

Nonfiction

READING

Comprehension, Written Narration & Research

History | Geography | Science

Grades 4–8



Nonfiction Reading Comprehension, Written Narration & Research

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How to Use

There are 75 reading comprehension lessons in 10 units that explore geography, history, and science. Each unit is completely self-contained. You can skip around and do whichever ones interest your student or align with what you are studying at the time.

Each lesson has short, informative text followed by comprehension questions based on what was read.

The student can read the lesson text (or a parent/teacher can read it aloud) and use the notebooking page that is included for written narration, using the questions as writing prompts. This often works better for students who struggle with reading comprehension questions. Alternatively, you can ask the questions orally if that suits your student's learning style best.

Suggested vocabulary words are bolded. You can have your student look up the definitions and use them to create a notebook. Students can also find suggested definitions for the words in the glossary at the end of the unit.

In addition to reading comprehension questions, each lesson is followed by prompts for additional research and a notebooking page to record what is found.

Each unit concludes with a diagramming or labeling activity related to the unit.

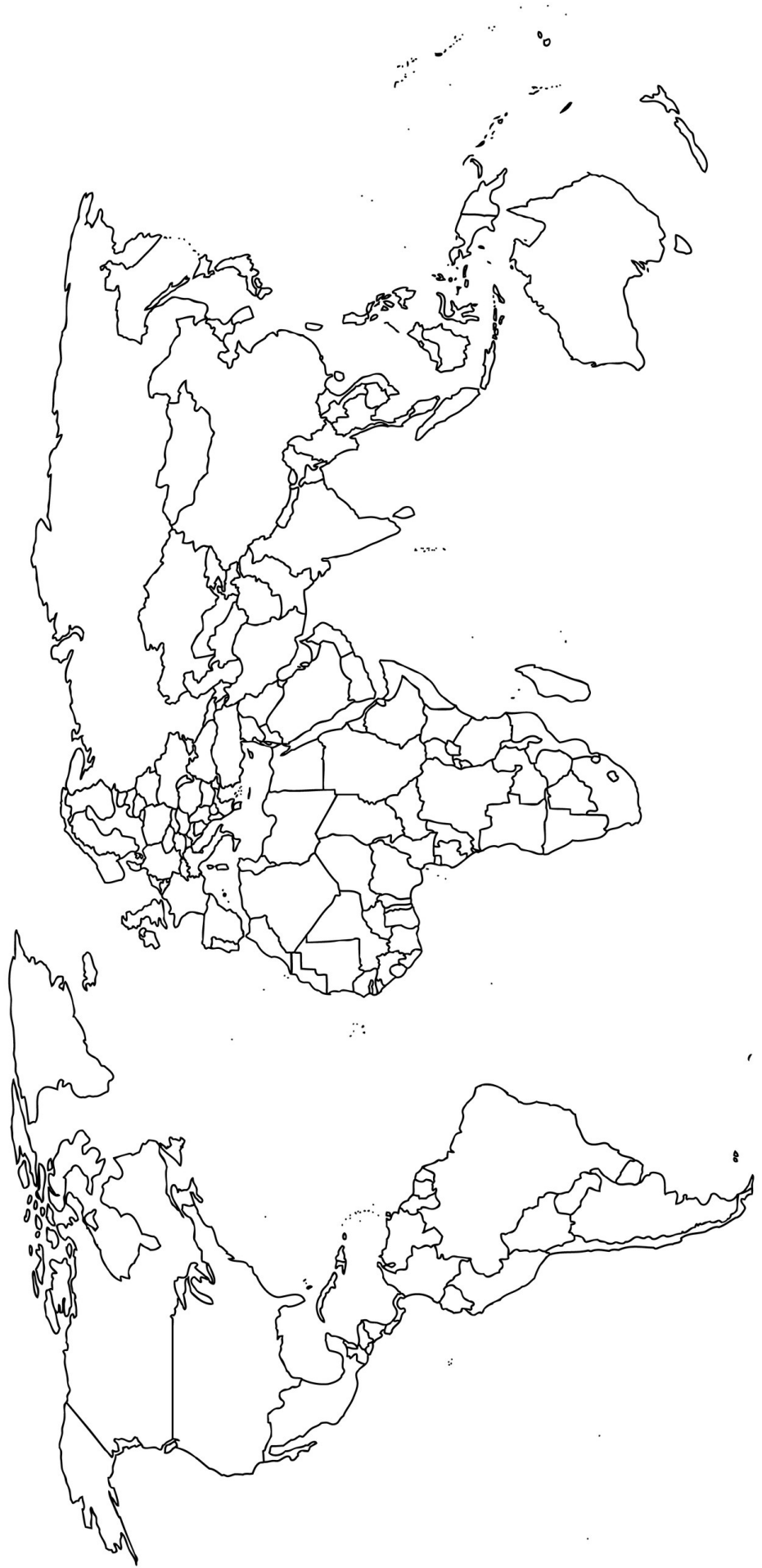
The ***Nonfiction Reading Comprehension, Written Narration & Research*** unit is intended to be a supplement to your studies and is geared for grades 4-8.

