

GEOGRAPHY

OVERVIEW

Reading Maps

(Scale, Compass, Legend & Symbols)

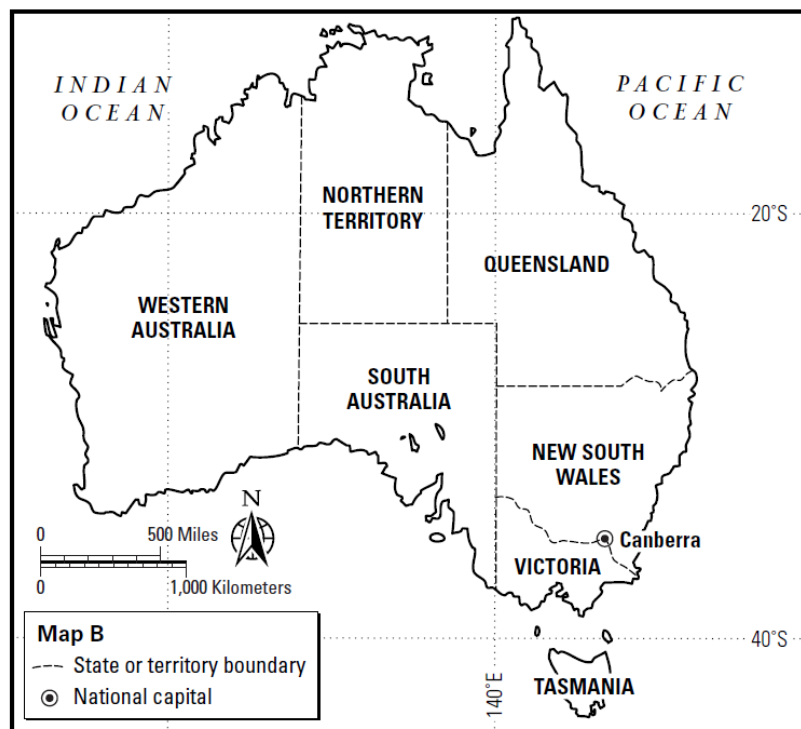
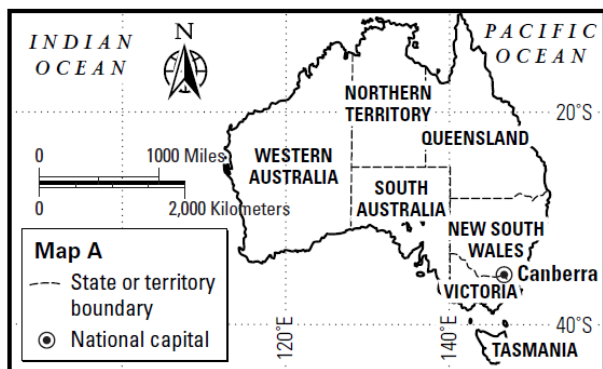
15pts

Name: _____

Period: _____

The scale of a map helps you determine the actual size or length of any of its features or of any distance between two points. It is a ratio between a unit of length on a map and a unit of distance on the earth. Typically, a scale shows a length of line and indicates the number of miles or kilometers that length represents on the map. A map that covers 1,000 miles per inch has a scale of 1:1,000.

The compass rose is a pointed symbol that shows a map's direction on the globe. It is usually placed on an area of the map near one edge, away from map details that could make the device difficult to find. On maps showing both water and land, the compass rose is usually placed on the water. The compass rose may show all four cardinal directions—N, S, E, W—or just one, north. Study the maps below and answer the questions.

