

Latitude and Longitude



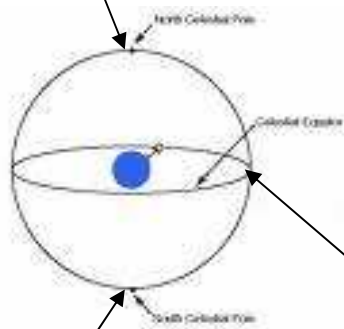
How do we locate places in the world? We use a grid system just like in maths. Lines that run across the world are called lines of latitude and look like this:

Lines that run up and down are called longitude and look like this



Let's talk about **latitude** first. The Equator is the longest line of latitude on Earth. From the equator to each pole is 90° or 90 parallels because the earth is in the shape of a sphere. Each degree of latitude is one parallel. So, from the Equator there are 90 parallels to the North and 90 to the South.

North Pole



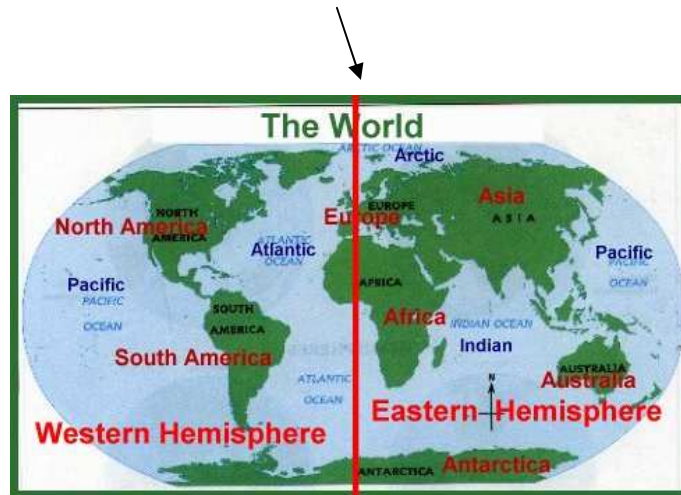
South Pole

Equator



Lines of **Longitude** run up and down. They are called **meridians**. There are 180 meridians to the East and 180 to the West. The prime meridian is 0° of Longitude and is in Greenwich, England. When we measure longitude we are measuring vertical lines to the East or West of Greenwich.

Prime Meridian



Now we know what latitude and longitude is so let's start locating some points on the globe. How do we do this? A point on the globe is called a **coordinance**. We need the latitude and longitude of a point to find it.