You will find answer keys for all reading comprehension questions at the end of the resource. Answer keys for the additional research are not included as much of these answers will vary based on the sources used for research.

Seven Wonders of the Natural World

Label the Map

Label the locations of the wonders you've studied on the map below. For an extra challenge, see if you can also label the countries they are located in.



Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

Explore the wonders of ancient history.

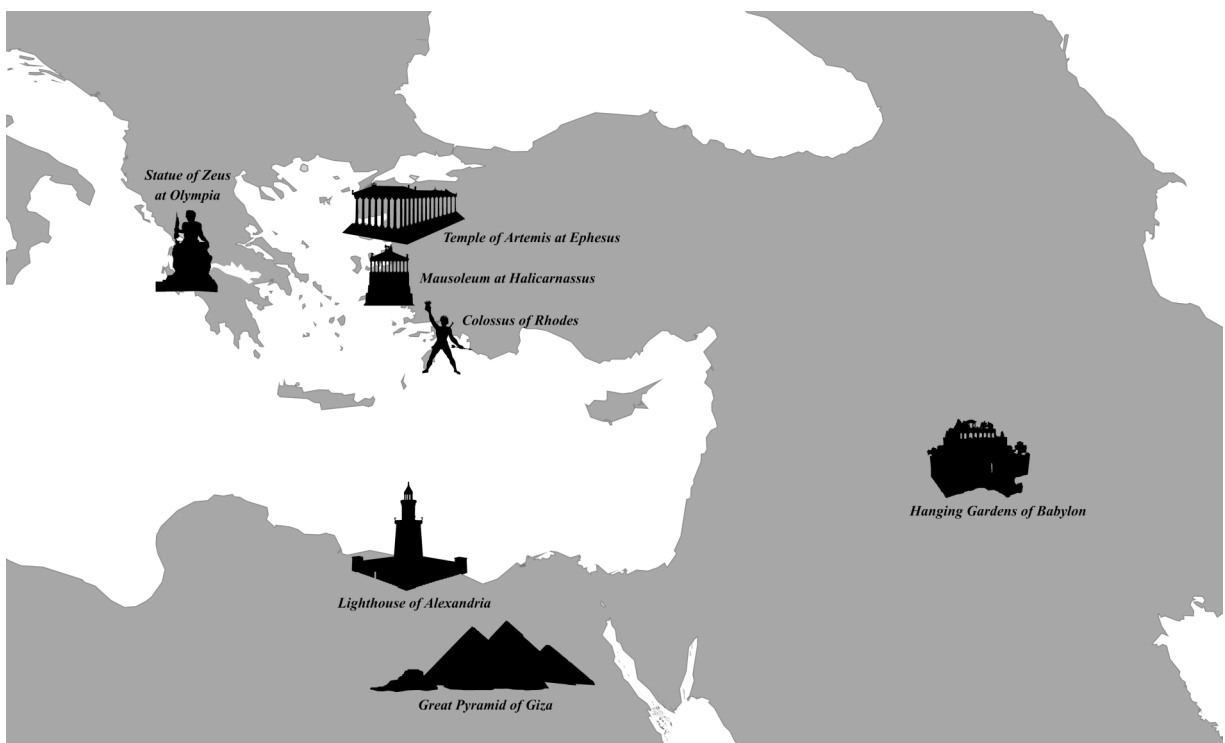
Introduction:

It seems human beings have always loved to make lists. Even back in ancient Greece and Rome, they made lists of the “must-see” places in the world. Some of those lists survived, got added to, and changed over the years. Today, we have the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World based on those lists. We’re going to look at about 2,000 years of history, but there’s one important thing to remember. Not all sources agree on exactly what everything looked like or even when it was built. Only one of the wonders in this book remains standing today for us to study, and we’re going to save it for last. When we visit the others on our journey, it will have to be only with our imaginations.

