

World Countries

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Quick Facts

- The Northern Hemisphere is above the Equator and the Southern Hemisphere is below the Equator.
- Tropical rainforests are located in South America, Africa and Southeast Asia
- The Prime Meridian sets time zones around the World



Vocab



Hemisphere	A hemisphere is half of a sphere, or ball. People use the word to describe one half of Earth
Latitude	Lines that run east to west used to describe locations on the Earth
Longitude	Lines that run north to south used to describe locations on the Earth
Tropics	The region between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn
Arctic	The region around the north pole
Antarctica	A continent around the south pole almost entirely covered in ice sheets
Prime Meridian	An imaginary line that divides the Earth into the eastern and western hemispheres
Time zone	An area on Earth that has a specific time that all citizens can set their clocks to

The World is split into hemispheres. The Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere are separated by the Equator. The Prime Meridian separates the eastern and Western Hemispheres.

At the top and bottom of the World are found the poles. The north pole is found within the Arctic Circle which includes parts of Canada, Russia and Europe. The south pole is in Antarctica which is a continent almost entirely covered by an ice sheet and is not owned by any single country.

The tropics is the region found between the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer. The tropics are warm all year because they get more exposure to the sun and because of that they do not have seasons in the way we do. The tropical seasons are broken up into just two: the wet season and the dry season. The amount of rain can vary; some areas like the Amazon Basin in South America get lots of rain whereas the Sahara Desert in Africa gets very little.

The Prime Meridian runs through Greenwich in England and is 0° longitude. There are 24 time zones around the World centred on the Prime Meridian. If it is twelve noon in Greenwich, it is one o'clock in the afternoon in Germany, nine o'clock in the evening in Australia and five o'clock in the morning in New York, USA.

Diagrams

