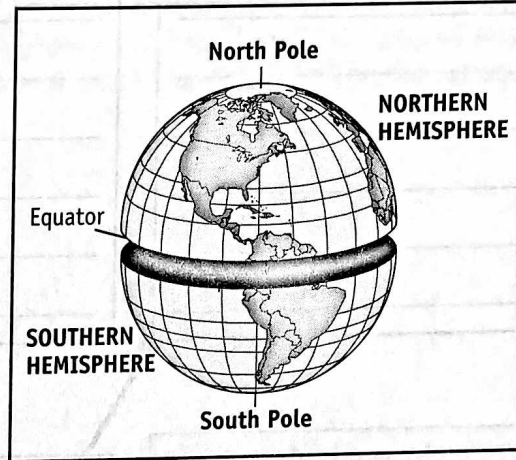


LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE

Geographers have created two sets of imaginary lines — **latitude** and **longitude** — to make it possible to identify every location precisely on Earth's surface.

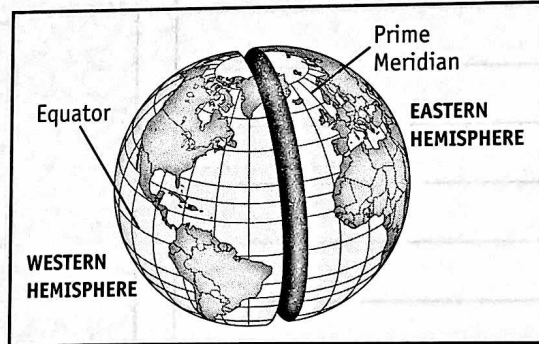
LATITUDE

Latitudes are imaginary horizontal lines that run parallel across the Earth. The equator is the most important latitude line. The **equator** (*identified as 0°*) stretches around the middle of the Earth. All other latitude lines are identified by how far north or south of the equator they are. Each latitude line is assigned a number in degrees to show its distance from the equator, from 1° to 90°. An "N" or "S" is added after the number of degrees to show if the line is **north** or **south** of the equator. For example, a latitude 37 degrees north of the equator would be written as 37°N.



LONGITUDE

Longitudes are imaginary lines that run up and down the Earth. All the longitude lines meet at both the North and South Poles. The **Prime Meridian** (*identified as 0°*) is the most important longitude line, since it divides Earth into two hemispheres. The half west of the Prime Meridian is the **Western Hemisphere**; the half to the east is the **Eastern Hemisphere**. Going in either direction from the Prime Meridian, longitude lines increase from 1° to 180°. Geographers add "E" or "W" to show if the line is east or west of the Prime Meridian. For example, 100°E.



When latitude and longitude lines are shown on a map, they form a grid pattern. By knowing where latitude and longitude lines meet, we can identify the location of any place on Earth.

