

4. Directions and Maps



Try this.

Stand in two equal rows in the classroom facing each other. Now tell the girl/boy standing in front of you, the answers to the following questions :

1. On which side of you is the blackboard ?
2. On which side of you is the main door of the classroom ?
3. On which side of you is the teacher's table ?

Your answers and the answers of the girl/boy in front of you are different, aren't they? Why is it so? If the blackboard is to your right, it will be to the left of the girl/boy standing in front of you. If the blackboard is behind you, it will be in front of the girl/boy facing you.

In the same way, your answers about the main door and the teacher's table will also be different from those of the girl/boy facing you. It is difficult to make out the location of an object based on answers like 'on the right', 'on the left', 'in front of' and 'behind'. Therefore, in order to tell exactly where an object is located, we use directions.

For teachers :

- In this chapter, we introduce directions and maps. As these are abstract concepts, they need careful handling so that students understand them properly.
- Emphasis should be placed on activities.
- In this chapter, only the main directions should be considered.
- Allow students to handle a compass themselves.
- Students should be made aware of the important fact that maps are read by matching the directions on the map to the directions on the ground.

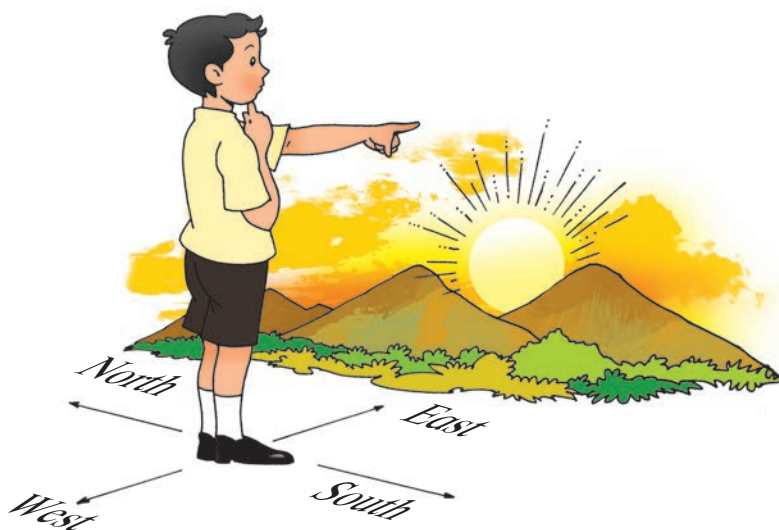


Try this.

Now we will use directions to find the answers to the same questions. With your teacher's help, write the names of the four main directions on the walls of your classroom. Now stand facing each other again. Tell each other the direction in which the blackboard, main door and teacher's table are located.

Now your answers and the answers of the girl/boy facing you will be the same. Directions can be used to tell exactly where an object is located.

Let us learn how to find the directions.



The four main directions are east, west, north and south. How do we find them?

The direction in which the sun rises is the east. The direction in which the sun sets is the west.

