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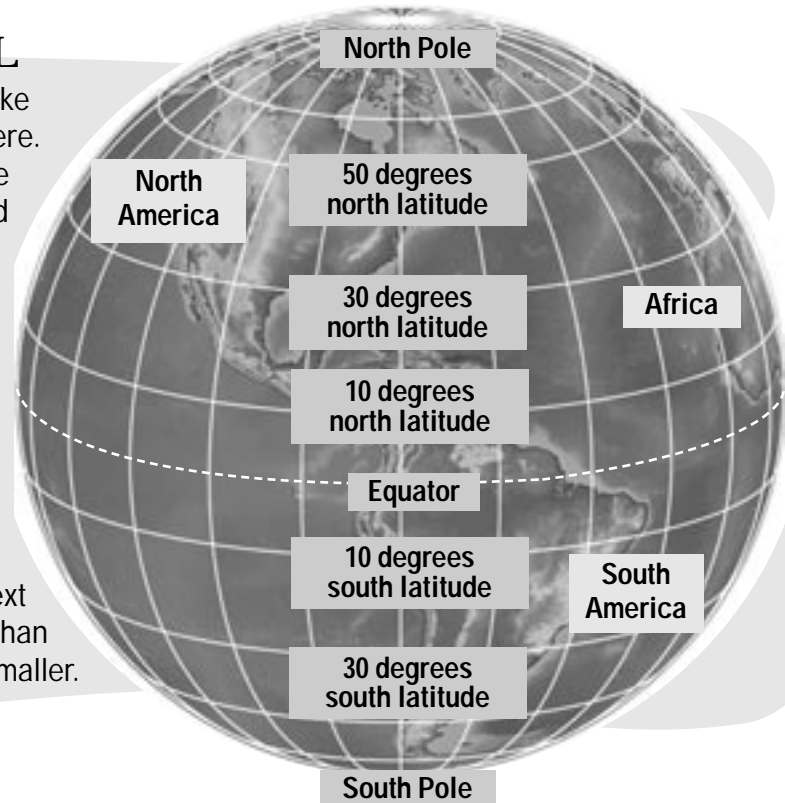
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Did you ever travel on a spaceship? In a way, you're traveling around the Sun right now on a spaceship called Planet Earth.

## THINKING GLOBAL

A globe is a small model of Earth. Like Earth, it is shaped like a ball or sphere. Earth isn't exactly a sphere because it gets flat at the top and bottom and bulges a little in the middle. This shape is called an **oblate spheroid**.

Because Earth is round, most flat maps that are centered on the equator do not show the shapes of the land masses exactly right. The shapes at the top and bottom usually look too big. For example, the island of Greenland, which is next to North America, may look bigger than Australia, though it is really much smaller.



## LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE

Imaginary lines that run east and west around Earth, parallel to the equator, are called **parallels**. They tell you the **latitude** of a place, or how far it is from the equator. The equator is at 0 degrees latitude. As you go farther north or south, the latitude increases. The North Pole is at 90 degrees north latitude. The South Pole is at 90 degrees south latitude.

Imaginary lines that run north and south around the globe, from one pole to the other, are called **meridians**. They tell you the degree of **longitude**, or how far east or west a place is from an imaginary line called the Greenwich meridian or prime meridian (0 degrees). That line runs through the city of Greenwich in England.

### Which Hemispheres Do You Live In?

Draw an imaginary line around the middle of Earth. This is the **equator**. It splits Earth into two halves called **hemispheres**. The part north of the equator, including North America, is the northern hemisphere. The part south of the equator is the southern hemisphere.

You can also divide Earth into east and west. North and South America are in the western hemisphere. Africa, Asia, and most of Europe are in the eastern hemisphere.



Fill in the blanks and fit the answers into the puzzle spaces below.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is at 90° north latitude.
2. Imaginary lines that run parallel to the equator are called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The imaginary line around the middle of the earth is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. North America is in the \_\_\_\_\_ hemisphere.
5. The equator splits the earth into two halves called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ is at 90° south latitude.
7. Imaginary lines that run north and south, from one pole to the other, are called \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The Greenwich meridian runs through the city of Greenwich in \_\_\_\_\_.

1. n

2. p

3.

4. r

5.

6. o

7.

8. l

o b l a t e r s p h e r o i d