**LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE**

**LATITUDE**

Latitude is the angular distance of a point on the earth’s surface, measured in degree from the centre of the earth. Latitude (0˚) is called the equator. It divides the earth into two equal halves; the Northern and Southern hemisphere. All other latitudes are parallel to the equator and to each other; hence, the latitudes are also called parallels of latitude.

**Importance of Latitude Lines Include:**

1. The equator (0˚)
2. Tropic of Cancer (lat 23½˚N),
3. Tropic of Capricorn (lat 23½˚S),
4. Arctic Circle (66½˚N),
5. Antarctic Circle (66½˚S),
6. North Pole (90˚N) and
7. South Pole (90˚S)

**Uses of Lines of Latitude**

1. The lines of latitude in conjunction with that of longitude are used to determine the exact location of places on the atlas map.
2. Lines are also used to calculate the distance between two places on the earth surface.

**LONGITUDE**

Longitudeis an imaginary line drawn on the globe of (earth) running from north to south at a right angle to the parallels. In other words, longitude is an angular distance measured in degrees east and west of the Greenwich Meridian. All lines of longitude which run from north to south are called **Lines of Longitude**. All lines of longitude are called **Meridians** and are numbered in degrees East and West of Longitude 0˚.

**Importance of Longitude Lines Include:**

**Uses of Lines of longitude**

The lines of longitude in conjunction with that of latitude are used to determine the exact location of places on the atlas map.

Lines of longitude are also used to calculate the local time between two places on the earth.

**Similarities between lines of latitude and longitude**

Longitude and latitude are both imaginary lines drawn on the globe.

Longitude and latitude are measured in degrees.

Longitude and latitude are used for the location of places on the map.

Longitude and latitude contain great circles.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE LINES OF LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE**

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| --- | --- |
| LATITUDE | LONGITUDE |
| Lines of latitude run from west to east south | Lines of longitude run from north to south |
| Lines of latitude are parallel to each other poles | Lines of longitude are of the same length |
| Lines of latitude decrease in length towards the poles | Lines of longitude increase in length |
| Lines of latitude have the equator as its reference point. | Lines of longitude has Greenwich Meridian as its reference point |
| Lines of latitude equator is the only great circle | All meridians are great circles |
| Lines of latitude are parallel to each other towards the poles | Lines of longitude are not parallel to each other towards the poles |
| Lines of latitude are used for measuring distance | Lines of longitude are used for calculating local time |
| Lines of latitude measures up to 180˚ (90˚N – 0˚ – 90˚N) | Lines of longitude measures up to 360˚(180˚W – 0˚ – 180˚E) |