Lesson One: Lighthouse of Alexandria

The first wonder we’re going to visit is a famous lighthouse built in Egypt. It was built about 280 BC on the island of Pharos, which was in the harbor of Alexandria. It was so famous that the word *pharos* came to mean *lighthouse*. **Historians** think it was built to honor Ptolemy I, one of Alexander the Great’s generals who later ruled Egypt. It was finished during the reign of his son, Ptolemy II.

It was probably around 350-440 feet (110-134 meters) tall, and it would have been the second-tallest **manmade** structure in the world at the time. The only thing taller were the pyramids of Giza, Egypt. It became a model for lighthouses throughout history. It’s believed to have been built in three sections: a square base, an eight-sided center, and a circular top. A great spiral ramp took people to the top, where they burned a fire all night long. We know the Egyptians had mirrors at this time, so it’s possible they also used mirrors to help reflect the light so it could be seen even farther away.



Lesson One: Lighthouse of Alexandria



Comprehension Questions

1. What island was the lighthouse built on? _____

2. Who was it built to honor? _____

3. What was the only manmade structure taller than the lighthouse at that time? _____

4. How many sections was the lighthouse made of? _____

Written Narration

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Additional Research

Use the lesson, an atlas, or the Internet with a parent's permission, and answer the following questions:



On what continent was this wonder found?

What is the climate like where the wonder was from?

Was this wonder near any major cities? If so, which ones?

Would you want to see this wonder in person if it were possible?

Interesting Facts:

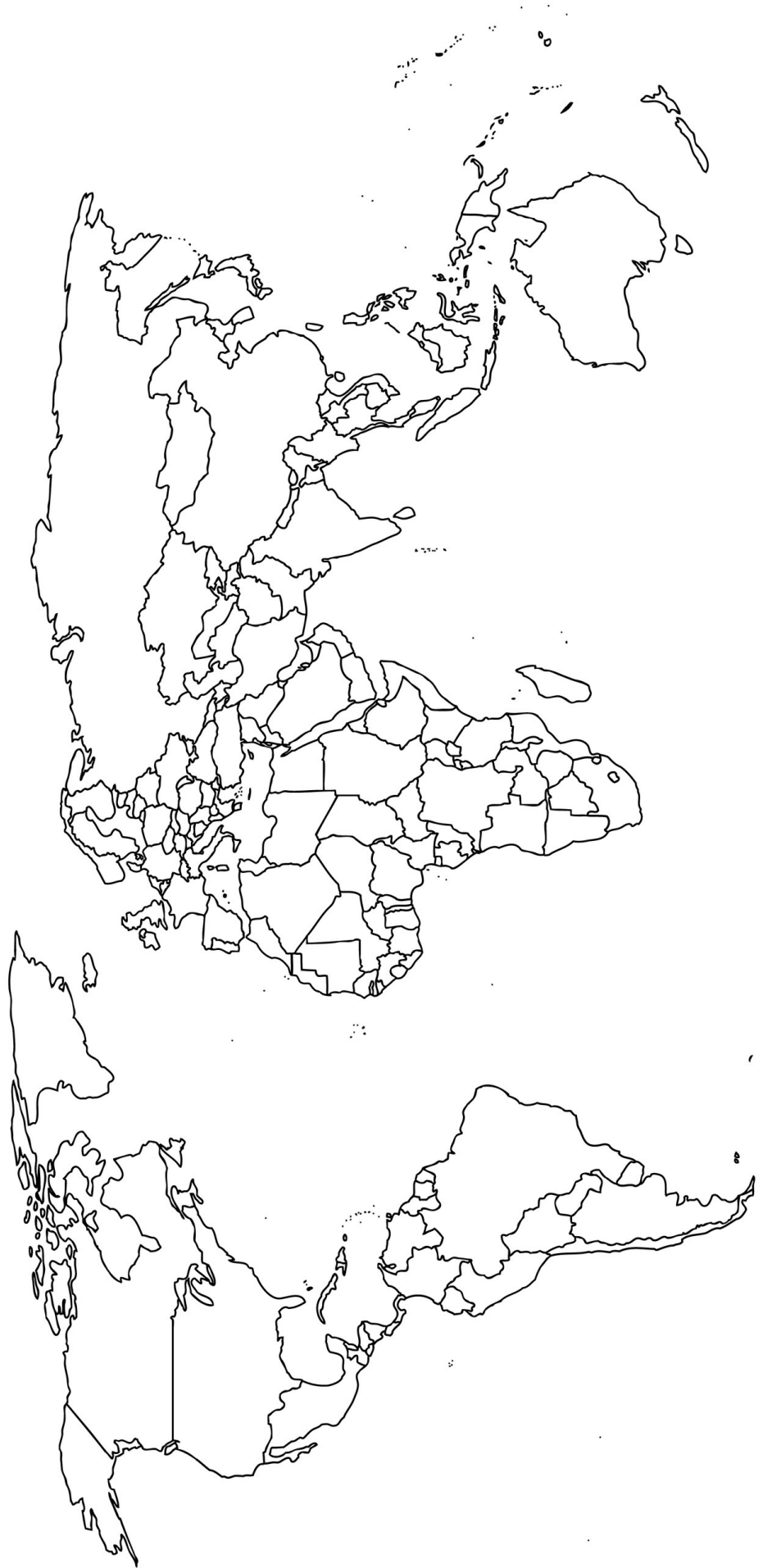
Draw a picture of the Lighthouse.

