

SHAPE OF THE EARTH

▶ Sphere

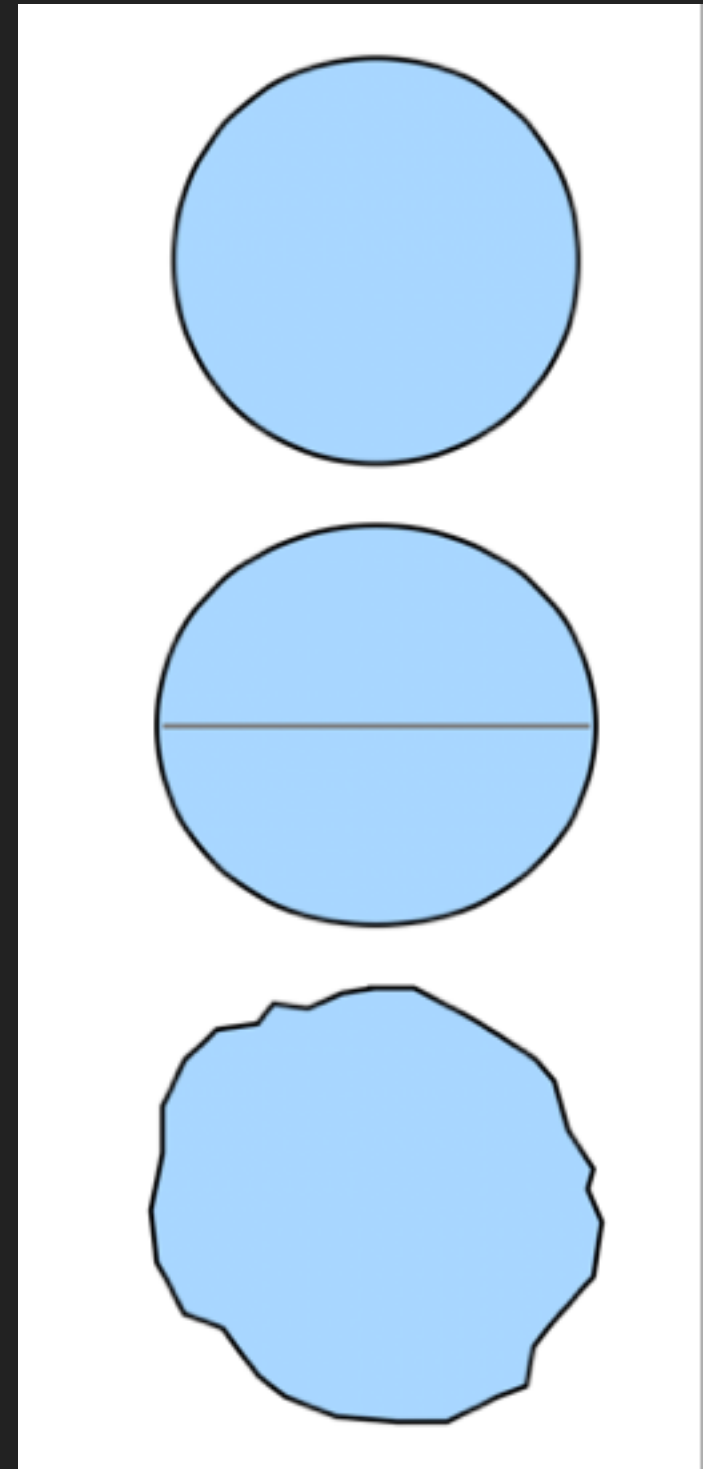
- ▶ Assumes perfectly spherical Earth
- ▶ Not realistic

▶ Ellipsoid

- ▶ Assumes flattening at poles, bulging at equator, described by flattening ratio

▶ Geoid

- ▶ Accounts for gravitational variations across Earth's surface (i.e., variations in "sea level")
 - ▶ An observed quantity that measures deviation from ellipsoid



EARTH AS A GEOID

