

## Size and Shape of the Earth

### Earth (oblate spheroid)

- can be modeled as a round object (globe)
- close to perfect sphere (ball)
- slightly flattened at poles
- bulges at equator
- compared with its diameter, irregularities (mountains and ocean basins) are relatively very small.
- relief maps or globes show exaggeration (if not, would be flat)



### Evidence of Earth's Shape

- Photos from space
- Ships heading toward horizon appear to sink (Sketch in Book)
- Altitude of Polaris (equals latitude)
- Rounded shadow during lunar eclipse

### Earth's Dimensions

**Circumference**: distance around the circle.

**Diameter**: distance across the circle, through its center

**Radius**: distance from its center to its edge.

Sketch into book (diagram of Earth)

40,008 km Polar Circumference

12,714 km Polar Diameter

40,076 km Equatorial Circumference

12,756 km Equatorial diameter