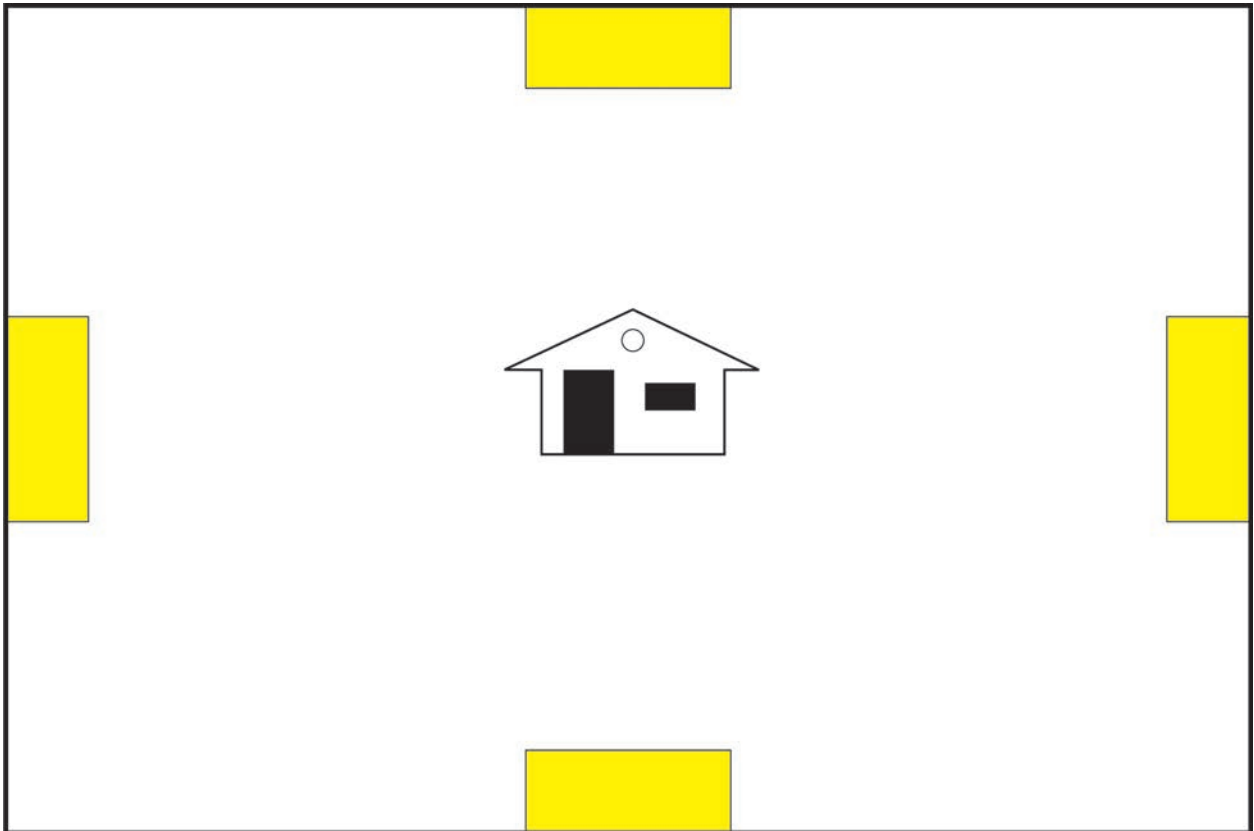
East and west are opposite to each other. If we stand facing east, the west is behind us. At that time, the north is to our left and the south is to our right.

Try this activity in the open at sunrise. It will help you to understand directions better.

Frame this ...

A large frame is given below. Your house is at the centre of the frame. The frame has a yellow strip on each of its four sides for writing the directions.

On which side of your house does the sun rise? That side is the east. In the yellow strip on the side of the house where the sun rises, write 'East'. In the strip on the side opposite to the East, write 'West'. 'North' and 'South' will be written in the remaining two strips. Think carefully where they would be and write down the words in the proper strips.



In the frame, show the following things near your house, in the right places.

- (1) Neighbouring houses
- (2) One shop near your house
- (3) One tree
- (4) The road nearby
- (5) The bus-stop nearby

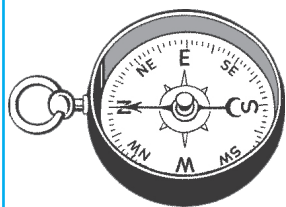
Now see what your neighbourhood looks like!

For teachers :

- Students are expected to draw the complete road as it runs in their neighbourhood. Guide the students to do it properly.
- Check that the student have filled in the directions correctly as per their neighbourhood. If necessary, help the students with this.



Do you know ?

