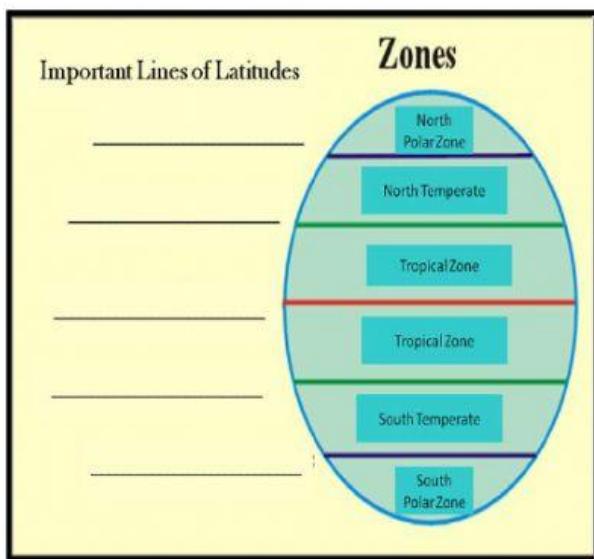


# World's Major Climatic Zones

Climate is the condition of the atmosphere recorded over a longer period of time usually for months or years. The world is divided into three major climate zones. These climatic zones are determined or marked by five important latitude or sun lines. Latitude, distance from the ocean and altitude determine a region's climate. Below is a diagram showing the five sun lines and the major climatic zones.



**Polar/Frigid Zone-** covers the area between the Arctic Circle  $66.5^{\circ}\text{N}$  and the North Pole and the area between the Antarctic Circle  $66.5^{\circ}\text{S}$  and the South Pole. Frigid means very cold.

**Tropical/Torrid Zone-** is found between the Tropic of Cancer  $23.5^{\circ}\text{N}$  and the Tropic of Capricorn  $23.5^{\circ}\text{S}$ . Torrid means very hot.

**Temperate Zone-** is between the Torrid and Frigid Zone. Temperate means balanced. It is balanced between the heat of the Torrid Zone and cold of the Frigid Zone. The climate in this zone changes from season to season.

**Using the diagram above and your background knowledge answer the following questions.**

1. Label the five important lines of latitude on the diagram above.

2. What is another name for Tropical Zone? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is another name for Frigid Zone? \_\_\_\_\_

4. List three factors that determine the climate of a place.

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