A large empty rectangular box for drawing a picture of the Lighthouse.

Seven Wonders of the Modern World

Label the Map

Label the locations of the wonders you've studied on the map below. For an extra challenge, see if you can also label the countries they are located in.



Seven Wonders of the Solar System

Explore the wonders of the heavens.

Introduction:

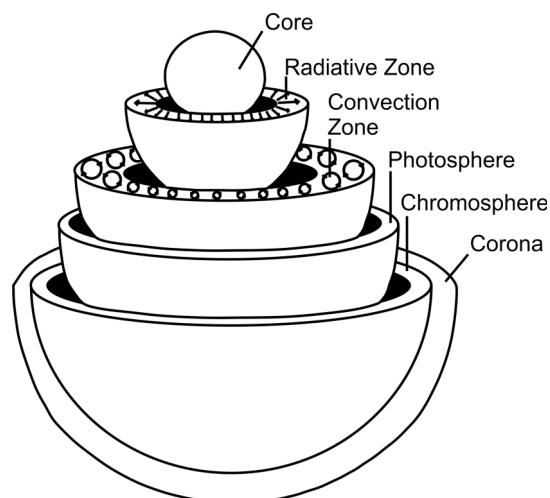
We're going to explore the **solar system** and discover just seven of the many wonders it holds. When you look at it, the entire solar system is a wonder. If the **orbits** of planets or any number of other factors were off by the slightest bit, life as we know it couldn't exist on Earth. God chose the exact spot in the solar system and the entire universe that would be just right for His people.

Lesson One: Surface of the Sun

When we refer to a solar system, we're talking about a main star and all the planets and other bodies that orbit it. The solar system we live in is centered around the sun, so that's where our journey will start. It's important to remember as we study our solar system that since we've never been able to visit most of these places, there are some details that scientists just can't be 100% sure of.

Even though the sun is approximately 93 million miles (149 million km) away, it provides energy for virtually every living thing in our world with its light and heat. The sun is made of gas, so it doesn't have a surface in the same way that Earth has a **crust**, but it does have interior layers and exterior layers. The surface of the sun is the layer of the sun's **atmosphere** called the photosphere, and it's the layer we see as light. The temperature changes depending on how deep into the photosphere you go, but it is approximately 10,000 °F (5,500 °C).