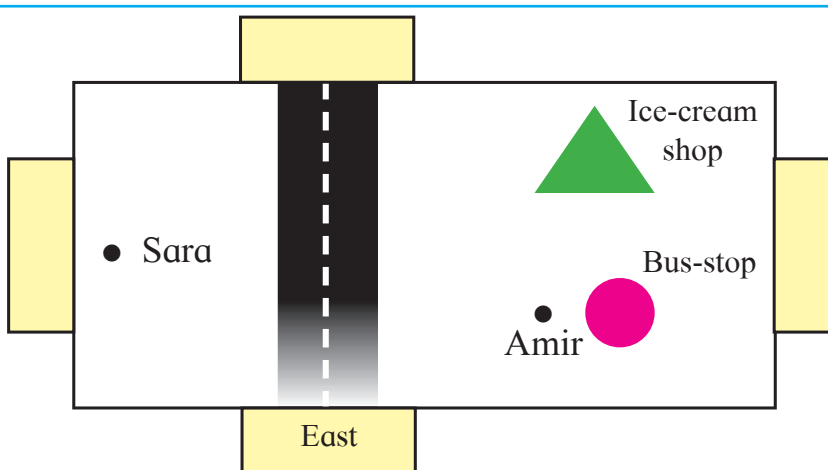


1. The sun rises and sets every day. That is why, the sun is used to determine directions.
2. The magnetic needle in a compass always lies in the north-south direction. Ask your teacher or parents to show it to you.



What's the solution ?

Sai and Abhay have been asked to solve this problem. Can you help them ?



- a. In this picture, the east is marked. Use that to write the other three directions in the yellow boxes.
- b. In which direction do we travel to go from the ice-cream shop to the bus-stop?
- c. Amir wants to go to the ice-cream shop. In which direction must he walk?
- d. Sara wants to go to the bus-stop. In which direction must she go ?

Let's play a game.

Determine the east with respect to your place. What are the things situated in each of the directions? Now move around in a circle. When the group leader names a direction, quickly stand facing that direction. Those who are wrong are 'out'.

Use of directions in maps

In a map, directions are always shown. They are indicated with the help of an arrow pointing north. The directions on the map have to be matched with the directions on the ground before reading the map. That is, the map must be aligned with the directions on the ground.

For example, the east on the map must be matched to the east of your surroundings. By doing this, you can tell at once, the directions of the places shown on a map. Use this method while reading the maps in your textbook, too.



Use your brain power !

1. Stand facing the rising sun. In which direction is your right ear?
In which direction is your left ear?
2. In which direction will your shadow fall at sunset?

District, State and Country

‘India is my country’. We have been reading this sentence in the pledge ever since Standard One. You must have read the words, ‘state’, ‘nation’ and ‘world’. In this textbook too, you will find the words, ‘earth’, ‘world’, ‘country’, ‘state’, ‘district’, ‘taluka’ and ‘village’ in many places. Come, let us get to know ‘district’, ‘state’, ‘country’, ‘the earth’ and ‘world’.

We live in a house. Our houses are built on land. This land is spread very far and wide. A vast section of land on the earth is called **a continent**. Like continents, salt water too occupies the surface of the earth. This part is called ‘**ocean**’. The earth is also called the ‘**world**’. There are many countries on the land on the earth. The countries are made up of several States. We live in the **State of Maharashtra**. Our country, **India**, is made up of many such States. Maps of your **district**, **Maharashtra State**, **India** and the **world** have been given in this lesson. Complete the activities based on the maps.



Do you know ?

The index in a map : Symbols, pictures, signs and different shades of colours are used to present the information in a map. A list of these symbols, etc. is given along with the map. This list is called the **index**. The index helps us to understand the map.



