



# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **6th Grade** | Unit 1

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# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 601

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**Author:**

Theresea Kay Buskey, B.A., J.D.

**Editor:**

Richard W. Wheeler, M.A.Ed.

**Revision Editor:**

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

**MEDIA CREDITS:**

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# World Geography

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## Introduction

Geography is the study of the earth; its surface, climate, continents, countries, peoples, industries, and products. In this study of world geography, you will learn about the physical and climatic characteristics of continents and about the development of the people in those regions.

First, we will learn about longitude and latitude. Then we will study the different maps of the earth and the hemispheres. A hemisphere is an imaginary division of the earth into halves. Finally, we will look into the political and cultural regions in our world.

## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Define latitude and longitude and tell how they are used to locate places in the world.
2. Explain and identify time zone.
3. Identify the different ways to map the earth.
4. Locate and name the continents of the world and the oceans that surround them.
5. Name many of the important mountain ranges, highlands, and lowlands of the continents and tell of their effect on life in those regions.
6. Locate the great rivers of the earth and tell how they have affected the development of those regions.
7. Describe the general climate of regions.
8. Tell of the cultural lives of people in various regions.
9. Tell of the relationship between countries and the political ties involved.



# 1. MAPPING THE EARTH

You will learn about latitude and longitude in this part of your study.

## Section Objectives

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Define latitude and longitude and tell how they are used to locate places in the world.
2. Explain and identify time zone.
3. Identify the different ways to map the earth.

## Vocabulary

**Study the following words to enhance your learning success in the following section.**

**equator** (i kwā' tur). An imaginary line running around the center of the earth.

**geography** (jē og' ru fē). The study of the earth's surface, climate, continents, countries, peoples, industries, and products.

**globe** (glō b). A sphere with a map of the earth on it.

**International Date Line** (in' tur nash' u nul dāt lin). Imaginary line agreed upon as the place where each calendar day begins.

**latitude** (lat' u tūd). Imaginary line running east and west which measures the distance north or south of the equator.

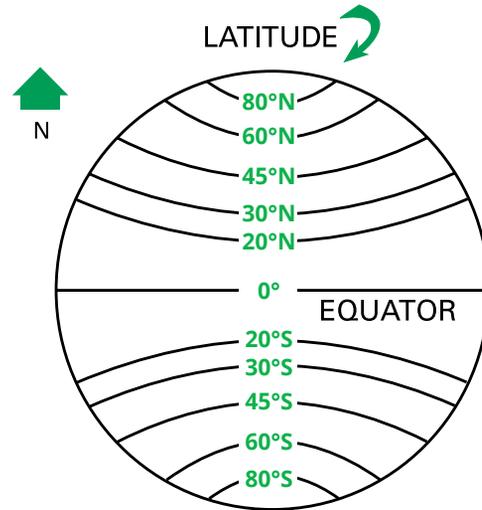
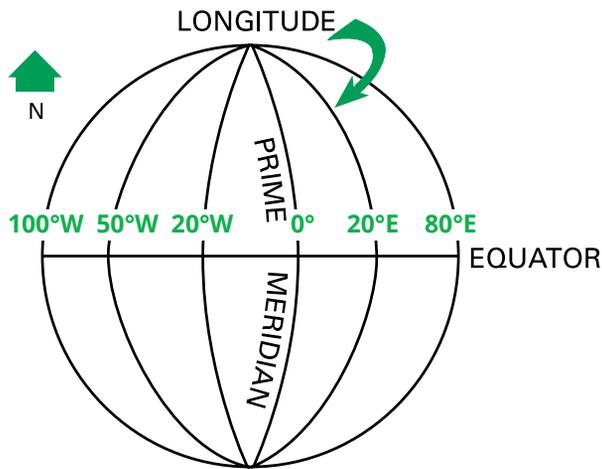
**longitude** (lon' ju tūd). Imaginary line running north and south which measures the distance east or west of the prime meridian.

**Prime Meridian** (prīm mu rid' ē un). Meridian from which the longitude east and west is measured. It passes through Greenwich, England, and its longitude is 0°.

