

**Key Vocabulary**

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<b>co-ordinates</b>	A set of numbers and/or letters that show you a specific position on a map.
<b>hemisphere</b>	A half of the earth, usually divided by the equator into the northern and southern <b>hemisphere</b> .
<b>observatory</b>	A place for observing and studying natural events on Earth or in space.
<b>polar</b>	The area around the North or South Pole.
<b>precipitation</b>	Water particles that reach the ground including rain, hail and snow.

<b>Coast:</b>	the region where land meets sea
<b>Continent</b>	land mass defined by physical, human, or cultural features: Europe, Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Oceania, North America or South America
<b>Country</b>	Political area defined by physical, human or cultural features

**Significant People**

Europeans in the 16th century **divided the world into** four **continents**: Africa, America, Asia and Europe. Each of the four **continents** was seen to represent its quadrant of the **world**—Europe in the north, Asia in the east, Africa in the south, and America in the west.



In 1492, the Catholic Monarchs of Castile and Aragon funded Christopher Columbus's plan to sail west to reach the Indies by crossing the Atlantic. Columbus **discovered** a continent uncharted by most **Europeans** (though it had begun to be explored and was temporarily colonized by the Norse some 500 years earlier).

**Key Places**

## Polar Regions



North Pole

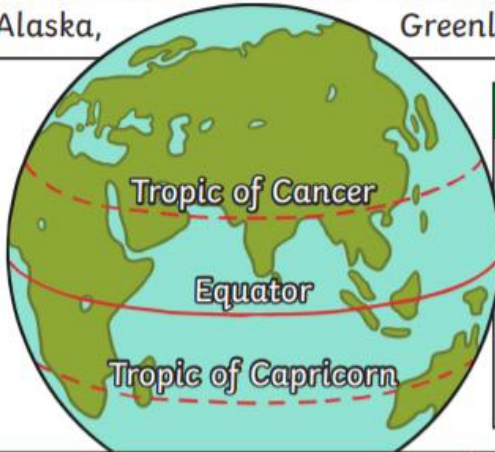
South Pole

Arctic Circle

Antarctic Circle

Includes parts of Russia, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Alaska, Greenland and Iceland.

Has no countries and has no one living there permanently. It is a protected place of scientific and environmental research.



## The Tropics

- The Tropic of Cancer (northern tropic) and the Tropic of Capricorn (southern tropic) mark the most northerly and southerly positions that the sun can be overhead.
- Between the tropics the weather is hot all year round.
- Rainfall can vary here. In some places, there is very little rain, some areas have a rainy season and some places have lots of rain all year round.

### Tropical Rainforest

- South America, Africa and Southeast Asia
- Constantly warm
- No dry season
- Average 60mm rain per month



### Tropical Coniferous Rainforest

- North & Central America and Asia
- Steady temperatures all year round
- Low precipitation



### Tropical Dry Forest

- Mexico, Brazil, Southeast Asia and India
- Warm all year round
- Long dry seasons



### Tropical Grasslands (Savannahs)

- Africa, Asia, India and Australia
- Hot
- Dry season lasts up to 9 months
- 900mm – 1500mm rain per year





## Important Facts

### Time Zones

- The Prime Meridian (PM) line divides the earth into the eastern and western **hemisphere**.
- It passes through the Royal **Observatory** in Greenwich, England.
- All time zones start here - Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
- There are 24 different time zones – one for each hour in the day.
- From GMT to the east = +1 hour for every time zone.
- From GMT to the west = -1 hour for every time zone.
- The International Date Line is on the opposite side of the world from the PM. When it is noon at the Prime Meridian, it is midnight along the International Date Line. This is where midnight occurs first across the globe.

Prime Meridian