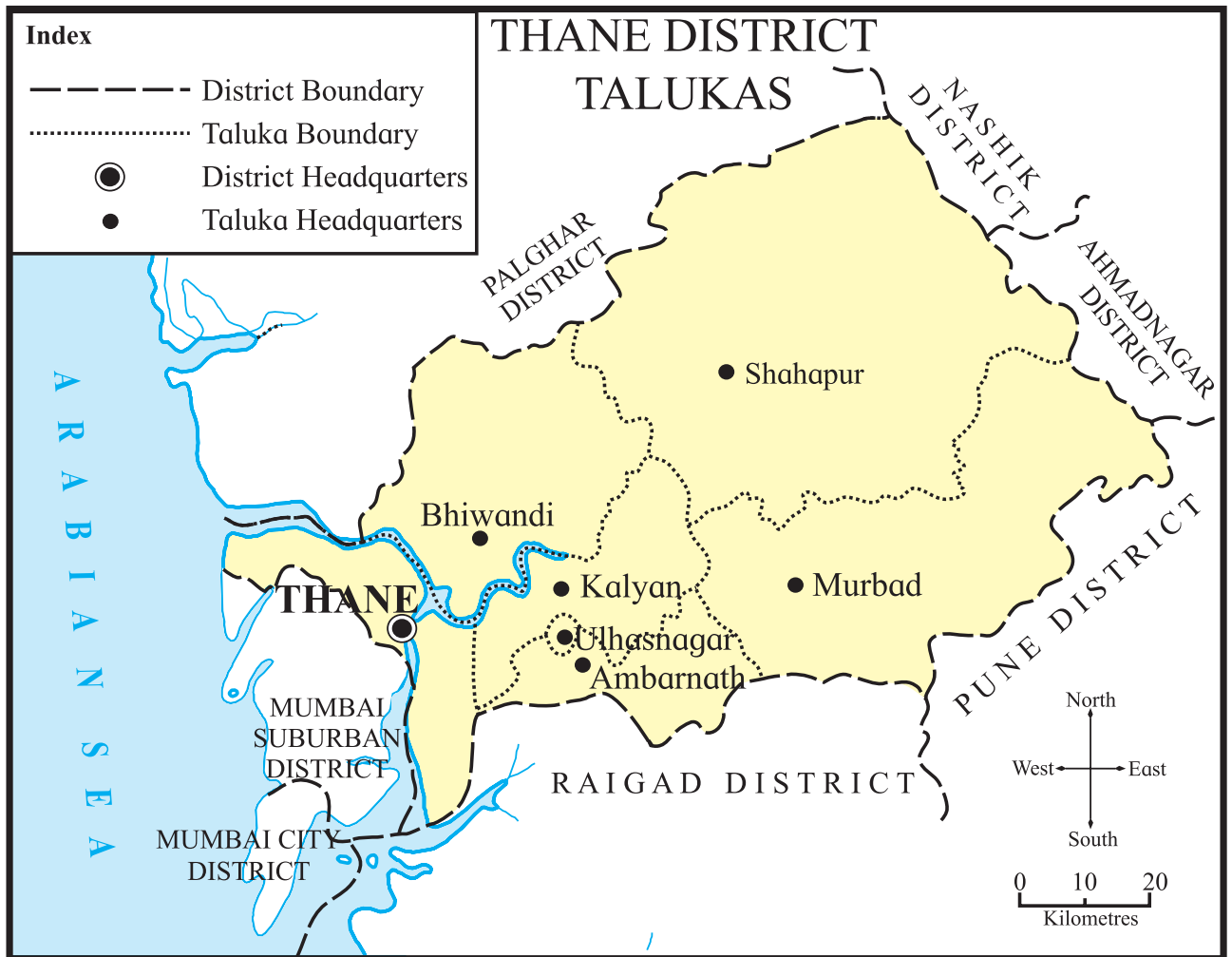
Always remember—

We made use of the rising sun to determine directions. Other components of nature can also be of help to us.



Make friends with maps!

Several villages, settlements and cities like our own together form a taluka. A district is composed of several talukas. A map of our district is given below. The map shows the talukas and their headquarters. An index is also given. It will help us understand the map. Read the map using the index and the directions. Carry out the activities given below.

