

Globes, Atlases and Maps

Globes are round, 3D models of our planet. At the top of a globe is the North Pole. At the bottom of a globe is the South Pole. The parts of the globe that are blue are water, such as oceans, seas and lakes. The parts that are green or pink are land and the white parts are ice or glaciers.



Globes help you see how our planet is organized and where one place is in relation to another. For example, North America and Asia are large continents, bordered by oceans, that sit on opposite sides of the globe.

How to Find a Country on a Globe

Step #1

Think about what you already know about where the country is located.

- Is it in the northern, southern or central part of the globe?
- Is it above or below the equator?
- Which continent is it on?
- Is it near another country that is easy to find?

Step #2

Think about what you know about the country.

- Is it large or small?
- Is it hot or cold (i.e., near the equator or the poles)?
- Does it touch any oceans?
- Does it have any large areas of ice or bodies of water in it?

Step #3

Look at the part of the globe where the country is located.

Step #4

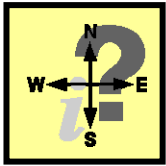
Find the continent the country is on.

Step #5

Look for an area that fits your description of the country.

Step #6

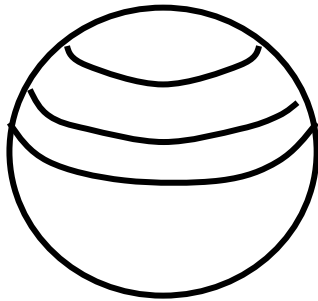
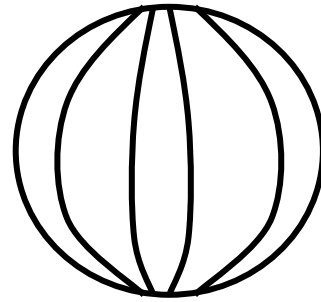
Look for the name of the country printed on the globe.



Lines of Longitude and Latitude

Longitude

Globes and maps have lines that go from top to bottom, called lines of **longitude**.



Latitude

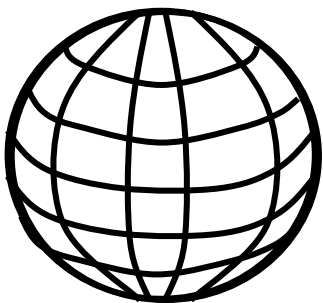
Globes and maps also have lines that go from left to right, called lines of **latitude**.

The lines of latitude and longitude are numbered. Together, they are our planet's **address system**. Every location on Earth is on or near a line of latitude and a line of longitude. Where those lines meet is the address of that spot on the globe.

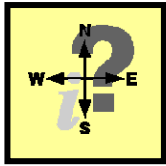


Get to Know Your Globe

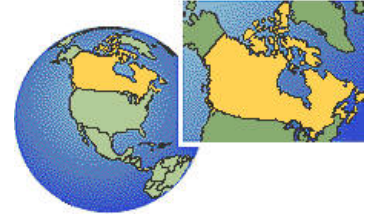
Mark the approximate locations of these parts of the globe:



- Equator
- North Pole
- South Pole
- Prime Meridian
- Tropic of Cancer
- Tropic of Capricorn.



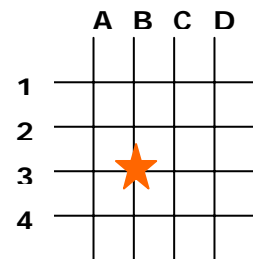
Atlases



Atlases are books of maps, charts and other geographic information. Like other nonfiction books, atlases usually have a table of contents, information organized in chapters or sections, and an alphabetical index at the back, used to locate specific information.

Atlases are often organized by place. For example, there is frequently a section for every continent and, in each section, there are maps of the countries and land areas on that continent.

To help you find specific locations, the maps in atlases have grid lines. The lines going up and down are marked with letters and the lines going across are marked with numbers. Beside each country, city or town in the index, there is a page number and a letter and number combination that shows where to find that place on the map. An index reference to the grid shown here might read p. 34–B3.



How to Find a Country, City or Town in an Atlas

Step #1

Turn to the index at the back of the atlas.

Step #2

Find the name of the location you want to find.

Step #3

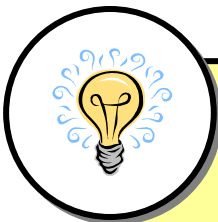
Note the page number and the grid location.

Step #4

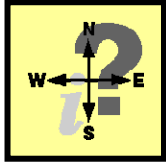
Turn to the specified page in the atlas.

Step #5

Find the location on the grid by putting one finger on the letter at the top of the map and one finger on the number at the side of the map. Run your fingers along the two lines until they meet. You should be able to see the place name now!

**Tip!**

Some locations appear on more than one map in an atlas. Look at each map and choose the best one for your purpose.

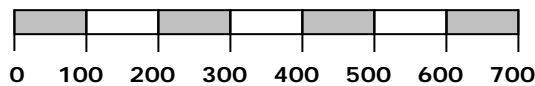


Maps

Scale

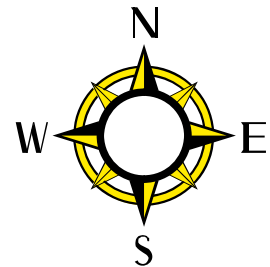
Most maps have a **scale** that helps you determine how large things are in real life or how great the actual distances are. The scale looks a lot like a ruler and it is used to show you how many actual kilometres are represented by each centimetre on the map.

1cm = 100km



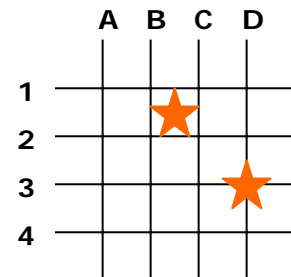
Compass Rose

Most maps have a **compass rose**. This is a symbol drawn on the map to show you where North, South, East and West are located. Most maps are drawn with North at the top.









Grid Lines

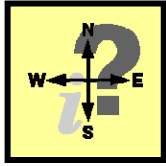
Most maps include **grid lines** to help you locate specific spots. The lines going up and down are marked with letters and the lines going across are marked with numbers. Each location on a map can be found at a point where grid lines intersect or between a pair of grid lines. Remember: run your fingers along both lines and see where they meet. For places in between the lines, you will be close—look around!



Legend

Most maps have a **legend** to tell you what the different symbols, colours or line styles on the map mean.

	Highway		Permanent ice and snow
	Highway under construction		Coniferous forest
	Airport		Mountains
	Capital city		



Types of Maps

Physical Maps

Physical maps show natural features of the landscape. Colours and shading are used to show the different types of land, such as mountains, forests and prairies. Bodies of water are usually shown in blue.

Political Maps

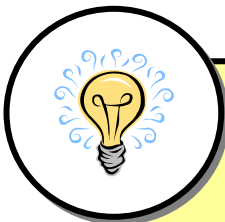
Political maps show borders and boundaries between countries, provinces and states. They may show the locations of cities and towns, main highways, railway lines, airports and other structures made by humans. Political maps usually include some natural details, such as rivers and lakes, national parks and large forests.

Transportation Maps

Transportation maps show roads, cities and towns. They are usually used by travellers and are often called road maps.

Thematic Maps

Thematic maps are usually created to show specific information. For example, a climatic map might use colours to show differences in climate in different regions and a population map might use symbols to show differences in population across a country.



Tip!

Maps can be used for comparing information. For example, if you have a political map of Canada that shows the boundaries of all of the provinces and a thematic map of Canada that shows where different natural resources are found, you can look at the two maps together and figure out what kinds of natural resources each province has.