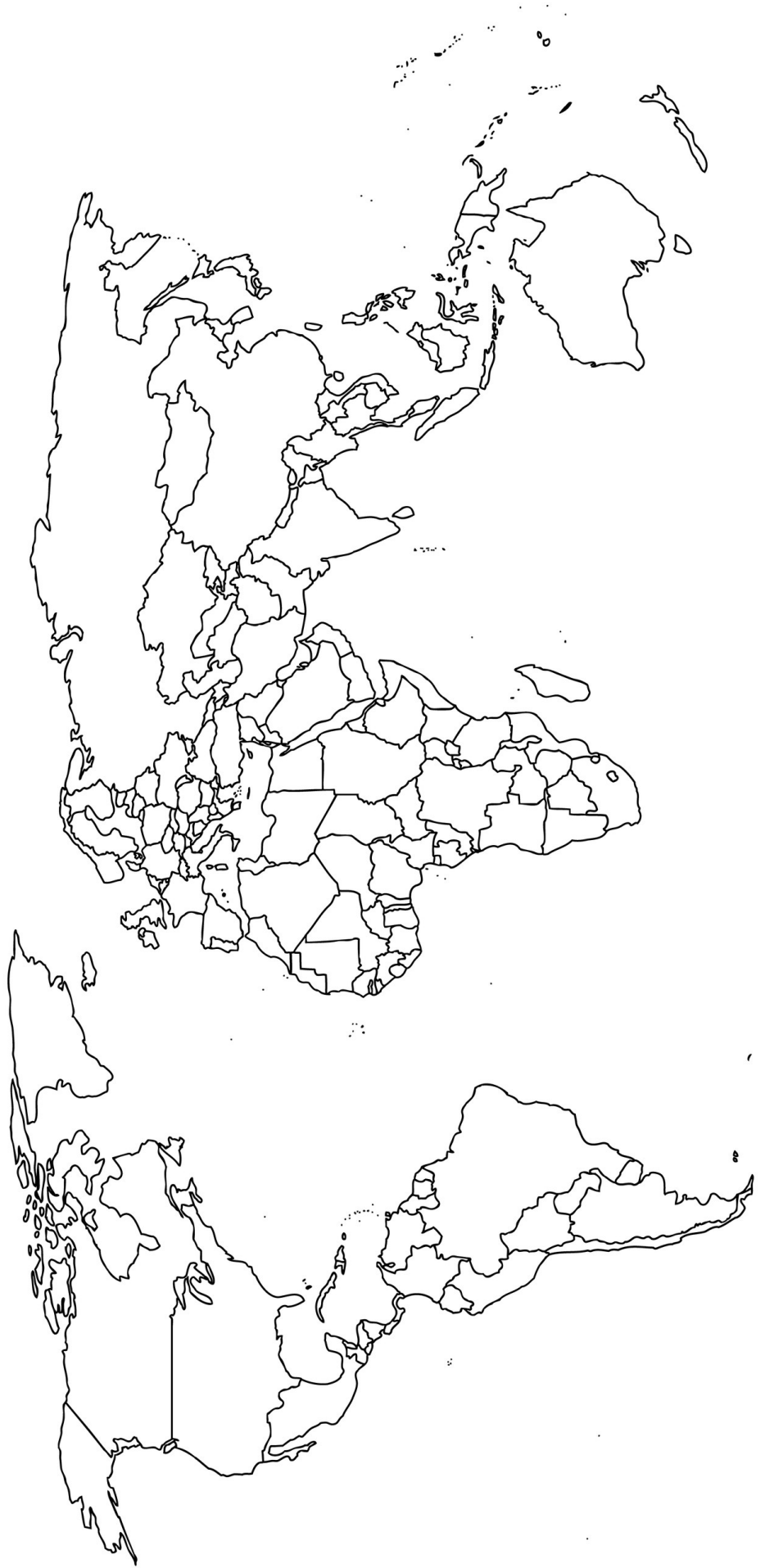
Sometimes, changes in the sun's **magnetic field** create cooler, darker areas we call **sunspots**. A single sunspot can have a **diameter** of about 20,000 miles (32,000 km), which is more than twice as large as the entire Earth.



Natural Disasters

Label the Map

Label the locations of some of the historic occurrences of natural disasters that you found as you did your research.



Learning About the Weather

Explore some of the many kinds of weather.

Introduction:

What is **weather**? I'm sure you've wondered what the weather is like today, or what it is forecasted to be tomorrow, but how do you define weather? That is part of what we're going to discover in this unit.

Lesson One: What is Weather?

Basically, weather is the condition the air is in at a certain place at a point in time. We describe the weather when we talk about the clouds, **precipitation**, **humidity**, or the wind. Weather changes when conditions in the **atmosphere** change.

Meteorology is the study of the earth's atmosphere and the changes that cause the weather. When you think about it, meteorologists have a tremendously big job to do. They must monitor and track data from all over the world in real time. They have to know what is changing and the speed at which it's changing. People rely on their forecasts not only to plan vacations or decide what day to go to the store, they also rely on them to warn of dangerous weather like **hurricanes**, **blizzards**, or severe storms.

Meteorologists have many tools that help them with their forecasts. **Barometers** measure air pressure. **Hygrometers** measure humidity. **Anemometers** measure wind speed. Rain gauges let meteorologists know how much rain has fallen, and Doppler radar helps them track dangerous storms.

