

4



Level 1: Location, Location, Location

Have you ever heard someone say the most important aspect of real estate is location, location, location? Well, the same is true for geography. You can tell a lot about a country just by knowing where it is located. For example, you can be pretty sure that France is not going to have a border dispute with South Africa because they are not even on the same continent. And you can be confident that Mongolia isn't going to have a big shipping industry since it doesn't lie near a sea. And Ecuador won't have freezing winters because it lies along the very temperate line of the equator.

But most important, knowing the location of every country, U.S. state, major body of water, and physical feature can help you answer many of the questions at the Geography Bee.

How to Study Locations

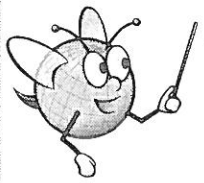
To study for the Geography Bee, you need to begin by learning the locations of every U.S. state, every country, and every major physical feature on the planet—that's more than four hundred different places! Sounds a little overwhelming, doesn't it? Don't worry—we'll help you get through this. The best way to learn geographical locations is by using blank maps.

Perhaps you are wondering how blank maps can help you if they are blank. It does sound strange, but bear with us. Begin by photo-

copying the blank maps of the continents found in this chapter. (You may want to enlarge the maps when you photocopy them to make it easier to write on them.) Choose just one continent to begin with. Then sit down at a desk and use an atlas to look up the locations of each of the places we have listed in this chapter. Label them on your blank map. After only a few minutes, your blank map should look a lot less blank.

Once you have all the information written on your map, study it. Memorize it. Then study it some more. Once you feel comfortable with your map, take out another blank map of the same continent and again sit at a desk, but this time without an atlas. Using the list of places found in this chapter, label your fresh, blank map from memory. Can you do it? Did you remember the location of each place? Check both your previous map and the atlas for accuracy. Did you miss

any? That's okay. Study the ones you missed a little more thoroughly and then try again later with another fresh, blank map. Soon, you'll



