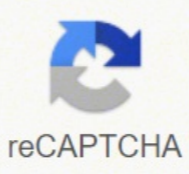




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What are the 6 most important lines of latitude and longitude

Updated April 13, 2018 By Ronni Dee The five major lines of latitude, more commonly referred to as the five major circles of latitude, mark specific points on a globe or map of Earth. Four of the lines run parallel to the equator and sit north or south above or below the equator. Visible on a globe or map of the Earth, points on latitudes that cross over longitude lines mark specific locations on the Earth. The five major latitude lines are the equator, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, and the Arctic and Antarctic Circles. The Arctic Circle is located at approximately 66.5 degrees north latitude, or 66.5 degrees north of the equator. This circle of latitude stretches through eight countries, including the United States, Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. The Arctic Circle marks the beginning area where the sun will not rise during winter solstice and will not set during summer solstice. The Antarctic Circle is located at approximately 66.5 degrees south latitude, or 66.5 degrees south of the equator. This line, or circle, of latitude marks the start of the southern area known as the Antarctic. The circle consists of only one continent, Antarctica. There are not any humans within the boundaries of the Antarctic Circle that can be considered permanent residents of the area. Possibly the most well-known circle of latitude is the line sitting at zero degrees latitude, the equator. The equator circles the globe with a circumference of nearly 25,000 miles, dividing the northern and the southern hemispheres. This line of latitude is the starting point when referring to other points of the globe in terms of degrees north and degrees south. The Tropic of Cancer is located at approximately 23.5 degrees north latitude, or 23.5 degrees north of the Equator. This line of latitude is the northern boundary of the area referred to as the tropics. During the summer solstice the sun is located immediately above the Tropic of Cancer. This line is the point farthest to the north at which the sun is hanging directly upward at noon. The Tropic of Capricorn is located at approximately 23.5 degrees south latitude, or 23.5 degrees south of the equator. This line of latitude is the southern boundary of the area referred to as the tropics. This line marks the point farthest to the south at which the sun is hanging directly upward at noon. During the summer solstice of the Southern Hemisphere, the sun is located immediately above the Tropic of Capricorn. Location and Time on the Earth Longitudes are angular distances east or west of the prime meridian. Longitudes are also called Meridians. The Prime Meridian passes through Greenwich, in England. Some Important Longitudes include: 1. Prime Meridian = Longitude 0o (Greenwich Meridian). 2. International Date Line (Longitude 180o). Characteristics of Longitudes 1. Each meridian is half of a great circle. 2. They run in a true north-south direction from connecting the North and South Poles. 3. They are spaced farthest apart at the equator but converges at the poles. 4. Meridians help us to determine standard time. LATITUDES angular distances East or West of the Equator. Latitudes are also called Parallels. Longitudes and Latitudes are expressed in degrees, minutes and seconds. Some Important Latitudes: 1. Equator (Latitude 0o) 2. Tropic of Cancer (Latitude 23.5oN) 3. Tropic of Capricorn (Latitude 23.5oS) 4. Arctic Circle (Latitude 66.5oN). 5. Antarctic Circle (Latitude 66.5oS). Characteristics of Latitudes: 1. Aside the equator, all latitudes are small circles. 2. Always parallel to one another. 3. True east-west lines. 4. Important for the determination of the climatic types of places. A mesh of intersecting Latitudes and Longitudes drawn on a map produce a Geographic Grid, a Reference Grid or Graticule. Geographic Grid is used to identify locations on the earth. A modern instrument for determining locations is termed Global Positioning System. A Great Circle is a plane that passes through the center of the earth. (e.g. Equator and all Meridians). The shortest distance between any two points on the earth's surface is attained along the arc of a Great Circle, Small Circles are lines that do not pass through the center of the earth. All Parallels other than the Equator are Small Circles. STANDARD TIME ZONES The earth undergoes one complete rotation along its axis in 24 hours. For a complete rotation on its axis, the earth passes through 360 degrees. For every one-hour time, a point on the earth moves through 15 degrees of longitude (360/24 hours). For every 4 seconds a point on the earth's surface passes through 1 degree of Longitude. Earth's Rotation and Time The earth rotates in an anti-clockwise direction (From West towards East). Places on the East of a given point on the earth are therefore ahead of time while those places to the West of the same point always lag behind time. The World's Standard Time Zones. In 1883, the Interstate Commerce Commission of the United States started a system of Standard Time Zones. United States mainland is divided into 4 Standard Time Zones. These are: 1. Eastern Time Zone (New York or Boston). 2. Central Time Zone (Chicago) 3. Mountain Time Zone (Denver) and 4. Pacific Time Zone (Los Angeles). The International Date Line: Each new calendar day begins at midnight on the International Date Line (Longitude 180o). Crossing the line requires adjustments to dates. Traveling from West toward East (e.g. from USA to Japan) one jumps into a new day on crossing the line; Monday 6 a.m. in the US immediately becomes Tuesday at 6.00 a.m. on crossing the line to Japan. If one travels from East towards West (from Japan to USA), the person loses a day, Tuesday 6.00 a.m. on the other side of the line to Monday 6.00 a.m. on crossing the line into USA. EARTH AND SUN RELATIONS The earth rotates on its axis completing one rotation every 24 hours. The most important consequence of this rotation is the daily pattern of DAY and NIGHT. Revolution around the sun The earth also revolves around the Sun on an Orbit which is not a perfect circle. On the Orbit, the earth is closest to the sun on January 3rd (called PERIHELION). The Earth is farthest away from the Sun on July 4th. This position is called APHELION. Throughout its revolution around the sun, the earth moves through a plane called the PLANE OF THE ECLIPTIC. The earth's axis maintains a constant relationship to the plane at an inclined angle of 23.5o The inclination of the axis during the revolution result in three changes. a. different positions of the noon sun in the sky b. different position of sun rise and sun set c. different lengths of day and night in the year. March 21 is Spring Equinox and September 21 is Autumnal Equinox. On these two days of the year, ALL PLACES on the earth receive approximately 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. The Seasons June 21st (Summer Solstice) On this day, the earth is at a position in its orbit where the North Pole is most directly pointed toward the sun. Places in the Northern Hemisphere receive more sunlight (causing Northern Summer) and the Southern Hemisphere has less Sunlight (Winter). December 21st (Winter Solstice) On this day, the Sun moves into the Southern Hemisphere (causing summer there). The Northern Hemisphere receives less sunlight (causing winter). -----GEOG 272: Physical Geography Answer the following questions. You might use your notes and read chapter one of the textbook for answers. You should answer the questions fully for partial answers will not earn the full mark for the question. You should number your answers in the same manner as the questions. Your answers are due on Tuesday, February 4th, 2003. 1. Explain the terms (a) "relative location" and (b) "absolute location" and (c) give an example each of how you applied or can use the concept in making decisions about everyday life. 2. Define the terms (a) system, and (b) distinguish between closed and open systems, (c) Give 2 examples of each of open and closed systems. 3. (a) What is the main function of a map projection? (b) Why is it necessary for map-makers to project maps of parts of the earth surface. 4. Define (a) a great circle, (b) a small circle, and (c) give 2 examples of each circle that you may find on a globe. 5. (a) What are the latitude and longitude coordinates (in degrees, minutes and seconds) of New Britain? (b) Where did you find this information? 6. Write out the full version of the following acronyms as used in Geography. (a) GPS, (b) GIS. 7. Explain the significance of the following events on our life on the earth surface. a. International date line b. An Equinox c. Earth's rotation on its axis d. Earth's revolution on its orbit

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