**rotate** (rō ' tāt). To move around a center or axis.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʃh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



## LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE

**Geography is the study of the earth.** The word comes from a Greek word *geographia* which is translated *earth description*. In order to study the earth, geographers have created a system of imaginary lines to locate different places on the planet.

The earth we live on is an almost perfect sphere that **rotates** daily on its axis. The axis is an imaginary line that runs through the center of the earth from top to bottom. It passes through both the North and the South Poles. The Poles are imaginary points marking the “top” and “bottom” of our earth. If the earth were a basketball spinning on someone’s finger, the finger would be the bottom of the axis, at the South Pole.

Another important imaginary line is the equator. It circles the center of the earth halfway between the two poles. The **equator** divides the earth into two halves, the northern and southern hemisphere (half-sphere). The area around the equator is the warmest on earth while the areas around the poles are the coldest.

The force of our planet’s rotation causes the earth to flatten out just slightly on the top and bottom. It also bulges just slightly in the middle. Thus, the circumference of the earth is slightly

greater around the equator than it is running through the poles.

Like every house on your street has an address, every single spot on earth has an address. Any place on earth can be located by **longitude** and **latitude**. These are imaginary lines used to create an address for any point on earth

Lines of longitude run from the North to the South Pole. These lines, called meridians, have a beginning and an end at the poles. Meridians divided the earth into  $360^\circ$ , the number of degrees in a circle.

One of the lines of longitude had to be chosen as a starting point for counting purposes. The geographers choose the meridian that runs through the town of Greenwich, England as the **Prime**, or first, **Meridian**. The Prime Meridian is  $0^\circ$  longitude. Every place on earth is located by the number of degrees east or west of the Prime Meridian, up to  $180^\circ$ , which is half of the total  $360^\circ$  in a circle. Halfway around the world the lines of east and west meridian meet at the International Date Line. **The International Date Line** is  $180^\circ$  both east and west longitude.

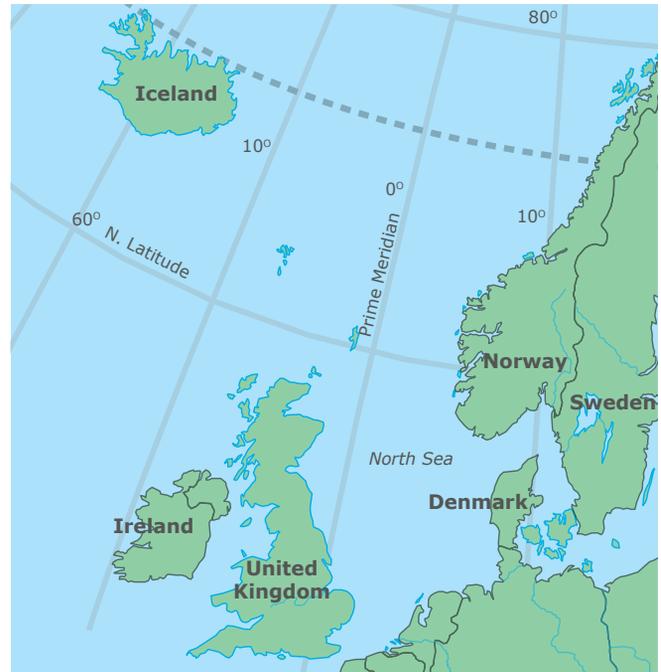
Latitude lines are circles that run around the earth from east to west. Unlike meridians, they do not meet at any point. Lines of latitude are

therefore called parallels, because they are parallel to each other. Parallels also divide the earth into  $360^\circ$ . The equator is  $0^\circ$  latitude. All points on earth are a number of degrees north or south of the equator.

The North Pole is  $90^\circ$  north latitude. The South Pole is  $90^\circ$  south latitude. Since the Poles are only one-fourth of the way around the globe from the equator,  $90^\circ$  or one-fourth of the  $360^\circ$  in a full circle is the largest number of degrees latitude can have.