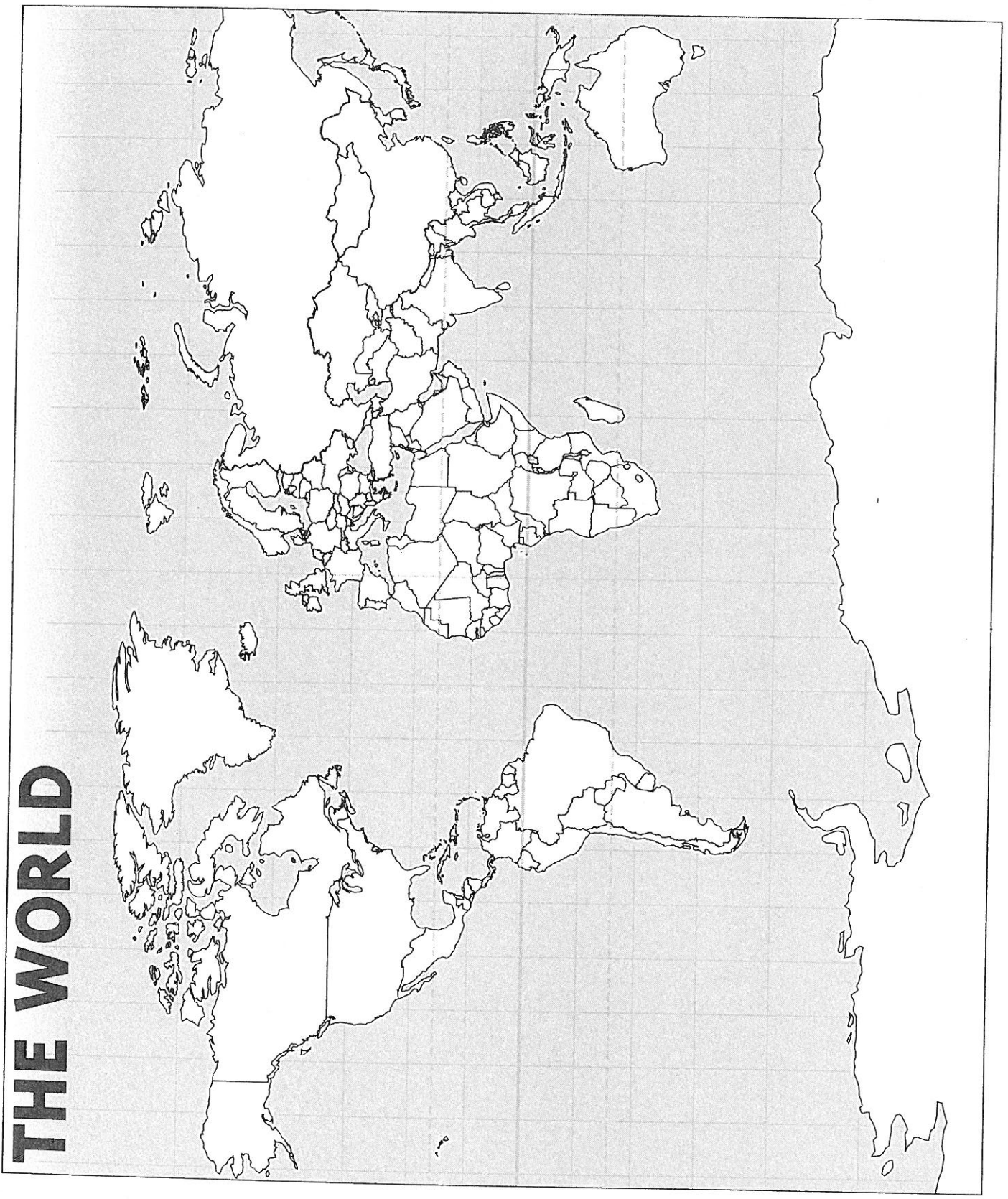
Worldly Tip

Get creative when filling in your blank map. Use colored pencils to distinguish the different countries so that you can easily and clearly see their borders. Use blue for the lakes, rivers, bays, and oceans. Write an upside-down "V" to indicate a mountain or a string of "V"s to create a mountain chain.

find the locations of countries like Guinea-Bissau, Singapore, and Suriname without hesitation.

Creating a Mental Map

When drawing and studying your map, remember to think about which countries lie north, south, east, or west of another. Often Bee questions ask you to relate one place to another. For example, a question could ask, "Which African country is located just north of Sudan?" To answer this question, you need to be able to visualize the countries of Africa. Can you see them in your mind? If so, that is called a "mental map." You need to study the locations of these geographic places thoroughly enough so that if you get a similar question, you will be able to use your mental map, rather than your physical map, to answer the question.

