

Name _____

Date _____



Latitude & Longitude

Today we're going to talk about latitude and longitude...in just a minute.

Originally conceived by the ancient Greek geographer Ptolemy, latitude and longitude are the axes of a grid that appears on maps and globes.

_____ is the horizontal axis, lines that run east and west across a map. The _____ is the central latitude line on Earth, dividing the planet into Northern and Southern _____. It marks 0 degrees latitude. Every other latitude measurement gives a location that is a certain number of degrees north or south of the Equator.

_____ is the vertical axis of the grid. These lines run north and south, and taper toward each other at the North and South Poles. The _____ is the central line of longitude, marking 0 degrees. Greenwich, England, sits on this imaginary line. Longitude measures how far east or west a place is from the Prime Meridian.

Together, latitude and longitude create _____, which provide the absolute _____ of any spot on Earth. When writing coordinates, the degree of latitude north or south comes first, followed by a comma and the degree of longitude east or west.

When might you find coordinates of latitude and longitude useful?