# LATITUDE & LONGITUDE

Earth is basically a sphere turning on an axis, much the way a top spins. The North Pole is at one end of the axis. The South Pole is at the other end. Between the poles—exactly in the middle—is an imaginary line called the equator.

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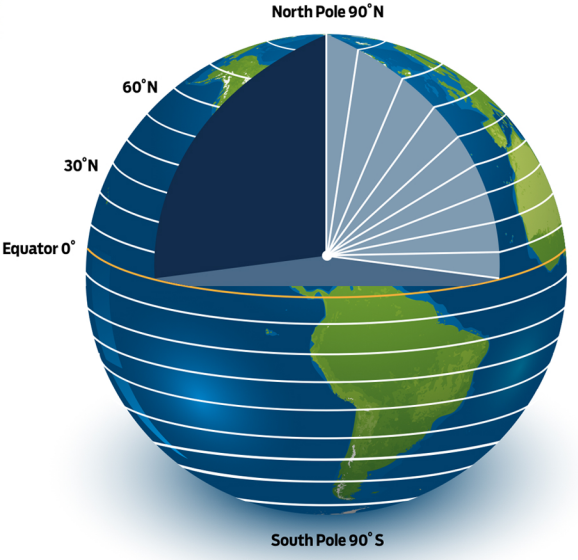
## LINES OF LATITUDE

### The latitude of a place is its distance north or south of the equator.

The equator itself is zero degrees latitude (0°). The degree of latitude is the same as the degree of the angle formed between the equator and points north and south. Imagine you could draw a line from the North Pole into the center of Earth and from the center straight to the surface. The lines would form a 90° angle. That's why the North Pole has the latitude 90° N, and the South Pole hasthe latitude 90° S.

### Lines of Latitude run parallel to the equator and are often referred to as parallels.




## LINES OF LONGITUDE

### Lines of longitude, which run the length of Earth (think long), go from the North Pole to the South Pole and intersect lines of latitude at right angle.

Imagine Earth as a circle. Like all circles, it can be divided into 360 degrees. Each degree is a line of longitude. There are 180 degrees to the east and 180 degrees to the west. Lines of longitude are closest together near the poles and farthest apart at the equator.