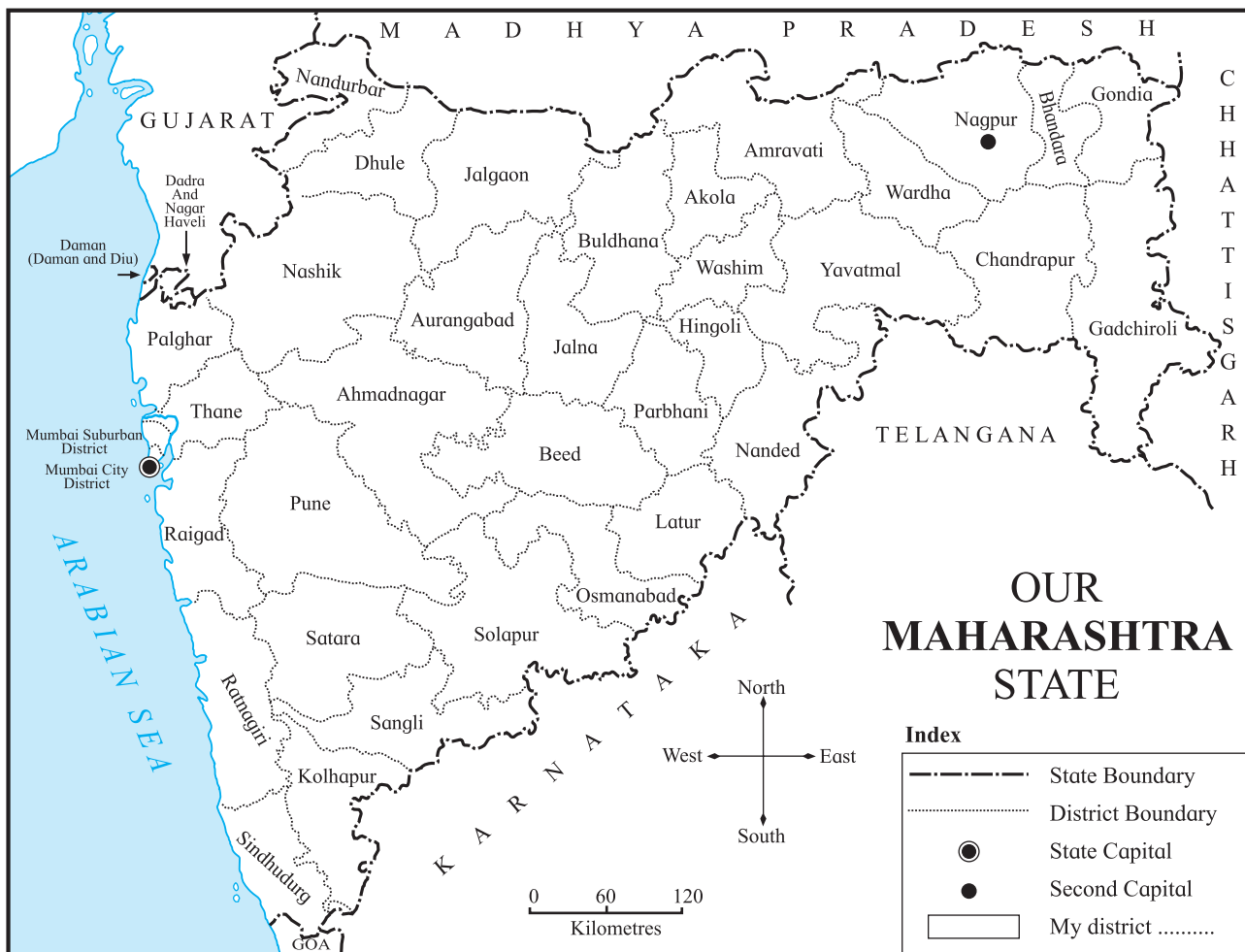


1. Write the name of your town in your taluka.
2. Circle the name of the headquarters of our district.
3. Draw a box around the names of the talukas adjoining your taluka.
4. Colour the taluka adjoining Pune and Ahmadnagar districts.
5. In the box, write in which direction the Arabian Sea is located.



