

What is Latitude and Longitude? Yr 5/6

National Curriculum links and rationale

Throughout this unit of work, you will build upon the knowledge already learnt about the globe. You will learn about the Equator, what lines of latitude and longitude are and how they can help us locate places on a map. Additionally, you will learn to locate the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn as well as understand what countries are in the Northern or Southern Hemisphere as well as be able to locate the Arctic and Antarctic Circles. These skills will help you when using an Atlas and when thinking about the possible climates of different countries depending upon where they are located on the globe.

What you should already know: You have previously learnt about different continents and how their climates vary - this is dependant upon where they are in the world. You will also know have previously completed some mapwork and have a sound understanding of how to use an Atlas effectively to locate a range of countries.

Key Vocabulary:

Latitude - is a geographic co-ordinate specifying a point's north-south position on Earth.

Longitude - is the angular distance (measured in degrees) east or west of the Prime Meridian (0°), which passes through Greenwich, London.

Equator - an imaginary circle of latitude around the middle of the Earth at (0°) equidistant from the North and South poles. It divides the Earth into Northern and Southern hemispheres.

Northern hemisphere - is the half of the Earth that lies north of the equator.

Southern hemisphere - is the half of the Earth that lies south of the equator.

Tropic of Cancer - is an imaginary line of latitude which lies north of the equator.

Tropic of Capricorn - is an imaginary line of latitude which lies south of the equator.

Arctic Circle - is an imaginary line of latitude that marks the southernmost boundary of the arctic region.

Antarctic Circle - is an imaginary line of latitude that marks the northernmost boundary of the Antarctic region.

Prime/Greenwich Meridian - is an imaginary line of longitude (0°) running east-west through Greenwich, London.

Time zones - are geographic regions that use the same times.

