

GLOSSARY

C

cartography science of map making (46)

conic projection map projection in which the meridians converge at the poles; the parallels appear as equally spaced, concentric curves (47)

contour interval difference in elevation between one contour line and the next (51)

contour line line on a map connecting points with the same elevation (50)

D

depression contour contour line with short, straight lines drawn along the inside of the loop pointing toward its center that indicates a depression (55)

E

elevation height above sea level (50)

G

geomagnetic pole point on the Earth's surface above a pole of the Earth's imaginary internal magnet (45)

gnomonic projection map projection in which the parallels appear as unevenly spaced, concentric circles, the meridians appear as straight lines radiating from a central point, and all other great circles appear as straight lines (47)

great circle any circle that divides the globe in half (44)

I

index contour every fifth contour line on a topographic map that is printed bolder for reference (53)

L

latitude angular distance north or south of the equator (43)

legend list of map symbols and their meanings (48)

longitude angular distance east or west of the prime meridian (44)

GLOSSARY

M

magnetic declination angle between the direction of the Earth's geographic pole and the direction in which a compass needle points (45)

map projection flat map that represents a three-dimensional curved surface (46)

mean sea level point midway between the highest and lowest tide levels of the ocean (50)

Mercator projection map projection in which the meridians appear as straight, parallel, evenly spaced lines and form a grid with the parallels, which appear as straight, parallel, and unevenly spaced lines (47)

meridian semicircle on the Earth that runs from pole to pole (43)

P

parallel any circle that runs east and west around the Earth parallel to the equator (43)

polyconic projection map made by fitting together a series of conic projections of adjoining areas (48)

prime meridian the meridian that passes through Greenwich, England, designated as 0° (44)

R

relief difference in elevation between the highest and lowest points of an area (51)

S

scale relationship between distance shown on a map and actual distance (49)

T

topographic map map that shows the surface features of the Earth (50)

topography surface features of the Earth (50)

true north direction of the geographic North Pole (45)