Name _____

Longitude and Latitude

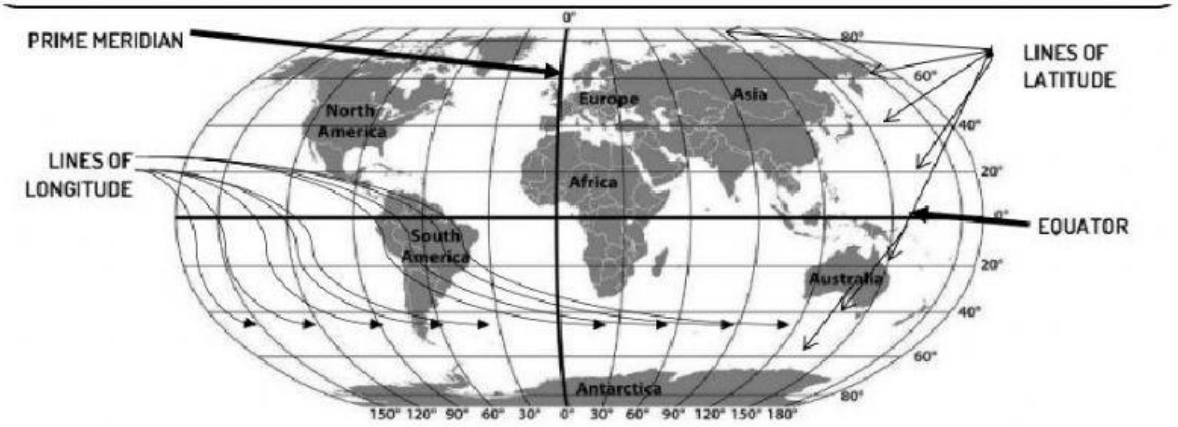
A grid of imaginary lines helps identify the exact location of each and every place on earth. This grid is made up of lines of latitude and lines of longitude.

Lines of latitude are completely flat lines that run from the east to the west. They are like rungs of a ladder and they never touch each other. Hopping from latitude line to latitude line helps you measure the distance between places north and south of each other.

Lines of longitude run from north to south -- or up and down. They all touch each other at the north and south poles. Hopping from longitude to longitude line measures the length between places in an east and west direction.

The most important line of latitude is the equator, which is at zero degrees latitude. It divides the world into the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere.

The most important line of longitude is the prime meridian. This line is at zero degrees latitude, runs straight through a town called Greenwich, England, and divides the world into the eastern hemisphere and the western hemisphere.



Directions: Using the reading and map above, answer the questions below.

1. What lines run north to south but MEASURE distances east to west?

2. What does the prime meridian divide the world into?

3. Look at the map. What continent is 40° north and 90° east?

4. What continent is at 80° south and 0° longitude?

5. Look at the map. What continent is at 0° latitude, and 30° east?