

World Geography Puzzles

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Maps

Maps are a valuable tool that can help you locate places, plan how to get from one place to another, and see what landforms, climates, or resources are in a certain place. A location can be relative or absolute. A **relative location** is a general description of a place as it relates to other places. For example, the relative location of Houston, Texas, is near the Gulf Coast of Texas, west of Louisiana, and north of Mexico. An **absolute location** is the exact latitude and longitude coordinates on a map or globe. Houston, Texas, is located at 30 degrees North latitude and 95 degrees West longitude (30°N, 95°W).

Whether you are looking for a relative location or an absolute location, there are several features of a map that make it useful. The map may have a grid of **latitude** (horizontal) lines and **longitude** (vertical) lines. These

lines provide a specific point for each location. There may also be symbols on the map that indicate where capital cities, rivers, railroads, parks, national monuments, hospitals, airports, and many other things are located. Some maps may use colors to indicate different areas of climate, terrain, vegetation, political division, or population density. Somewhere on the map there should be a **map legend** or **map key** that explains what these symbols and colors mean.

Since a map is a small drawing or representation of an actual place that is much larger, maps are said to

be drawn to scale. A map may be one-tenth or one-thousandth the size of the actual place. The **map scale** tells you what the distance on the map is equal to in real life. For example, one inch on a map may be equal to 1,000 miles in real life, or one centimeter may be equal to 250 kilometers. When you use a road map, you can measure the distance between two points and then multiply the distance by the number on the map scale to determine what the distance is in real life.

There are many different types of maps. Each map provides different information. A **physical map** shows the physical features of a place, such as mountains, rivers, and plains. **Topographic maps** show the different elevations of a region. They show how high or low the surface of the earth is by shading each elevation a different color. All the points that are at the same elevation are connected by lines called **contour lines**. When contour lines are close together, it indicates that the land is going steeply up or down. A **political map** shows the different governmental divisions of a place, such as cities, counties, and countries. Road maps and city maps show the highways and streets you need to travel to get from one place to another. There are other types of maps that show the climate, population density, land use, precipitation, and natural resources of a region. In fact, anything you want to know about an area can probably be illustrated with a map.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Maps: Crossword Puzzle

Directions: Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle. All the words are related to maps.

The crossword puzzle grid consists of 14 columns and 14 rows. The starting points for the words are numbered 1 through 14. A compass rose is located in the upper right quadrant of the grid. A scale bar in feet and miles is in the lower left. A map key is in the lower right.

ACROSS

2. All the points on a map that are at the same elevation are connected by _____.
5. A map that shows the different countries of the world is a _____ map.
7. General description of a place as it relates to other places (two words)
10. Maps are drawn to _____ to represent an actual place that is much larger.
12. Colors on a map may be used to show climate, terrain, _____, political division, or population density.
13. If you want to travel from St. Louis, Missouri, to Atlanta, Georgia, by car, you need a _____ to plan your trip.
14. A map may use _____ to indicate where capital cities, rivers, parks, or hospitals are located.

DOWN

1. _____ maps show how high or low the surface of the earth is by shading each elevation a different color.
2. The specific point on a map indicated by latitude and longitude, such as 30°N, 95°W, is called the map _____.
3. Tells what the distance on a map is equal to in real life (two words)
4. The exact latitude and longitude coordinates on a map or globe (two words)
6. Horizontal lines on a map used to locate a place
8. Vertical lines on a map used to locate a place
9. Explains what the symbols and colors on a map mean (two words)
11. This type of map shows the features of a place, such as mountains, rivers, and plains.

Latitude and Longitude

Places on the surface of the earth can be located using latitude and longitude. Latitude and longitude lines are imaginary lines that form a grid on a globe or map. **Latitude** lines are the horizontal lines that measure distance north and south of the imaginary line called the equator. The **equator** is 0° latitude. Latitude is measured from 0 to 90 degrees north or south of the equator. **Longitude** lines are the vertical lines that measure distance east and west of the imaginary line called the Prime Meridian. The **Prime Meridian** is 0° longitude, and the lines of longitude continue to the opposite side of the globe to 180° . Longitude is measured from 0 to 180 degrees east and west of the Prime Meridian. The **International Date Line** roughly follows the 180° longitude line.

These lines can be used like a coordinate grid to locate a specific point. The latitude coordinate is always given first, and the longitude coordinate is given second. For example, if you are given the coordinates 40°N , 80°W , find the 40° north line of latitude and follow it until you reach 80° west longitude. This location is near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. To pinpoint a location even further, coordinates are given in degrees ($^\circ$), minutes ($'$), and seconds ($''$). For example, Pittsburgh is located at $40^\circ26'24''\text{N}$, $79^\circ59'24''\text{W}$. Some maps and global positioning systems (GPS) may also write this as decimals: 40.438315°N , 79.997449°W .

Lines of latitude are also called **parallels** because all the lines are parallel to each other. Any line around the earth that divides it into two halves is a **great circle**. The equator is the only line of latitude that is a great circle. The equator divides the earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The circles formed by the lines of latitude get smaller as they get closer to the North and South Poles. The **North Pole** is at 90° north latitude, and the **South Pole** is at 90° south latitude.



**Lines of
Latitude**



**Lines of
Longitude**

Lines of longitude are also called **meridians**, and they all begin and end at the Poles. These lines are not parallel. Each line of longitude and its opposite on the other side of the earth form a great circle. The great circle formed by the Prime Meridian and 180° longitude divides the earth into the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

When measuring distance in miles using the number of degrees of latitude between two locations, each degree equals approximately 69 miles. This is a constant because the lines of latitude are parallel. (1° of latitude = 69 miles) When measuring distance in miles using the number of degrees of longitude between two locations, the number of miles for each degree will change, based on the latitude of the two locations. The adjustment in miles for each degree of longitude difference is due to the fact that as the lines of longitude approach the Poles, the distance between the lines decreases. (1° of longitude = 69 miles at 0° latitude; 65 miles at 15° latitude; 60 miles at 30° latitude; 35 miles at 60° latitude)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Latitude and Longitude: Word Search

Directions: Read the clues below and figure out what words the clues represent. Then find and circle the words in the word search puzzle. Words can go horizontally, vertically, and diagonally in all eight directions. When you are done, the first 51 unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line.



Word List

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

1. The latitude ____ is always given first, and the longitude coordinate is given second.
2. As lines of longitude approach the Poles, the ____ between the lines decreases.
3. The ____ is 0° latitude.
4. ____ positioning systems may give coordinates as decimals.
5. Any line around the earth that divides it into two halves is a ____ ____.
6. Latitude and longitude lines are imaginary lines that form a ____ on a globe or map.
7. The ____ ____ ____ roughly follows the 180° longitude line.
8. ____ lines are the horizontal lines that measure distance north and south of the imaginary line called the equator.
9. ____ lines are the vertical lines that measure distance east and west of the imaginary line called the Prime Meridian.
10. Lines of longitude are also called ____.
11. Coordinates are given in degrees, ____, and seconds.
12. Lines of latitude are also called ____.
13. All meridians of longitude begin and end at the ____.
14. The ____ ____ is 0° longitude.
15. The circles formed by the lines of latitude get ____ as they get closer to the North and South Poles.