

Social Studies Summer Enrichment Activity

9th Grade





GEOGRAPHY SKILLS 2 *Recognizing Latitude and Longitude*

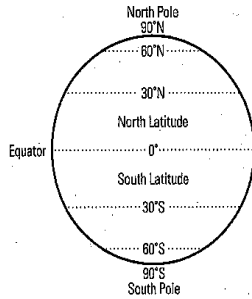
Most maps contain imaginary horizontal and vertical lines of measurement. Horizontal lines, running east and west, are called latitude lines or parallels. Vertical lines, running north and south, are called longitude lines or meridians. The lines are numbered in degrees (shown by the symbol °).

Latitude starts at 0°, known as the equator, where the earth is at its widest. There are 90

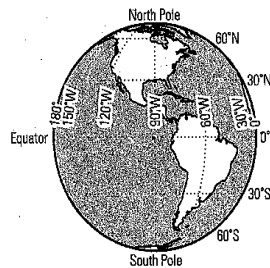
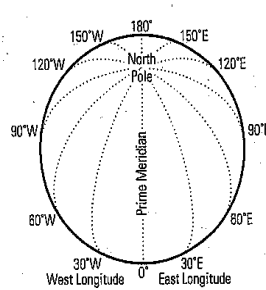
degrees north of the equator and 90 degrees south of it. Longitude starts at 0°, the Prime Meridian, and goes 180 degrees west and 180 degrees east.

Because latitude and longitude cross and form a grid, the use of these lines to locate places is called the grid system. Every place in the world has a single grid location—where its latitude and longitude intersect. Study the maps below.

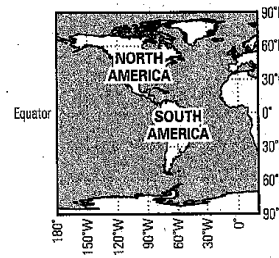
Latitude Lines (Parallels)



Longitude Lines (Meridians)



Latitude and Longitude Grid



North and South America

1. How many degrees separate the North Pole from the South Pole? _____
2. Between about what longitude and latitude degrees does most of the connected United States fall?

3. An airplane lost from radar at 5° S and 55° W was over which continent?

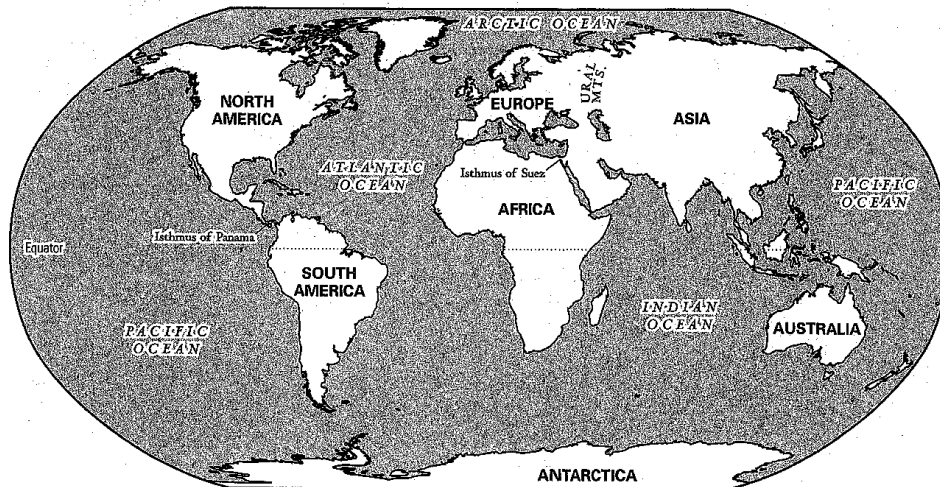
4. Mark the map titled "North and South America" at the approximate point where a ship in distress at 45° S and 5° E might be found.



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS 3 *Recognizing Continents and Oceans*

Complete knowledge of the features of the earth's surface is only a few hundred years old. As recently as the 1300s, the Atlantic Ocean was a mysterious "Sea of Darkness" on a flat surface. The regions of the Arctic, Pacific, and Antarctic oceans were unknown. There were also great misconceptions about the world. For example, Europeans knew of the region of the Indian Ocean but thought it was a great salt lake surrounded by land. They assumed Asia could be reached from the west only by land.

Today the earth is completely mapped and classified. The largest units of Earth's land are called continents. Except for the division between Europe and Asia, they are generally well defined. Two continents are islands, and isthmuses—narrow necks of land—clearly separate others. The oceans are merely names given to the largest sections of the body of salt water that covers 71 percent of the globe. Study the map below.



1. What are the seven continents? _____

2. Which geographical formation separates the Americas? separates Asia from Africa? _____

3. What appears to divide Asia from Europe? _____
4. Where is most of the earth's land mass—north or south of the equator? _____
5. A trip from Australia to Africa would cross which ocean? _____