Degrees of latitude and longitude are divided even further to be more accurate if it is needed. Each degree is divided into sixty minutes (") and each minute into sixty seconds ('). Thus, using latitude and longitude, any point on earth can be accurately numbered. For example, a spot near New Orleans might be  $30^\circ$  north latitude,  $89^\circ 55' 15''$  west longitude.

Look at The North Sea map. It shows some of the countries in northern Europe near the Prime Meridian. The country of Denmark is located at about  $10^\circ$  east longitude because it is that far east of the Prime Meridian. Iceland



| The North Sea

is located at about  $70^\circ$  north latitude because it is that far north of the equator. The location  $60^\circ$  north latitude,  $10^\circ$  east longitude pinpoints the exact spot where those two lines cross in Norway.



### Complete the following sentences.

- 1.1 Imaginary lines running east and west around the earth are called lines of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.2 The line that divides the world into northern and southern hemispheres is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.3 The lower the number of degrees of latitude, or the closer to the equator, the \_\_\_\_\_ the temperature is.
- 1.4 The higher the number of degrees of latitude, or the closer to the poles, the \_\_\_\_\_ the temperature is.
- 1.5 Imaginary lines running north and south are called lines of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.6 The \_\_\_\_\_ is located at  $180^\circ$  longitude.

- 1.7 The \_\_\_\_\_ is 0° longitude.
- 1.8 The \_\_\_\_\_ is 0° latitude.
- 1.9 The \_\_\_\_\_ is at 90° north latitude.
- 1.10 The shape of the earth is an almost perfect \_\_\_\_\_ .

## TIME ZONES

As the earth spins on its axis different parts of the world have different times of day. When it is the middle of the day in the United States, it is the middle of the night in Asia, halfway around the world. Thus, it can not be the same time all over the world.

Time changes by an hour for every 15° of longitude on the globe. These 15° wide time slots are called time zones. There are twenty-four of them for the entire earth. One for each of the hours in the earth’s rotation.

Time zones do not follow the meridians exactly because often they would divide towns into different zones. Therefore, time zone lines often move to match city, state, or national boundaries. Sometimes countries decide to set the boundaries or the times within them for their own reasons. In China, for example, the whole country is in the same time zone as the capital

Beijing because that is what the government wants.

The country of Nepal sets its clocks 10 minutes later than its large neighbor, India, as an act of independence. However, time zones always move back to the proper meridian whenever they can, like in the open ocean.

The continental United States has four time zones—Pacific, Mountain, Central, and Eastern. Alaska and Hawaii are each in their own time zone (Alaskan and Hawaii-Aleutian). A piece of western Alaska is in Hawaiian time. Thus, the entire United States is six time zones wide.

The International Date Line is also the edge of a time zone; however, crossing it changes the date as well as the hour. Crossing the Date Line going west makes it one day later, while crossing it going east makes it a day earlier. Thus, if it is Sunday in Alaska, it is Monday in Russia, across the Date Line.



### Answer these questions.

- 1.11 What are the four time zones in the continental United States?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.12 What are the two other time zones of the United States?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.13 How many time zones are there on earth? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.14 How many degrees of longitude are in each time zone? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.15 What two things change when you cross the International Date Line? \_\_\_\_\_



| An Interrupted-area map

## MAPS

The best map of the earth is a **globe**. That is because a globe is the same spherical shape as the earth. A globe can show the continents and oceans as they would look from outer space. A globe can also be used to model how the earth rotates and moves around the sun.

