



Planet Earth is huge, so how do we pinpoint the exact location of places on our planet?

We map the Earth's surface with lines called **latitude** and **longitude**. Imagine our planet as a huge ball or sphere. At one end is the **North Pole** and at the other, the **South Pole**. In the middle, circling the Earth between the two poles, is an imaginary line called the **equator**. Its line of latitude is zero **degrees** (0°). More lines of latitude circle the Earth from east to west, **parallel** to the equator. They are the same distance apart (about 111 km); each distance is measured in degrees, $0\text{--}90^\circ$ to the north and $0\text{--}90^\circ$ to the south.

Lines of longitude run from the North Pole to the South Pole. The lines divide the Earth's surface into **vertical** sections, like pieces of an orange. These lines are measured in degrees too, $0\text{--}180^\circ$ to the east and $0\text{--}180^\circ$ to the west.

What happens when a location is between the lines? We divide the degrees into minutes and seconds, so the exact location can be found. This code is called a **coordinate**.

Remember that these are imaginary lines – you can't actually see them!

Key words: map reading

pinpoint: to find out or say the exact position

pole: the most northern and southern points of the Earth

degree: a unit of measurement

parallel: two lines of equal distance apart

vertical: standing upwards

coordinate: a code with numbers and letters that shows exact positions on a map

Exercise 1: Read the text and label the Earth diagram

Exercise 2: Choose the correct answer for each question.

1. What are the lines called that help us find the exact location on Earth?
 - a) Borders and roads
 - b) Latitude and longitude
 - c) Time zones
 - d) Circles and triangles
2. What is the name of the imaginary line that circles Earth in the middle?
 - a) Prime Meridian
 - b) Timeline
 - c) Equator
 - d) Horizon
3. What is the degree of the equator?
 - a) 90°
 - b) 180°
 - c) 45°
 - d) 0°
4. How do latitude lines run across the Earth?
 - a) From North Pole to South Pole
 - b) In circles around cities
 - c) From east to west
 - d) From Australia to Europe
5. What is a coordinate used for?
 - a) To draw circles
 - b) To measure speed
 - c) To find exact locations on a map
 - d) To describe directions using colors
6. What do longitude lines divide the Earth into?
 - a) Continents
 - b) Horizontal strips
 - c) Oceans
 - d) Vertical sections

Exercise 3: **Instructions:** Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the box below.

Word bank: pinpoint, pole, vertical, coordinate, degree, parallel

1. A _____ is a unit used to measure distances in latitude and longitude.
2. The North Pole is an example of a _____.
3. We use a _____ to give the exact location of a place on a map.
4. The teacher asked us to _____ the city on the map using its exact position.
5. Lines of longitude are _____ lines that go from the North Pole to the South Pole.
6. Latitude lines run in _____ lines from east to west, never crossing each other.