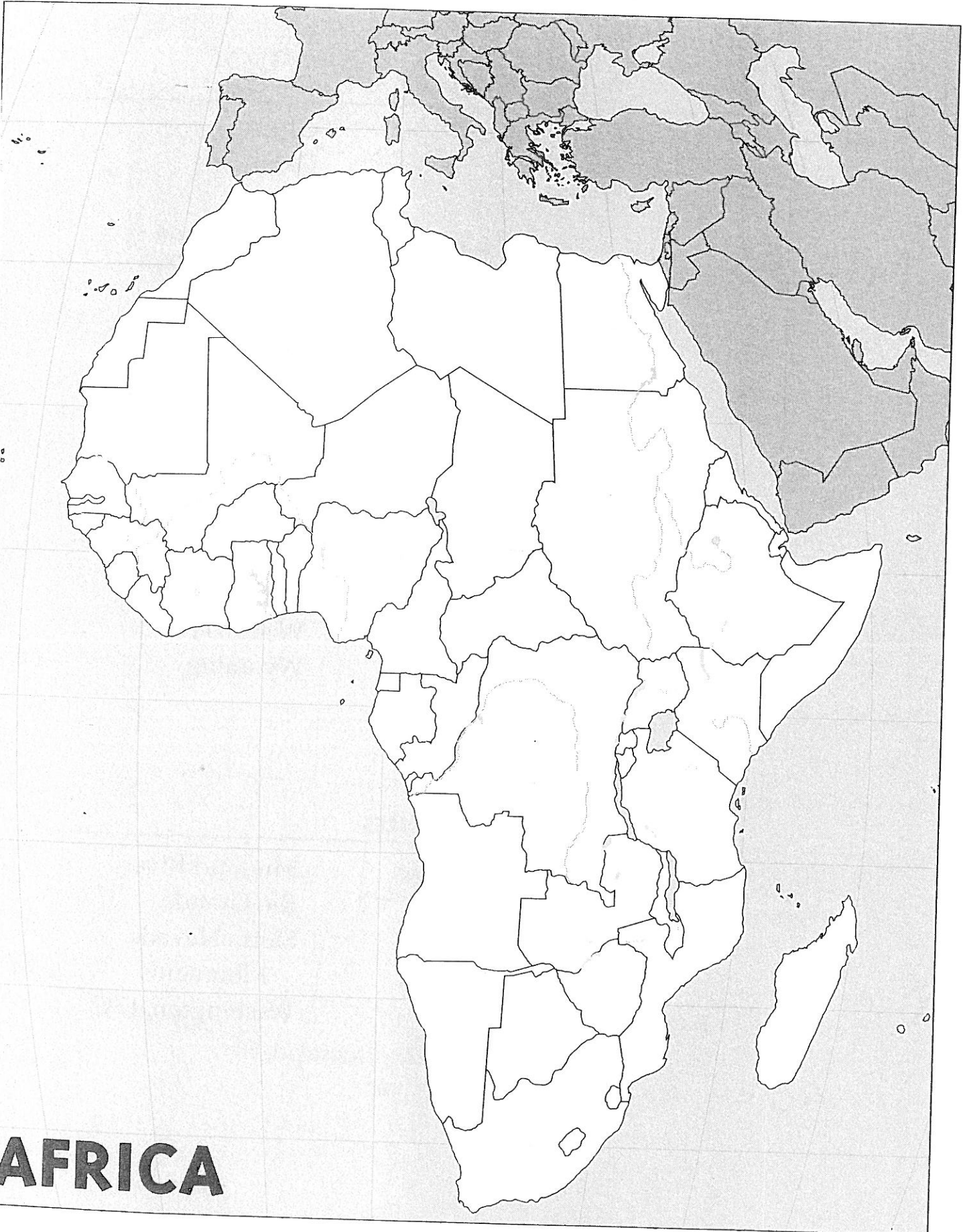


The World

Antarctica
Arctic Ocean
Atlantic Ocean
Equator

Indian Ocean
International Date
Line
Marianas Trench

Pacific Ocean
Prime Meridian
Tropic of Cancer
Tropic of Capricorn



AFRICA

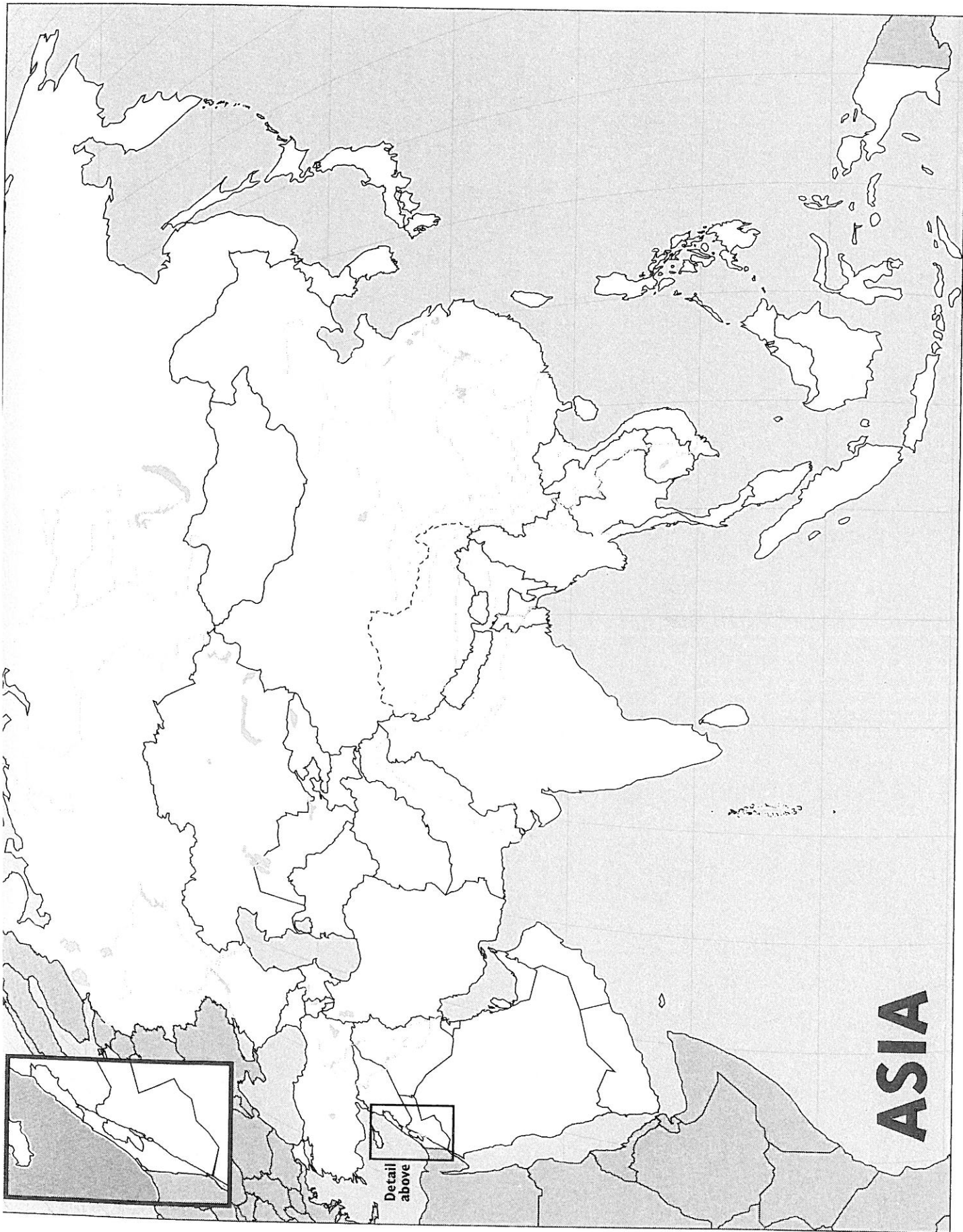
Africa

COUNTRIES

Algeria	Equatorial Guinea	Niger
Angola	Eritrea	Nigeria
Benin	Ethiopia	Rwanda
Botswana	Gabon	São Tomé and Príncipe
Burkina Faso	Gambia	Senegal
Burundi	Ghana	Seychelles
Cameroon	Guinea	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde	Guinea-Bissau	Somalia
Central African Republic	Kenya	South Africa
Chad	Lesotho	Sudan
Comoro Islands	Liberia	Swaziland
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	Madagascar	Tanzania
Congo, Republic of the	Malawi	Togo
Côte d'Ivoire	Mali	Tunisia
Djibouti	Mauritania	Uganda
Egypt	Mauritius	Zambia
	Morocco	Zimbabwe
	Mozambique	
	Namibia	

OTHER FEATURES

Atlas Mountains	Lake Tanganyika	Red Sea
Cape of Good Hope	Lake Victoria	Sahara Desert
Congo River	Mount Kilimanjaro	Sinai Peninsula
Kalahari Desert	Mozambique Channel	Suez Canal
Lake Nyassa (Lake Malawi)	Nile River	Western Sahara
		Zambezi River