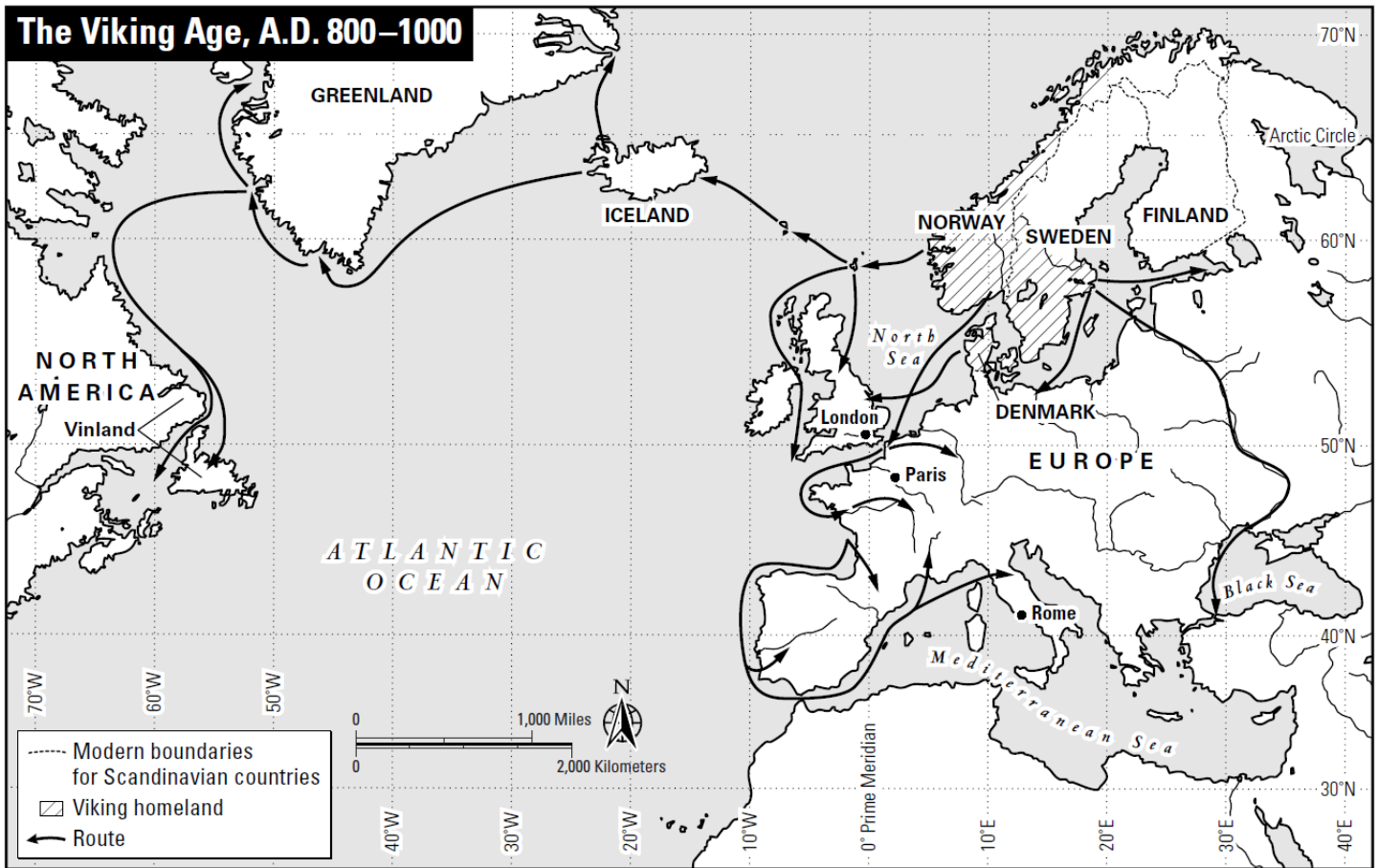


1. Is Tasmania north, south, east, or west of Australia? _____
2. About how many inches wide is Australia as it is shown in Map A? (Use a ruler to measure across the widest part of the continent.) _____
3. What is the approximate distance across Australia in miles? _____
4. How much larger is Australia in Map B than it is in Map A? _____

Maps show more than just size and direction. They also define borders of cities, regions, states, and countries. They can be used to depict historical events, to demonstrate how geography has influenced history, and to illustrate human interaction with the environment.

Such information found on a map comes from a reading of its various lines, labels, and symbols. Lines of various width indicate land boundaries,

types of roads and waterways, and routes of movement. Labels are words on a map that identify such things as cities, states, countries, continents, and bodies of water. Symbols are decorative objects such as large circles, dots, stars, and bursts used to identify an area's special features—cities, battle sites, resources, and the like. Study the map below and answer the questions.