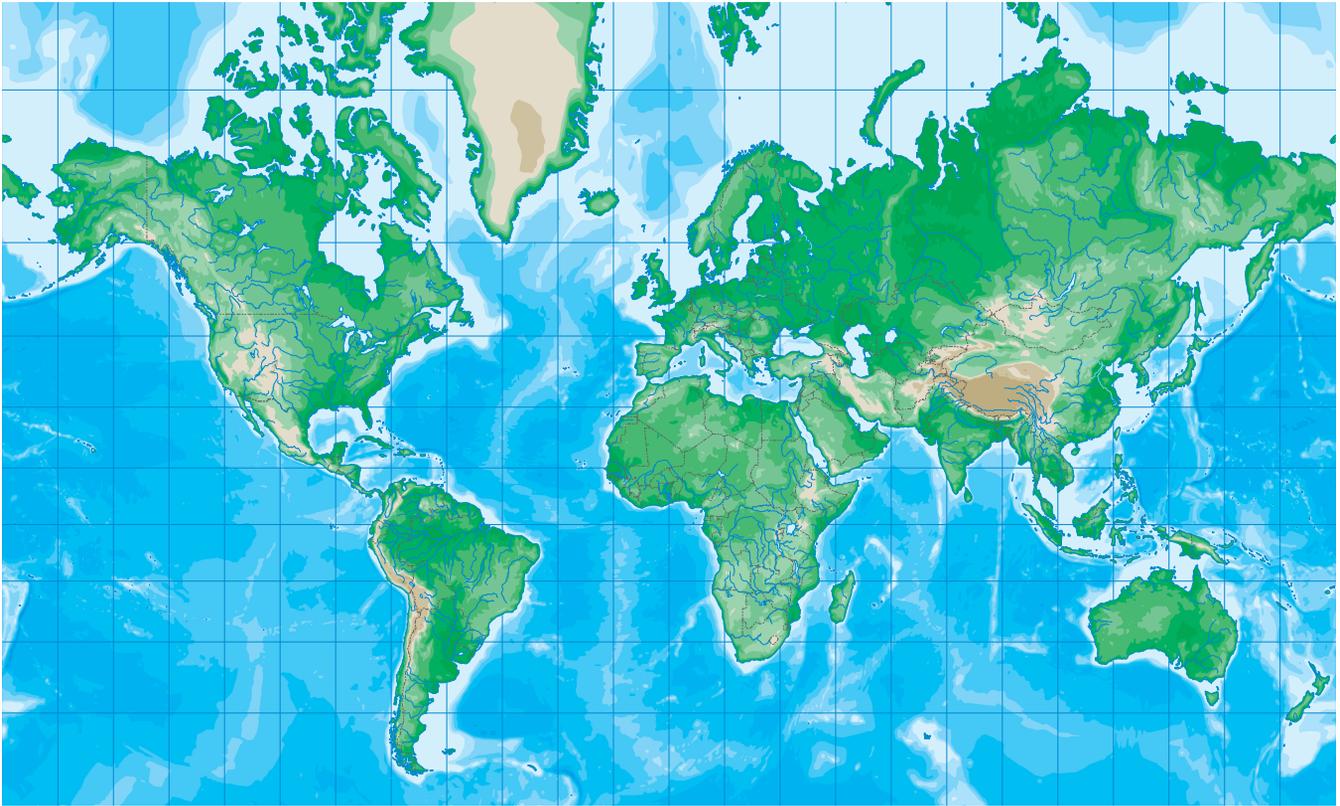
Flat maps of the earth cannot accurately show the size and shape of the continents or oceans. It is like trying to peel an orange and lay the peel flat on a piece of paper. One way to try this is to use an Interrupted-area map which cuts the earth open over the oceans and lays it flat. An Interrupted-area map is difficult to use because there are gaps in it.

Another kind of flat map of the earth is called a Mercator Projection. These maps just take the whole planet and spread it out to a rectangular shape. The problem with these is that the continents and oceans near the poles appear much larger than they really are. Look at the Mercator Projection Map on the next page. Greenland looks almost as big as Africa, and

Antarctica looks like the biggest continent on earth. In spite of the problem, these maps are very good for locating places by longitude and latitude, which appear as a simple square grid on the map.

Still another map of the earth shows one hemisphere as a flat circle. These maps are very accurate near the center of the circle, but they look strange near the outside of the circle where the real earth is starting to curve away.

Because the earth is a sphere, it can, like an orange, be cut into any two hemispheres or halves you want. Usually, however, the earth is divided two different ways into four different hemispheres. The equator divides the earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Most of the land and population are in the Northern Hemisphere. The north includes North America, Europe, Asia, as well as parts of South America and Africa. The Southern Hemisphere includes the other parts of South



| A Mercator Projection Map

America and Africa as well as Australia and Antarctica.