Asia

COUNTRIES

Afghanistan	Japan	Qatar
Armenia	Jordan	Russia
Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	Saudi Arabia
Bahrain	Korea, North	Singapore
Bangladesh	Korea, South	Sri Lanka
Bhutan	Kuwait	Syria
Brunei	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan
Cambodia	Laos	Thailand
China	Lebanon	Turkey
Cyprus	Malaysia	Turkmenistan
East Timor	Maldives	United Arab Emirates
Georgia	Mongolia	Uzbekistan
India	Myanmar	Vietnam
Indonesia	Nepal	Yemen
Iran	Oman	
Iraq	Pakistan	
Israel	Philippines	

OTHER FEATURES

Arabian Peninsula	Gaza Strip	Sulawesi (Celebes)
Arabian Sea	Gobi Desert	Sumatra
Aral Sea	Himalaya, The	Taiwan
Asia Minor	Indus River	Tibet
Bay of Bengal	Java	Tigris River
Borneo	K2	West Bank
Caspian Sea	Lake Baikal	Yangtze River
Dead Sea	Mount Everest	Yellow River (Huang River)
Euphrates River	Persian Gulf	Yellow Sea
Ganges River	Sea of Japan	

EUROPE



Europe

COUNTRIES

Albania	Greece	Poland
Andorra	Hungary	Portugal
Austria	Iceland	Romania
Belarus	Ireland	Russia
Belgium	Italy	San Marino
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Latvia	Slovakia
Bulgaria	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Croatia	Lithuania	Spain
Czech Republic	Luxembourg	Sweden
Denmark	Macedonia	Switzerland
Estonia	Malta	Ukraine
Finland	Moldova	United Kingdom
France	Monaco	Vatican City
Germany	Netherlands	Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)
	Norway	

OTHER FEATURES

Adriatic Sea	Black Sea	Mont Blanc
Aegean Sea	Bosporus	Mount Elbrus
Alps	Caucasus Mountains	North Sea
Apennines	Corsica	Pyrenees
Mountains	Crete	Sardinia
Azores	Danube River	Scandinavia
Balkan Peninsula	English Channel	Sicily
Baltic Sea	Gibraltar	Ural Mountains
Barents Sea	Mediterranean Sea	Volga River