Make friends with maps !

- A map of our Maharashtra State is given here.
- The different districts are shown in it.
- The map also shows that Mumbai is the capital of our State and Nagpur is the second capital.



- Find your district on the map and colour it.
- A box is given in the index to represent your district. Colour it in the same colour. Write the name of your district after 'My district' in the index.
- In the box below, write the names of the districts neighbouring your district.



Make friends with maps !

- A map of our country is given below.
- The capital of our country, New Delhi, is also shown on the map.

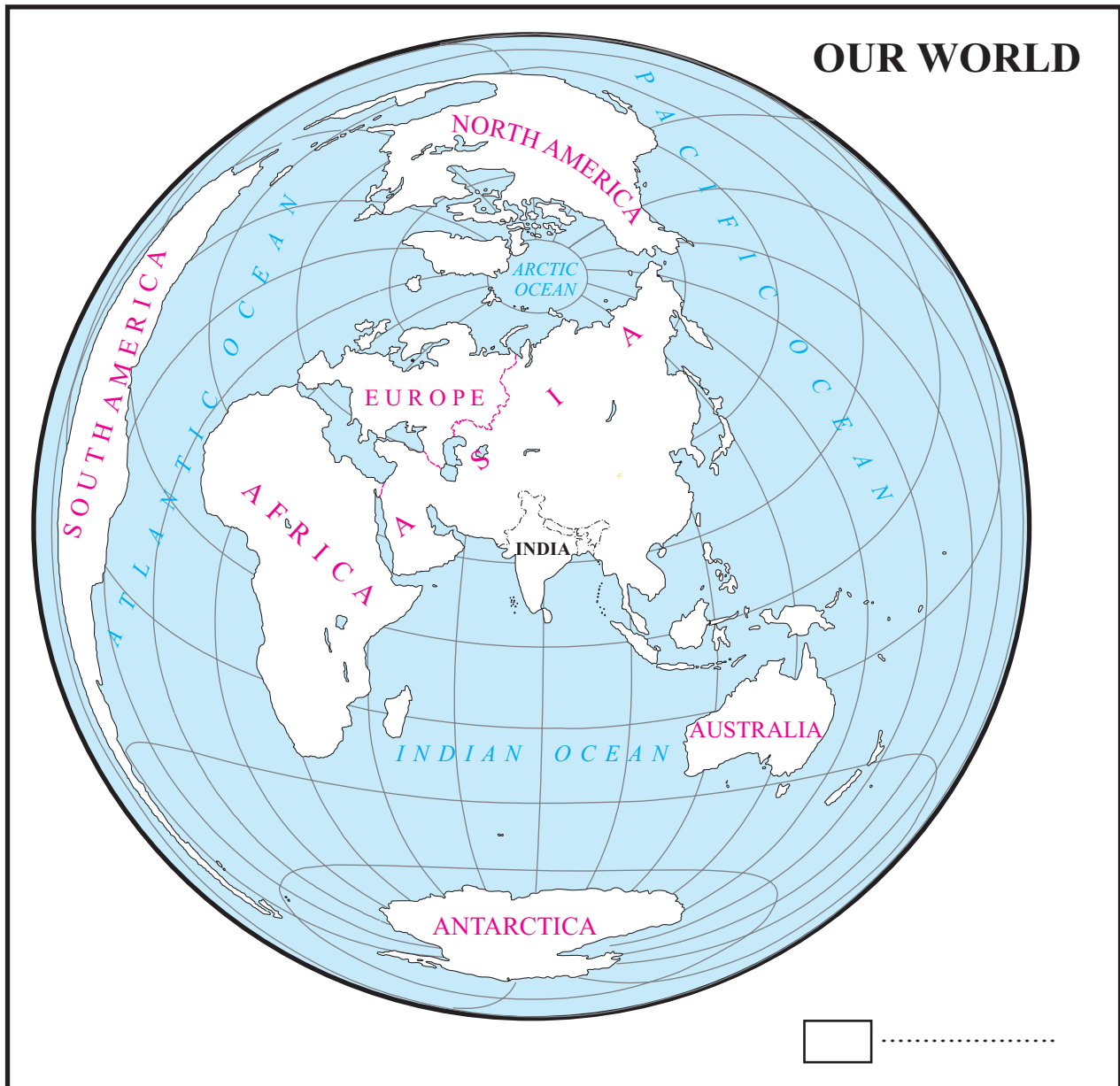


- Find and colour our Maharashtra State on the map of our country.



Make friends with maps !

- A map of the world is given below.
- Land (continents) is shown in white and water (oceans) is shown in blue.
