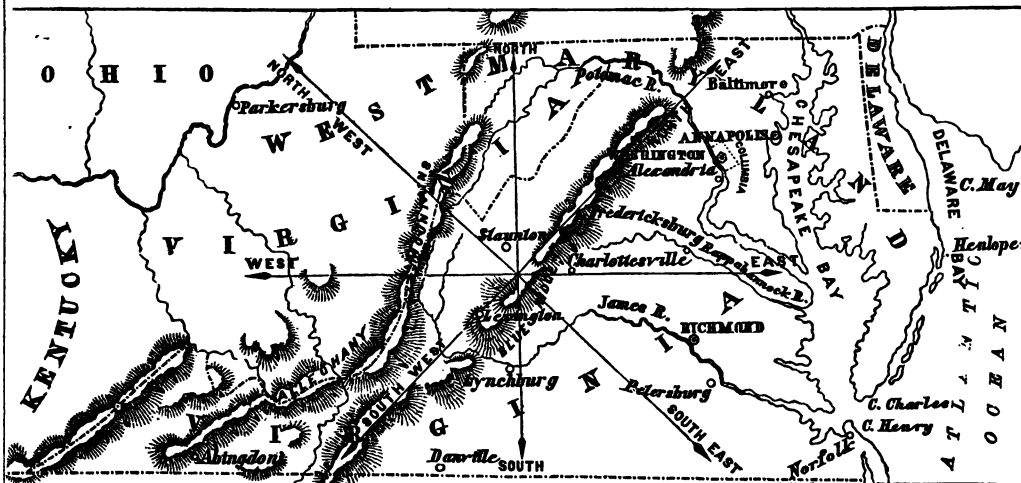
Now look away to the left, and you will find Ab'-ing-don.

In what part of the State is Abingdon? Is it in the eastern part? Is it in the northern part? Why do you say it is neither in the eastern nor in the northern part of the State?

MAP STUDY.

Let the pupil point out on the map and spell Vir-gin'-ia; Rich'-mond; Fred'-er-icks-burg; and tell which is furthest north, Richmond or Fredericksburg.

Fredericksburg is famous for the battles fought there in the war. General Washington used to live in Fredericksburg. His mother's grave is there.



MAP OF VIRGINIA.

LESSON III.

About the Cardinal Points.

T. Did you ever see a compass? Some people call it "the needle." The needle always points to the north, and shows you which way is east, which way is west, which way is north, and which way is south. These four points are called the *cardinal* points of the compass.

The four cardinal points are the four *principal* points; and telling the points all the way round the compass, is called *boxing* the compass.

To *box* the compass, you begin at the north, and go all the way round by the east and the south, calling out the points as you go. Thus, north, northeast; east, southeast; south, southwest; west, northwest.

MAP STUDY.

Now look at the Map of Virginia, and tell which way it is from Rich'-mond to Fred'-er-icks-burg; from Rich'-mond to Pe'-ters-burg; from Rich'-mond to Nor'-folk; from Lynch'-burg to Fred'-er-icks-burg; from Lynch'-burg to Pe'-ters-burg; from Cape Charles to Nor'-folk.

Look at the map and you will see that Cape Charles is a point of land that juts out into the sea. All such *points of land that jut out into the sea are called Capes.*

Now can you tell me what a cape is? and can you find any other capes along the sea-shore?

Spell and point out on the map—James River; Rap-pah'-han'-nock River; Po-to'-mac River. Which way do they run?

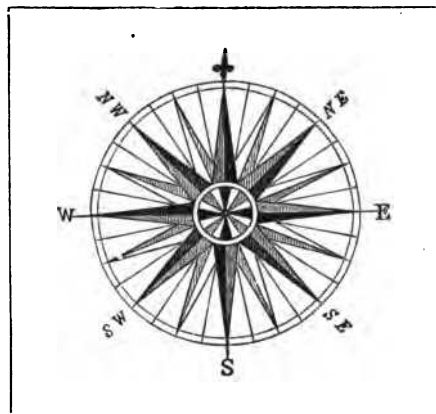
LESSON IV.

About the Compass.

The compass is a very useful instrument. Men survey land with a compass. Without the compass no farmer would be able to know his own land, for he could not run the lines between his

land and that of his neighbors. Only think, everybody who owns land, whether it be a town lot or a country farm, depends upon this little instrument to tell him which land is his.

Every ship has a compass on board; for without it, in a dark night at sea, the captain would not know which way to



steer. You know, people are sometimes days and days at sea without seeing the land, or anything but the sky above and the water all around; and without the compass to tell them, they would not know which way to steer for the *port* they are going to. A *port* is a place on the sea-shore that ships can go to.

QUESTIONS.—Is the compass of any use? Are ships at sea ever out of sight of land? How do they know which way to steer? What use do farmers make of the Compass? Is an Ocean land or water? What is a Port?

MAP STUDY.

Look at the Map of the World, and tell me what ocean lies between America and Europe. Which way is Europe from North America? In North America do you see the United States? In what part of the United States is Washington? What town is south of Washington? What country in Europe is east of Norfolk?



