

# Location

One of the 5 themes of geography is "Location"

Two types of location: absolute and relative

Absolute location uses a coordinate grid: Latitude and Longitude

Like the game, Battleship

Like some road maps/atlas with close-ups

The grid lines -

Latitude : measures distance north or south from the equator ( $0^\circ$ )

[like the letters in the game Battleship]

90 degrees north and 90 degrees south

Each degree of latitude must indicate whether it is north or south of the equator.  
( $0^\circ$ -  $90^\circ$ N) or ( $0^\circ$ -  $90^\circ$ S)

Degrees are divided into

minutes (degrees  $\div$  60) and

seconds (minutes  $\div$  60)

Width of a degree = about 69 miles

Width of a minute = about 1.15 miles

Width of a second = about 101 feet

Latitude = "F--a--t--i--t--u--d--e"

Lines of latitude are also called "parallels" because they are parallel to one another.

The "tropic" lines:

Tropic of Cancer,  $23.5^\circ$  N

Tropic of Capricorn,  $23.5^\circ$  S

The "circle" lines:

Arctic Circle,  $66.5^\circ$  N

Antarctic Circle,  $66.5^\circ$  S

Longitude: measures distance east or west from the prime meridian ( $0^\circ$ )

[like numbers in Battleship]

180 degrees east and 180 degrees west are the same and are written without the direction (E or W). **Just 180°.**

Each degree of longitude must indicate whether it is east or west of the prime meridian.

$(0^\circ - 179^\circ\text{E})$  or  $(0^\circ - 179^\circ\text{W})$

Degrees are divided into

minutes (degrees  $\div$  60) and

seconds (minutes  $\div$  60)

Width of a degree

At equator = about 69 miles

At  $45^\circ$  = about 49 miles

(As the circles get smaller, each degree is less wide)

**Longitude = "It's a long way from the north pole to the south pole."**

**Lines of longitude are also called "meridians"** because they run the same way as the prime meridian.

When using the grid lines (coordinates), **latitude always comes first**

(the A in latitude comes before the O in longitude) in the alphabet  
(latitude, longitude)

Each degree of latitude must indicate whether it is north or south of the equator.

Each degree of longitude must indicate whether it is east or west of the prime meridian.

$(\text{latitude}^\circ \text{ N/S}, \text{longitude}^\circ \text{ E/W})$

These three do NOT need a direction indicator:

1. equator ( $0^\circ$ ) not N, not S
2. prime meridian ( $0^\circ$ ) not E, not W
3.  $180^\circ$  not E, not W

$180^\circ$  forms PART of the International Date Line;

$180^\circ \neq$  the International Date Line