

Geography – Student Reading

Important Facts about Latitude and Longitude

Latitude

- Latitude lines circle the globe in an east-west direction.
- Latitude measures how far north or south a point lies from the equator. (Latitude lines are also called parallels, as they are parallel to the equator.)
- The equator is at 0° latitude and separates Earth's Northern and Southern hemispheres.
- Locations north of the equator have latitudes between 0° (the equator) and 90° N (the North Pole).
- Locations south of the equator have latitudes between 0° (the equator) and 90° S (the South Pole).

Longitude

- Longitude lines run from the North Pole to the South Pole.
- Longitude measures how far east or west a point on Earth lies from the prime meridian. (Longitude lines are also called meridians.)
- The prime meridian, the line of longitude that passes through Greenwich, England, is the 0° longitude line.
- Longitude values to the east of the prime meridian can be specified by 0° to 180° E or by positive values 0° to $+180^\circ$.
- Longitude values to the west of the prime meridian can be specified by 0° to 180° W or by negative values 0° to -180° .

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