NORTH AMERICA



Detail at left



North America

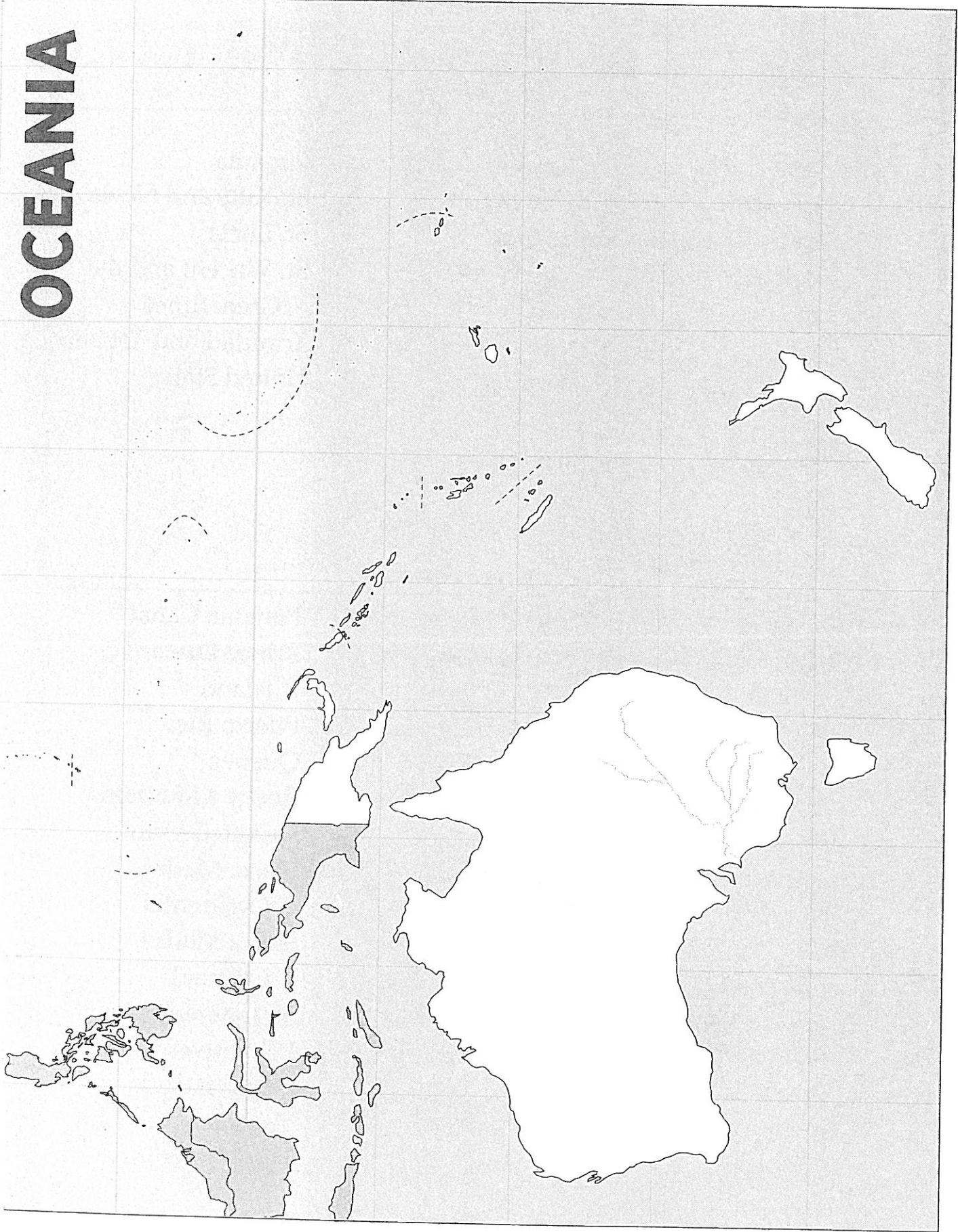
COUNTRIES

Antigua and Barbuda	Dominican Republic	Panama
Bahamas	El Salvador	St. Kitts and Nevis
Barbados	Grenada	St. Lucia
Belize	Guatemala	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Canada	Haiti	Trinidad and Tobago
Costa Rica	Honduras	United States
Cuba	Jamaica	
Dominica	Mexico	
	Nicaragua	

OTHER FEATURES

Alberta	Gulf of Mexico	Panama Canal
Aleutian Islands	Hispaniola	Prince Edward Island
Baffin Bay	Hudson Bay	Puerto Rico
Baffin Island	Lake Nicaragua	Quebec
Baja California	Lake Winnipeg	Rocky Mountains
Beaufort Sea	Lesser Antilles	Saskatchewan
Bering Sea	Manitoba	Sierra Madre Occidental
Bering Strait	Mount Logan	Sierra Madre Oriental
Bermuda	Mount McKinley	St. Lawrence Seaway
British Columbia	Mount Whitney	Vancouver Island
Cape Morris Jesup	New Brunswick	Virgin Islands
Caribbean Sea	Newfoundland	Yucatán Peninsula
Great Bear Lake	North Magnetic Pole	Yukon Territory
Great Slave Lake	Northwest Territories	
Greater Antilles	Nova Scotia	
Greenland	Nunavut	
Gulf of California	Ontario	

OCEANIA



Oceania

COUNTRIES

Australia	Nauru	Solomon Islands
Fiji	New Zealand	Tonga
Kiribati	Palau	Tuvalu
Marshall Islands	Papua New Guinea	Vanuatu
Micronesia	Samoa	

OTHER FEATURES

American Samoa	Micronesia	Pitcairn Island
Great Barrier Reef	Midway Islands	Polynesia
Guam	Northern Mariana	Tasmania
Melanesia	Islands	



South America

COUNTRIES

Argentina	Colombia	Peru
Bolivia	Ecuador	Suriname
Brazil	Guyana	Uruguay
Chile	Paraguay	Venezuela

OTHER FEATURES

Amazon River	French Guiana	Lake Titicaca
Andes	Galapagos Islands	Rio de la Plata
Easter Island	Gran Chaco	Strait of Magellan
Falkland Islands		