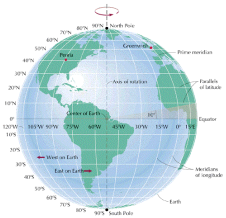


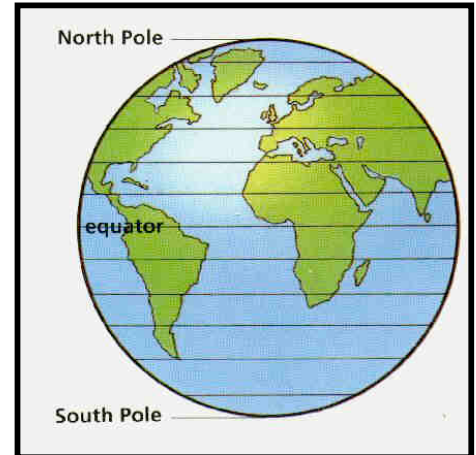
Latitude and Longitude



If the Earth were flat, rectangular coordinates (x,y) would be sufficient to describe the location of points on its surface. However, the Earth is a sphere with no sides; therefore a special frame of reference is needed. The poles of the Earth provide this reference frame. Using latitude and longitude coordinates, one can find the absolute location of a point on Earth.

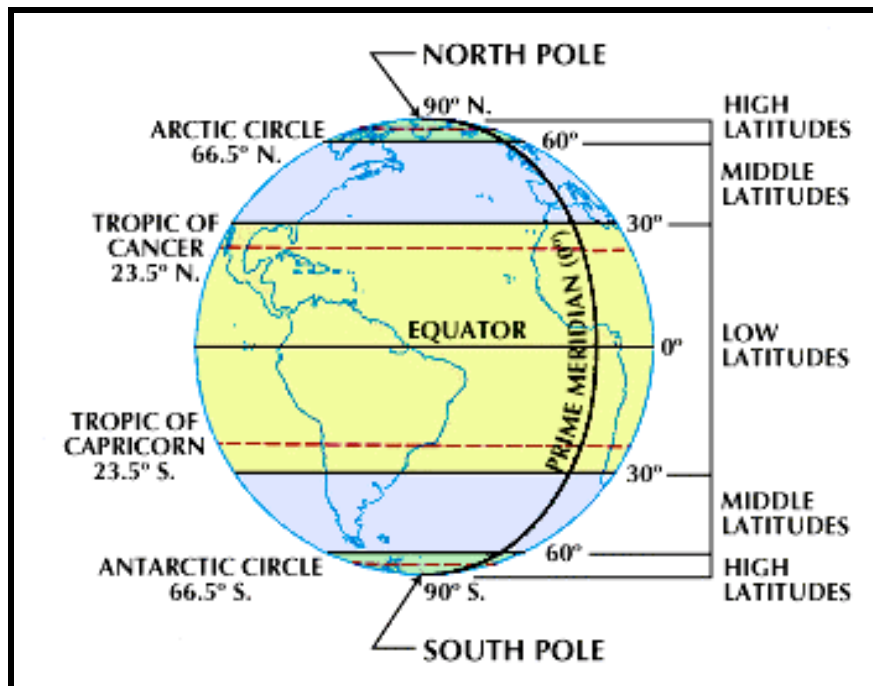
Lines of Latitude

- Are imaginary lines that measure north or south of the Equator
- The equator is the starting point for latitude lines
- Latitude lines are drawn around the earth, parallel to the Equator
- Latitude lines never intersect each other
- Latitude lines are approximately 111 km apart
- Latitude lines are sometimes used as political boundaries



Equator - An imaginary line that runs east to west, measures 0° and divides the Earth into the Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere

Seven Important Lines of Latitude



Lines of Longitude

- Are imaginary lines that measure east or west of the Prime Meridian
- Lines are drawn from the north pole to the south pole
- Longitude lines converge at the poles and are furthest apart at the Equator
- Longitude lines are used to determine time zones

Prime Meridian - An imaginary line that runs north to south, measures 0° and divides the Earth into the Eastern Hemisphere and Western Hemisphere

International Dateline - An imaginary line that runs north to south and measures 180°

