

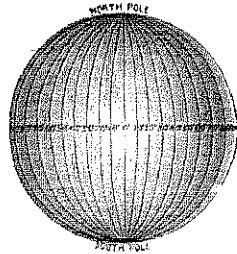
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Longitude and Latitude

The ancient Babylonians divided any circle or sphere into 360 degrees. Ptolemy was a Greek thinker who borrowed the Babylonians' ideas as he wrote one of the first books on geography. Ptolemy wrote that the furthest point at the right or left side of a circle or a sphere is 90 degrees from the top. There are 180 degrees between any two sides of a circle or sphere. This means that the north and south poles are 180 degrees apart from one another, and both are 90 degrees from the equator. The equator is the imaginary line that is as far away from the North Pole as it is from the South Pole.

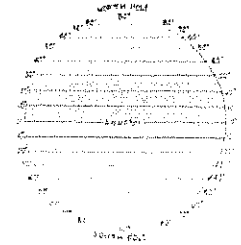
The horizontal lines that circle the globe are called Lines of Latitude. Lines of Latitude are also known as parallels because they parallel, or run in the same direction as the equator. The lines that run between the North and the South Poles are called Lines of Longitude, or meridians. The line at zero degrees longitude is called the prime meridian. The prime meridian runs through the



Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England.

Meridians are counted east and west from the prime meridian, which is numbered zero degrees longitude. The

International Date Line is located 180 degrees, as far away as possible, from the prime meridian. When it is noon along the prime meridian, it is midnight along the International Date Line.



Geographers also divide the earth into hemispheres. Hemi- is a prefix that means half. Everything north of the equator is in the Northern Hemisphere, while everything south of the equator is in the Southern Hemisphere. The Western Hemisphere is west of the prime meridian, while the Eastern Hemisphere is east of the prime meridian. The hemispheres both end at the International Date Line. The United States is in the Northern and Western Hemispheres. West Palm Beach, Florida is 80 degrees west of the prime meridian and 26 degrees north of the equator. This is commonly expressed as 26°N,80°W.

Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

1. How many degrees are in a circle?

2. What is the equator?

3. What imaginary lines parallel the globe from east to west?

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.