

# Latitude, Longitude, Time Zones and the International Date Line

Globes and maps often have lines that help explain where places are. These lines are often called imaginary lines because they don't really exist on the Earth. But they are helpful for navigation or describing where things are. Navigation refers to finding your way. Ships and airplanes have navigation systems. You may have seen a GPS system in a car. It is used for navigation or helping people find where they want to go.

Some of these imaginary lines are lines of latitude, lines of longitude, time zones and the International Date Line. Lines of latitude and longitude are measured using degrees. The symbol for degrees is  $^{\circ}$ .

## Lines of Latitude

**Lines of latitude** go straight across the Earth. The most important line of latitude is the equator. The equator is 0 degrees. The equator divides the Earth into two hemispheres. The **Northern Hemisphere** is above the equator. The **Southern Hemisphere** is below the equator.

