



# The World



## The Equator

The equator is an imaginary line that divides the Earth in half. It is an equal distance between the North and South Poles. The weather on the equator is hot all year round. At the equator, day and night are both 12 hours long. Although the weather is generally hot, there is a mountain on the equator where you can ski!

### Key Knowledge

#### The Northern Hemisphere

80% of the world's population live in the Northern Hemisphere. Winter in the Northern Hemisphere lasts from the December solstice to the March equinox, while summer lasts from the June solstice through to the September equinox. Its surface is 60.7% water, compared with 80.9% water in the case of the Southern Hemisphere, and it contains 67.3% of Earth's land.

All of continental Europe, all of North America, Central America and the Caribbean, the vast majority of Asia, except part of Maritime Southeast Asia, about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Africa, just above Lake Victoria and about  $\frac{1}{10}$  of South America, north of the mouth of the Amazon River.

#### Lines of Latitude

Lines of latitude start at 0 degrees at the equator and end at 90 degrees at the North and South Poles. The five major parallels of latitudes from north to south are called: Arctic Circle, Tropic of Cancer, Equator, Tropic of Capricorn, and the Antarctic Circle.

#### The Arctic

The Arctic is a polar region located at the northern most part of Earth. The Arctic consists of the Arctic Ocean, adjacent seas, and parts of Alaska, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Northern Canada, Norway, Russia and Sweden. Land within the Arctic region has seasonally varying snow and ice cover.

#### The Southern Hemisphere

The Southern Hemisphere includes most of South America, one-third of Africa, all of Antarctica, a small sliver of Asia (parts of Indonesia) and all of Australia/Oceania. There are 32 countries in the Southern Hemisphere from five of the Earth's continents.

Antarctica, Asia (the very southern island portion including East Timor, most of Indonesia, and a few islands (two out of the 26 atolls) of the Maldives), Australia (the entire continent, including New Guinea and Tasmania, is in the Southern Hemisphere), South America (mostly, from south of the Amazon River mouth in the east to south of Quito in Ecuador in the west) and Zealandia (New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island and other associated islands are wholly within the Southern Hemisphere)



#### Lines of Longitude

Longitude is the measurement east or west of the prime meridian. Longitude is measured by imaginary lines that run around the Earth vertically (up and down) and meet at the North and South Poles. These lines are known as meridians. Each meridian measures one arcdegree of longitude. The distance around the Earth measures 360 degrees.

The meridian that runs through Greenwich, England, is internationally accepted as the line of 0 degrees longitude, or prime meridian. The antimeridian is halfway around the world, at 180 degrees. It is the basis for the International Date Line.

#### Antarctica

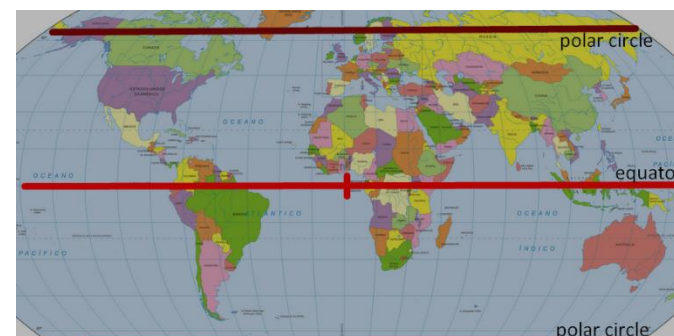
The Antarctic is a polar region around the Earth's South Pole, opposite the Arctic region around the North Pole. Antarctica comprises the continent of Antarctica, the Kerguelen Plateau and other island territories located on the Antarctic Plate or south of the Antarctic Convergence. The region covers some 20 percent of the Southern Hemisphere.

### Key Vocabulary

<b>atoll</b>	A ring-shaped coral reef.
<b>continents</b>	The earth's seven major areas of land. The continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.
<b>climate</b>	The long-term average of weather, typically averaged over a period of 30 years.
<b>coordinates</b>	Often used to specify the position of a point.
<b>equinox</b>	This occurs twice each year, around 20 March and 23 September. It is the moment at which the centre of the visible Sun is directly above the equator.
<b>ocean</b>	A vast body of salt water. The four oceans are The Atlantic Ocean, The Arctic Ocean, The Pacific Ocean and the Southern Ocean.
<b>plate</b>	Pieces of the Earth's crust and uppermost mantle.
<b>polar</b>	Located within the polar circles.
<b>prime meridian</b>	A geographic coordinate system at which longitude is defined to be 0°.
<b>solstice</b>	An event occurring when the Sun appears to reach its most northerly or southerly excursion.
<b>The Northern Hemisphere</b>	The half of the Earth that is north of the Equator.
<b>The North Pole</b>	The point in the Northern Hemisphere where the Earth's axis of rotation meets its surface.
<b>The Southern Hemisphere</b>	The half of the Earth that is south of the Equator.
<b>The South Pole</b>	The southernmost point on the surface of Earth and lies on the opposite side of Earth from the North Pole.
<b>Tropic of Cancer</b>	The most northerly circle of latitude on Earth at which the Sun can be directly overhead.
<b>Tropic of Capricorn</b>	The most southerly circle of latitude on Earth at which the Sun can be directly overhead.



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### Lines of Latitude and Longitude

