



## Teacher Guide

# Identify Continents and Oceans

**Key idea:** Students learn the locations of major features on a world map.

**Time:** 50 minutes

### Objective

Students practice identifying the equator and prime meridian, as well as the five major oceans (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, and Arctic) and the seven continents (Asia, Europe, Africa, Antarctica, Australia, North America, and South America).

### Do the activity—Part 1

Give students the *Identify Continents and Oceans* Student Handout. Direct their attention to the *Labeled World Map* on page 2 of the handout. They will study the locations of continents and oceans, and also take note of the prime meridian and the equator.

Allow students to go to the Sally Ride EarthKAM Image Gallery (<http://images.earthkam.ucsd.edu/main.php>) and click on **Advanced Search**. They will enter “equator” in the advanced search field to find images from along the equator. Students will study the images and write a description of three images, including image ID number, latitude, longitude, and location. This information can be found in the **Image Properties** list below each image.

On the *Labeled World Map*, students will find the location of each of the equator images they wrote about. They will put a dot on the map with a label showing each image location. They may need to refer to a globe or map with latitude and longitude labels to identify exactly where the images were captured.

### Do the activity—Part 2

After students have studied the labeled map, they will turn to the *Unlabeled World Map* on page 3 of the handout. Without looking at the labeled map, they will label the seven continents and five oceans. They will label the prime meridian and the equator on the *Unlabeled World Map*, and add a compass rose. Then they will use the map to answer questions.

### Answer Key

- A. What major ocean is west of North America? [*Pacific Ocean*]
- B. What continent is east of Europe? [*Asia*]
- C. What ocean is south of Asia? [*Indian Ocean*]
- D. What continent is north of Africa? [*Europe*]

### STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

#### Geography

**I.1:** The World in Spatial Terms: How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.

**II.5:** That people create regions to interpret Earth’s complexity.

**III.8:** The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on Earth’s surface.

#### CCSS

**RTS.6-8.3:** Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.

### MATERIALS

- > Give students the *Identify Continents and Oceans* Student Handout. It includes a labeled map of Earth and an unlabeled map of Earth.
- > Students will also need to access the Image Gallery on the Sally Ride EarthKAM website. Alternatively, print out EarthKAM images of several locations on the equator with the Image Properties information and give the images to students.

