

Name _____ Date _____

UNDERSTANDING AND USING LATITUDE

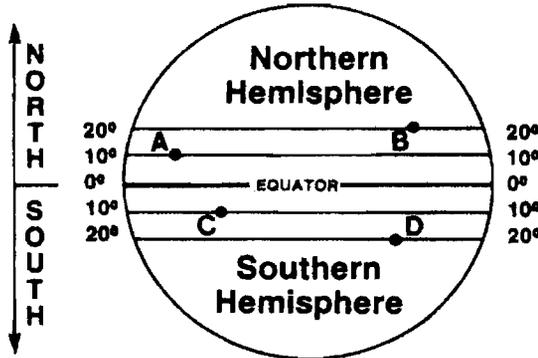
What Is Latitude? How Is It Measured?

1. Lines of latitude are imaginary lines that run completely around the globe—full circles. If you travel along any of these lines you are going east or west.
2. The *equator* is numbered 0 degrees or 0°. The equator divides the world into two halves or *hemispheres*: the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere. All places that are north of the equator are said to have *north* latitude. All places south of the equator are said to have *south* latitude. So, place A on the diagram below is on the 10° north latitude line. A simple way to write 10° north is 10°N.

Place C is on the 10° south latitude line, or 10°S. What is the latitude of Place B?

_____ Your answer should be 20°N. What is the latitude of place D?

_____ If you wrote 20°S you were correct.



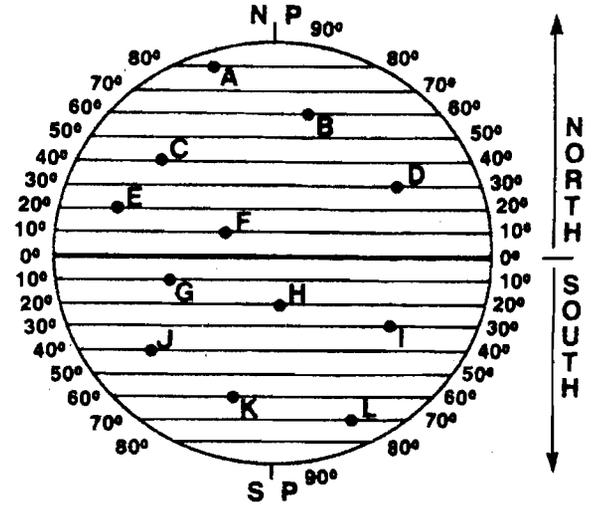
3. All lines of latitude are parallel. This means that no matter how far two lines of latitude are extended they would never meet. So, on the diagram above you can see that the equator, the 10°N line of latitude and the 10°S line of latitude are parallel. In fact, sometimes lines of latitude are called *parallels*.

4. To prevent maps from becoming too cluttered with lines, map makers show only a few lines of latitude, generally 10 or 20 degrees apart.

The diagram in the next column shows lines of latitude that are 10° apart. Starting

from 0°, the equator, the lines of latitude are numbered north and south to 90°. The North Pole is 90°N, and the South Pole is 90°S.

5. Here is an opportunity to practice finding the latitudes of a number of places. Place A has been given its latitude to help you get started.



A: 10°N G: _____

B: _____ H: _____

C: _____ I: _____

D: _____ J: _____

E: _____ K: _____

F: _____ L: _____

6. You can easily determine how many degrees separate one place from another place. For example, B is on the 60°N line of latitude; C is on the 40°N line of latitude. By subtracting we find that B is 20° further north than C.

How many degrees of latitude separate:

C from D? _____

E from F? _____

G from K? _____

C from I? _____