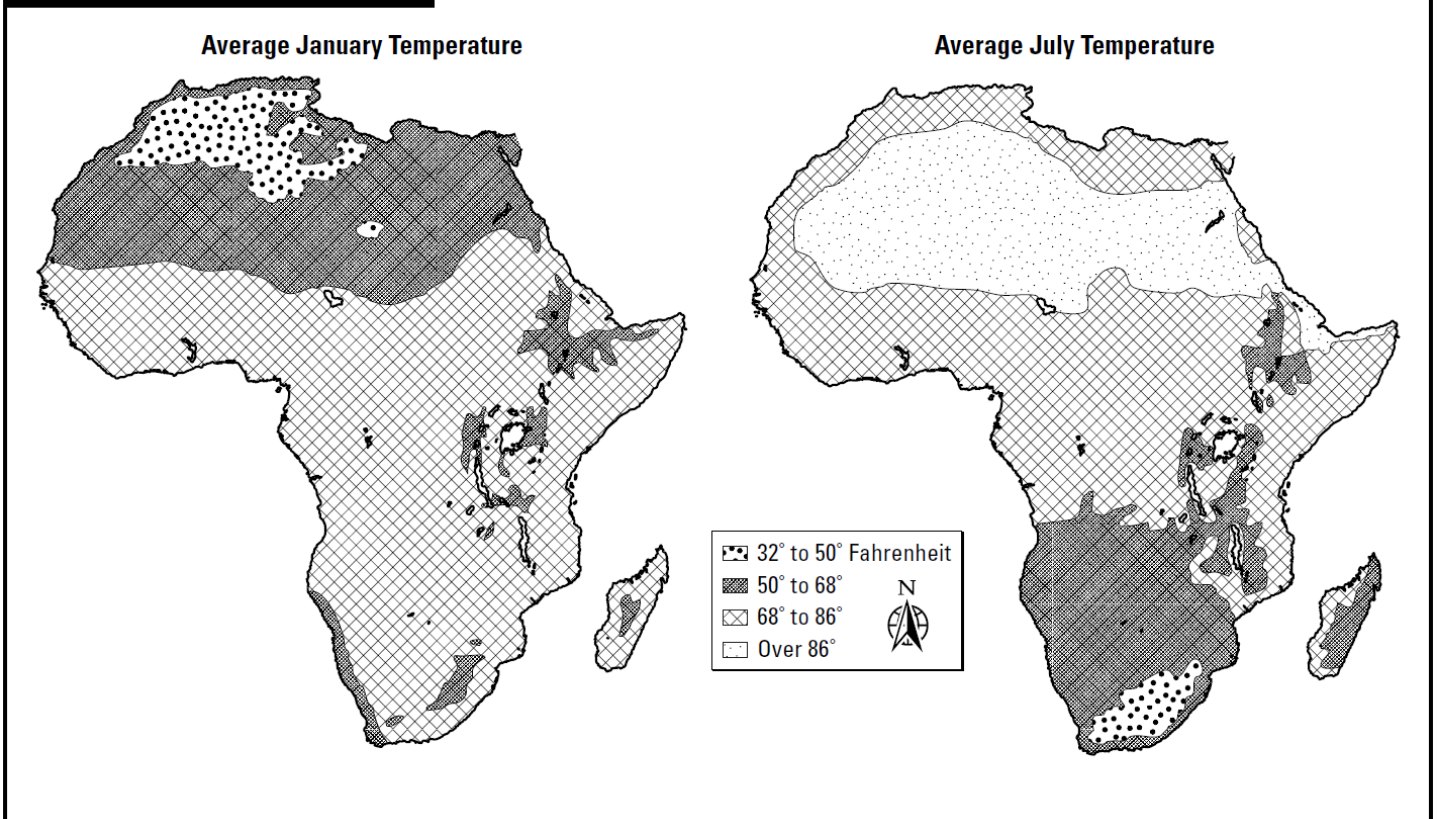
1. Vikings came from a region of four present-day countries north of Europe called Scandinavia. Which one, identified on the map, was not a point of origin for Vikings? _____
2. Which of the cities on the map is farthest from the Vikings' homeland? _____
3. What direction did the Vikings go to reach Greenland? _____
4. What is the region of North America where the Vikings landed? _____
5. The Arctic Circle runs just south, north, east, or west of Iceland? _____

The lines and symbols that appear on a map often need further explanation. For this reason, a legend, also known as a key, is often used. A legend is a small table within a map that explains what some symbols and lines mean.

A legend is also used to indicate the meaning of any patterned or colored areas on a map. For black-and-white maps, patterns such as diagonal

lines, large and small dot fields, and cross-hatching are commonly used to show separate regions within a particular boundary. For maps printed in color, the same distinctions are shown by use of different colors. The legend reproduces a sampling of the pattern or color and then identifies what it stands for. Study the map below and answer the questions.

Temperate Zones in Africa



1. What do the different patterns on the map represent? _____
2. What temperature range does not appear in Africa in January? _____
3. In which large region is the average July temperature more than 86 degrees? _____
4. In which region of Africa does the temperature stay virtually unchanged throughout the year?