- This special map has been created so that all the land and water on earth can be seen at a glance.



- In the map of the world given above, colour the part labelled 'India'.
- Colour the box next to the map in the same colour and write **India** on the dotted line.

'This is our country.'



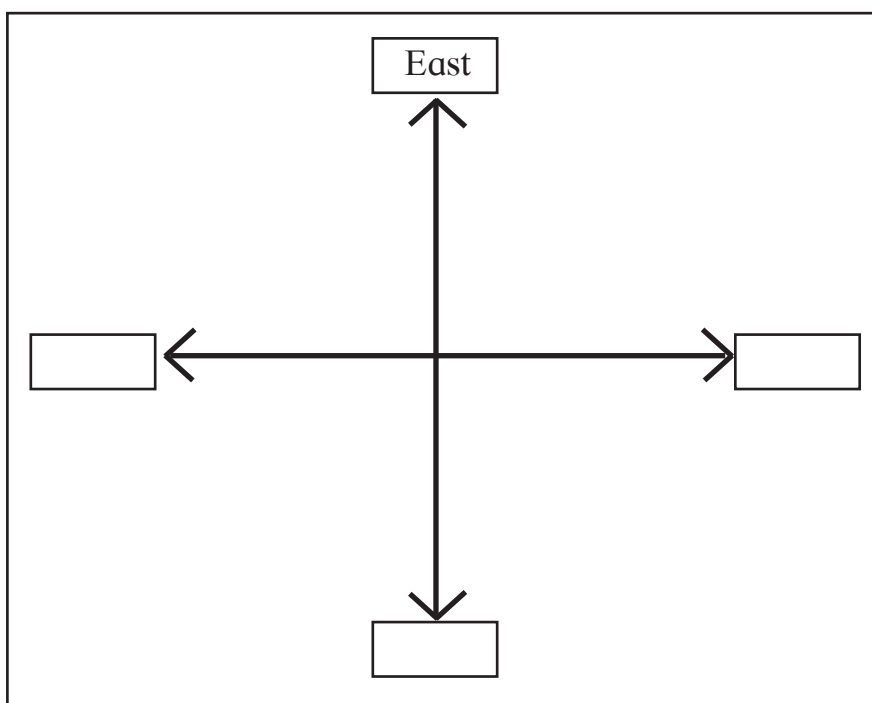
What we have learnt –

- * The four main directions.
- * The use of the directions given on a map.
- * An introduction to our district, state and country, using maps.



Exercises

(1) A box is given below with the east marked in it. Fill in the other directions, too.



- (2) What do we make use of to determine the east?
- (3) Which is the direction opposite to the north?
- (4) Which directions does the magnetic needle show?



Activity

Find the directions in your neighbourhood. Open your textbook to page 25 which shows the map of your district. Using the directions given on the map, align the map with the directions of your neighbourhood.

