

World Map Notes

Longitude (meridians)

- Longitude lines run in a north-south direction
- Longitude lines are also called meridians
- Meridians are furthest apart at the equator, but meet at the poles
- An infinite number of meridians may be drawn
- Meridians run only from pole to pole
- All meridians are the same length
- Meridians are used for time zones
- Longitude is measured from 0° to 180° east or west of the prime meridian

Latitude (parallels)

- Latitude lines are always parallel to each other, so they are also called parallels
- An infinite number of parallels may be drawn
- The equator is a 25,000 mile long parallel
- The North and South Poles are parallels with zero length
- Latitude is measured from 0° to 90° north or south of the equator

Special Parallels and Meridians

- 90° N = North Pole
- 66.5° N = Arctic Circle
- 23.5° N = Tropic of Cancer
- 0° = equator
- 23.5° S = Tropic of Capricorn
- 66.5° S = Antarctic Circle
- 90° S = South Pole
- 0° = prime meridian
- 180° = international date line

Also

- 23.5° = the tilt of the earth's axis
- Always write latitude first, then longitude
 - For example: *Denver, CO = 40° N, 105° W*