The other way that the earth is often divided is into the Eastern and Western Hemispheres very roughly along the Prime Meridian and the

International Date Line. This is more of a political division. The west includes the Americas while the Eastern Hemisphere includes Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. The Western Hemisphere is the New World while the Eastern is the old.



**Choose the word(s) that the phrase describes.** Some will be used more than once.

- |            |                        |                              |
|------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. globe   | b. Mercator Projection | c. Interrupted-area          |
| d. Eastern | e. Western             | f. Southern      g. Northern |

- 1.16 \_\_\_\_\_ Best map of the earth
- 1.17 \_\_\_\_\_ The equator divides the earth into these two hemispheres
- 1.18 \_\_\_\_\_ The Prime Meridian is roughly one of the dividing lines for these two hemispheres
- 1.19 \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude and latitude form a simple square grid
- 1.20 \_\_\_\_\_ Gaps in the map allow it to lay flat
- 1.21 \_\_\_\_\_ Places near the poles look much bigger than they really are
- 1.22 \_\_\_\_\_ Most of the population and land is in this hemisphere
- 1.23 \_\_\_\_\_ This hemisphere includes only the Americas
- 1.24 \_\_\_\_\_ Map that is the same shape as the earth
- 1.25 \_\_\_\_\_ Hemisphere that includes all of Africa, Asia, and Europe



**Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

# SELF TEST 1

**Complete these sentences** (each answer, 4 points).

- 1.01** \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of the earth.
- 1.02** The \_\_\_\_\_ is the imaginary line that runs around the earth halfway between the two poles.
- 1.03** The \_\_\_\_\_ is the imaginary line that runs through the earth between the North and South Pole.
- 1.04** The \_\_\_\_\_ Line is the point on earth where each new date begins.
- 1.05** The \_\_\_\_\_ is located at 90° south latitude.
- 1.06** The \_\_\_\_\_ is 0° latitude.
- 1.07** There are (how many?) \_\_\_\_\_ time zones on earth.
- 1.08** The best map of the earth is a \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.09** The \_\_\_\_\_ is 0° longitude.
- 1.010** Lines of \_\_\_\_\_ run north and south and are also called \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.011** Lines of \_\_\_\_\_ run east and west and are also called \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.012** Crossing the \_\_\_\_\_ changes the date as well as the hour.
- 1.013** The shape of the earth is an almost perfect \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Choose the hemisphere that best fits the description** (each answer, 3 points).

- |              | Western                                      | Eastern | Southern | Northern |
|--------------|--|---------|----------|----------|
| <b>1.014</b> | _____  | _____   | _____    | _____    |
|              | Has most of the earth's land and population. |         |          |          |
| <b>1.015</b> | _____  | _____   | _____    | _____    |
|              | All of Antarctica.                           |         |          |          |
| <b>1.016</b> | _____  | _____   | _____    | _____    |
|              | All of Africa, Asia, and Europe.             |         |          |          |
| <b>1.017</b> | _____  | _____   | _____    | _____    |
|              | The New World.                               |         |          |          |

**Answer true or false** (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.018 \_\_\_\_\_ The earth rotates once every twenty-four hours.
- 1.019 \_\_\_\_\_ It tends to be cooler the closer one gets to the equator.
- 1.020 \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude can be counted as high as 210°.
- 1.021 \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude and latitude are measured in degrees, minutes, and seconds.
- 1.022 \_\_\_\_\_ Time changes one hour for every 20° of latitude.
- 1.023 \_\_\_\_\_ The entire United States covers six time zones.
- 1.024 \_\_\_\_\_ It is easy to show the earth on a flat map.
- 1.025 \_\_\_\_\_ The earth bulges out slightly at the poles.
- 1.026 \_\_\_\_\_ Antarctica is touched by both 30° west longitude and 30° east longitude.
- 1.027 \_\_\_\_\_ 30° west longitude cannot be in Asia.

74

92

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

initials

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804 N. 2nd Ave. E.  
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070  
[www.aop.com](http://www.aop.com)

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