

MAPPING THE EARTH

To study the world geographers use a pattern of imaginary lines that circles the globe in east-west and north-south directions. It is called a **grid**. The intersection of these imaginary lines helps us find places on earth.

The east west lines in the grid are lines of **latitude**. Lines of latitude are called **parallels** because they are always parallel to one another and never intersect. These imaginary lines measure distance north and south of the equator. The **equator** is an imaginary line that circles the globe halfway between the North and South Poles. Parallels measure distance from the equator in degrees. Degrees are further divided into minutes. There are 60 minutes in a degree. *Parallels north of the equator are labeled with an N. Those south of the equator are labeled with an S. Lines of latitude range from 0 degrees at the equator, to 90 degrees which is located at both the north and south poles.*

The north-south imaginary lines are lines of **longitude**. Lines of longitude are called **meridians**. These imaginary lines pass through the north and south poles. They measure distance east and west from the prime meridian. The **prime meridian** is an imaginary line that runs through Greenwich, England. It represents 0 longitude. *Lines of longitude range from 0 degrees on the prime meridian to 180 degrees located on a meridian in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Meridians west of the prime meridian to 180 degrees are labeled with a W. Those meridians east of the prime meridian are labeled with an E.*

Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn

Located at **23.5 degrees North and 23.5 degrees South of the Equator**, this area of Planet Earth (between those two lines) is known as the "**Tropics**". This area experiences no **dramatic change in season because the sun is consistently high in the sky throughout the year**. When it's **summer North of the Tropic of Cancer**, it's **winter South of the Tropic of Capricorn**. (The reverse is also true).

MAPPING THE EARTH NOTES

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING TERMS IN YOUR OWN WORDS

LATITUDE:

Grid:

Parallels:

Equator:

Additional Notes on Latitude:

LONGITUDE:

Meridians:

Prime Meridian:

Additional Notes on Longitude:

TROPIC OF CANCER AND TROPIC OF CAPRICORN:

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