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## Building Blocks of Geography

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## Reading Between The Lines

If you can read the lines (and between the lines) of latitude and longitude, you'll be able to tell where you are at any point on Earth! These lines are used to locate ships, lost hikers, and many other persons, places, and objects all over the globe. Practice using them to pinpoint exact locations.

Lines of latitude (also called parallels), tell how far north or south of the equator a place is located. On the diagram of the globe below, identify the following:

| Equator |
| :--- |
| Tropic of Cancer |
| Tropic of Capricorn |
| Arctic Circle |
| Antarctic Circle |
| Low Latitudes |
| Middle Latitudes |
| High Latitudes |
| North Pole |
| South Pole |



Lines of longitude (also called meridians) tell how far east or west of the prime meridian (Greenwich, England is $0^{\circ}$ ) a place is located. The international date line is located at $180^{\circ}$ longitude. All lines of longitude meet at the poles. The diagram below shows one hemisphere. Use it to answer these:


1. Trace and label the prime meridian and the international date line.
2. Approximately how far east does the continent of Africa extend? $\qquad$
3. Which of the continents pictured spreads across the most degrees of longitude? $\qquad$
4. Which longitude coordinate passes through Japan?
5. $40^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ longitude passes through which continents?
6. Do any lines of longitude pass through the equator? If yes, name and explain.

Name: $\qquad$

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## Get Coordinated

These two ace fliers are about to take a flight around the world. They are going to need a good understanding of coordinates to plan their trip. The latitude and longitude of a location are known as its coordinates. Latitude and longitude allow geographers, pilots, sailors, and others to pinpoint the exact location of any place on the globe.

The number of degrees latitude will tell you how far a location is north or south of the equator. The number of degrees of longitude will tell you how far a location is east or west of the prime meridian.

The chart gives the approximate latitudes and longitudes of ten cities where they will stop for rest, repairs, and sightseeing. Put a dot on the map to show the approximate location for each of the cities. Use the corresponding letter on the chart to label each city. Now, connect the dots with a line to show the route they will take. Don't forget to connect the last city to the first so they end up at home where they started.


| Washington, D.C., USA | $38^{\circ} \mathrm{N}, 77^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$ | A |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Mexico City, Mexico | $19^{\circ} \mathrm{N}, 99^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$ | B |
| Brasilia, Brazil | $15^{\circ} \mathrm{S}, 47^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$ | C |
| Cairo, Egypt | $30^{\circ} \mathrm{N}, 31^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ | D |
| Athens, Greece | $38^{\circ} \mathrm{N}, 23^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ | E |
| Rome, Italy | $42^{\circ} \mathrm{N}, 12^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ | F |
| Moscow, Russia | $55^{\circ} \mathrm{N}, 37^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ | G |
| New Delhi, India | $28^{\circ} \mathrm{N}, 77^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ | H |
| Jakarta, Indonesia | $6^{\circ} \mathrm{S}, 106^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ | I |
| Sydney, Australia | $33^{\circ} \mathrm{S}, 151^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ | J |

