

Estimating latitude and longitude

Estimating often must be done to determine latitude and longitude.

1. If your atlas has them, use the boxes along the sides to help with estimation. Be sure to follow the curves of the latitude and longitude lines.

2.
 - A. Find the distance (in degrees) between latitude or longitude lines. IT DEPENDS ON THE MAP! Different maps are different, and latitude and longitude distances could be different on the same map (but not usually).

 - B. Divide the distance in a way that makes sense depending on the distance. E.g., if the distance is 30° , mentally divide in thirds so you're adding sets of 10° to the marked lines. If the distance is 20° , mentally divide in half, etc. If the distance is 15° , mentally divide in thirds to add sets of 5° to the marked lines. Just ballpark it. (Be sure to follow the curves of the latitude and longitude lines.)

3. Don't forget the tropic and circle lines. If you see the dotted lines, you can remind yourself about where you are:
 - A. "Tropic" lines, usually dotted, represent $23\text{-}1/2^\circ$ north and $23\text{-}1/2^\circ$ south. (Tropic of Cancer (N) and Tropic of Capricorn (S))

 - B. "Circle" lines, usually dotted, represent $66\text{-}1/2^\circ$ north and $66\text{-}1/2^\circ$ south (Arctic Circle (N) and the Antarctic Circle (S))