

As well as being divided into continents, countries and oceans, our planet is divided into hemispheres, time zones, longitudes, latitudes and tropics. **How do these divisions help us make sense of time and place?**



GMT
21:30



London
22:30



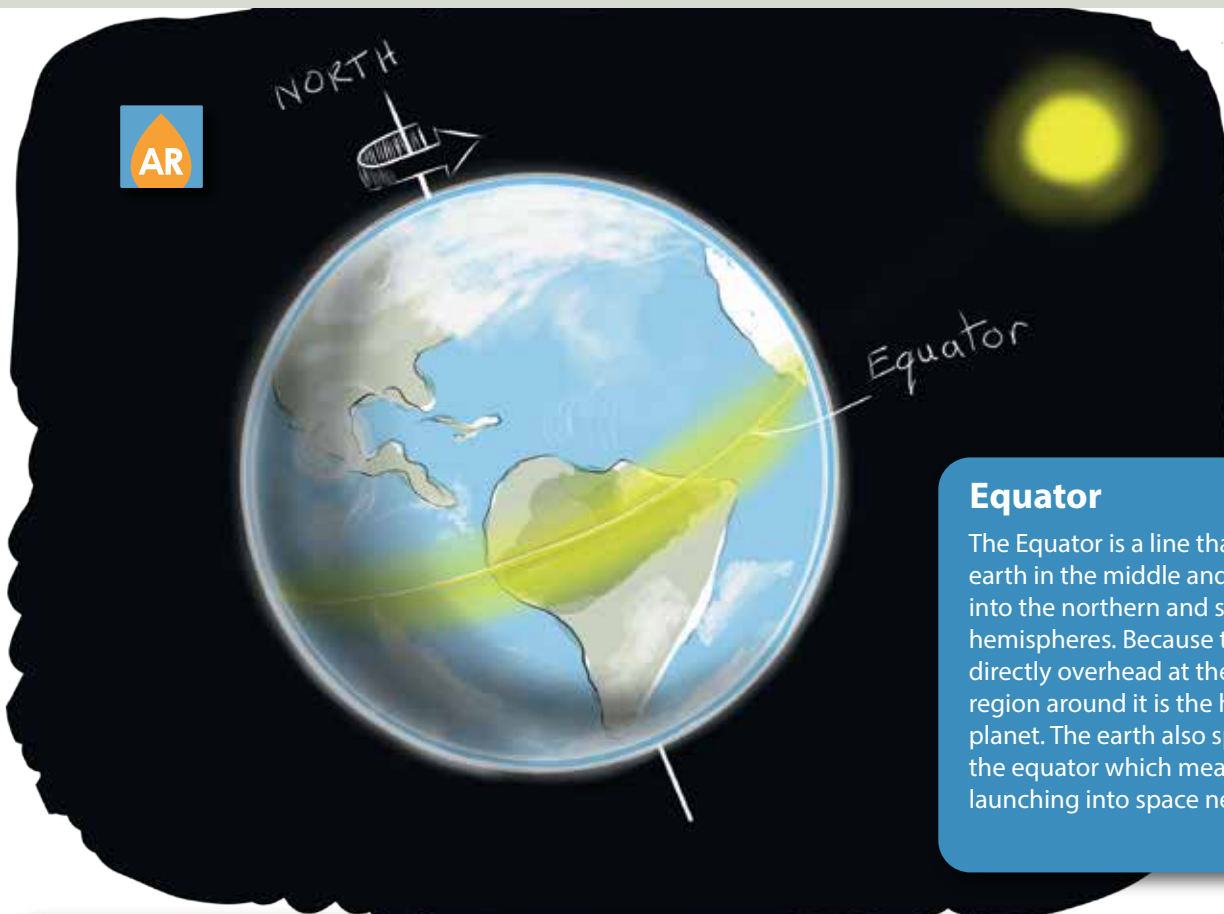
Paris
23:30



Hong Kong
05:30



Delhi
03:00



Equator

The Equator is a line that circles the earth in the middle and divides it into the northern and southern hemispheres. Because the sun is directly overhead at the equator, the region around it is the hottest on the planet. The earth also spins fastest at the equator which means rockets launching into space need less fuel!

Lines, Zones, Tropics and Regions

Start the Geography ActiveLens app and point it at the image above. Now explore the way the earth is divided and organised.

Tropics

The two tropics, the *Tropic of Capricorn* in the South and the *Tropic of Cancer* in the North are two circles, North and South of the *equator*, that marks the latitude that the sun can be directly overhead.

Longitude

Lines of longitude run from the two poles. They all meet at the North and South poles. Unlike lines of latitude, lines of longitude are not parallel. The line which runs through Greenwich is known as the *Prime Meridian*.

Latitude

Lines of latitude circle the earth parallel to the equator. Along with Longitude, they are used to locate places on the earth. Because the earth is a sphere, the lines are of different lengths.