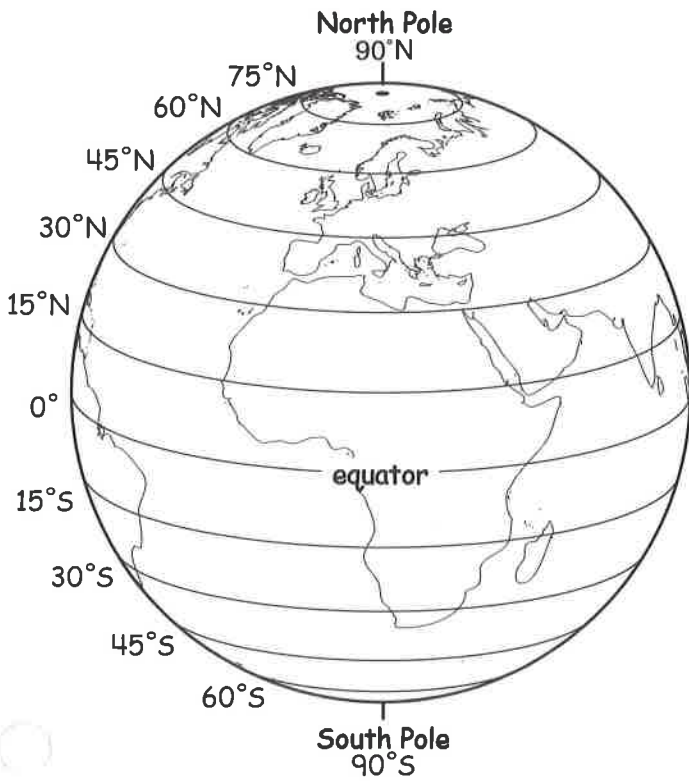
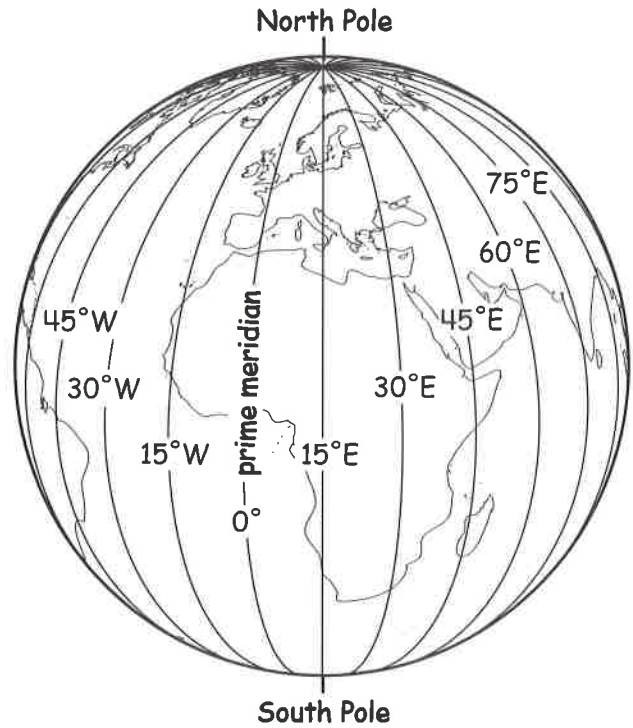


# Parallels and Meridians



## Parallels or Lines of Latitude

Parallels, or lines of latitude, measure the distances north or south of the equator.



## Meridians or Lines of Longitude

Meridians, or lines of longitude, measure the distances east or west of the prime meridian.

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# Parallels and Meridians

## Monday

1. Which imaginary line divides the Earth into south and north latitudes? What is its location?

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2. Which imaginary line divides the Earth into east and west longitudes? What is its location?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Tuesday

1. What is another name for lines of latitude? Do these lines run in a north-south or east-west direction?

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2. Write three facts about meridians.

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Wednesday

1. Write this line of latitude in words— $15^{\circ}\text{N}$ . Name a continent on this parallel.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Write this line of longitude in words— $15^{\circ}\text{E}$ . Name a continent on this meridian.

\_\_\_\_\_



# Parallels and Meridians

## Thursday

1. Lines of latitude are also called parallels. Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Lines of longitude are not parallel to each other. Explain why.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Friday

1. Between which two parallels and which two meridians is the tip of Africa located?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Are 15°N latitude and 75°E longitude locations in the continent of Asia or Europe?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Challenge

Write the following memory trick as a caption on the map page. Illustrate the caption to help you remember in which directions the parallels and meridians run.

- The lines of *latitude*, which sounds like “ladder,” lie like the rungs of a ladder.
- The lines of *longitude* are “long” and all run from the North Pole to the South Pole.

**ANSWER KEY****Monday**

1. Northern and Southern Hemispheres
2. Eastern and Western Hemispheres

**Tuesday**

1. Northern and Western Hemispheres
2. Southern and Eastern Hemispheres

**Wednesday**

1. north of the equator, east of the prime meridian; Northern and Eastern Hemispheres
2. northern part; Southern and Western Hemispheres

**Thursday**

1. Northern Hemisphere; Arctic Ocean
2. Northern Hemisphere

**Friday**

1. Atlantic, Arctic, Indian, Pacific, and Southern Oceans; Southern Ocean
2. Most of the land of Africa is east of the prime meridian.

**Challenge**

Students should write a caption with the following information:

Eastern: Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe

Western: North America and South America

Antarctica is part of both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

# The Four Hemispheres

## Introducing the Globes

Use the classroom globe to demonstrate how the Earth is divided into hemispheres. Show students that the equator divides the Earth into Northern and Southern Hemispheres. In other words, the half of the Earth north of the equator is the Northern Hemisphere. The half of the Earth south of the equator is the Southern Hemisphere.

Show students how the line of longitude called the prime meridian also helps to divide the Earth into two halves. The prime meridian runs in a north-south direction. On one side of the prime meridian is the Eastern Hemisphere, and on the other side is the Western Hemisphere.

Have students look at the pictures of the globes. First look at the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. They can see in the inset map that the equator divides the Earth equally into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

The division of the Earth into Eastern and Western hemispheres can be explained different ways. The continents that make up the Eastern and Western Hemispheres may have been established by early cartographers and explorers. Most of them came from Europe, and they thought any land west of Europe was the Western Hemisphere. So North America and South America were, and still are, considered part of the Western Hemisphere.

Because most of Africa and Europe, plus all of Asia and Australia, are east of the prime meridian, those four continents are part of the Eastern Hemisphere. Another way to explain the two hemispheres is to say that the prime meridian and 180° longitude divide the Earth into Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

Explain to students that Antarctica has land in both the Eastern and the Western Hemispheres.

## Introducing Vocabulary

**cartographer** mapmaker

**equator** an imaginary line that runs around the center of Earth, halfway between the North and South Poles at 0° latitude

**hemisphere** half of the Earth

**North Pole** the point on Earth located at 90 degrees (90°) north latitude, where the lines of longitude meet

**prime meridian** an imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole of Earth at 0° longitude

**South Pole** the point on Earth located at 90 degrees (90°) south latitude where the lines of longitude meet