

**"Laidlaw World Geography: A Physical and Cultural Approach – James L. Swanson, Laidlaw Brothers, Publishers, River Forest, Illinois, 1987, p. 24-27 .**

**Scale:** For maps to show the location of the Earth's features exactly. Scale is a certain measure on a map used to show a certain number of miles or kilometers on the Earth. For example, 1,000 miles (1,609.3 kilometers) on the surface of the Earth might be scaled down to 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) on a map.

**Types of Maps:** Cartographers organize information to make maps as clear as possible. As a result, maps have themes.

**General-Purpose Maps** – Maps that show a wide range of general things about an area.

**Special-Purpose Maps** – Emphasize a single idea about the area shown.

**Physical Map** – show the physical features of a place, such as mountains, rivers, and lowlands. Also called a terrain map, a topographical map, or a relief map. Relief means differences in elevation.

**Contour Map** – Lands of equal height are connected by lines called contour lines. All points on the same contour line have the same elevation.

**Political Map** – shows the international boundaries between countries. Capital cities and other information related to governments are also shown. This information might include smaller divisions within countries such as states or countries. Large cities are also often shown on a political map.

**Historical Map** – Show the international boundary lines as they were at different times in the past. These boundary lines have changed many times because of wars, agreements, or discoveries of new lands. These maps can show changes in boundaries from one time period to another. These maps show places as they were believed to be at the time.

**Lines of Latitude:** One set of reference lines on a map or globe is called lines of latitude. These lines run east to west in the same direction as the **equator**. The equator is a line of latitude that circles the Earth at an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole. Each line of latitude is a circle that is an equal distance from the equator at all points. The lines of latitude decrease in size from the equator to the poles. The lines of latitude never meet, so they are called **parallels**.

Lines of latitude are used to measure distances north or south of the equator. Distance is measured in degrees ( $^{\circ}$ ) in the same way that circles are. Each line of latitude has  $360^{\circ}$ . Starting with  $0^{\circ}$ , each pole is a distance of  $90^{\circ}$ , or one fourth of a circle from the equator. The North Pole is  $90^{\circ}$  north latitude. The South Pole is  $90^{\circ}$  south latitude.

**Lines of Longitude:** the reference grid for finding the location of places on a map or globe is completed with a set of lines called lines of longitude. These lines run from north to south and meet at the poles. Lines of longitude are also called **Meridians**. They measure distances east or west of a starting line called the **Prime Meridian**, which is  $0^{\circ}$  Longitude. The Prime Meridian is the meridian that passes through Greenwich England. Meridians are numbered by degrees from  $0^{\circ}$  to  $180^{\circ}$  west of the Prime Meridian are known as west longitude.

The distance between meridians is measured in degrees and minutes as the distance between lines of latitude is measured. The actual distance between meridians changes according to the distance from the poles. This is because meridians all meet at each pole, but they are wider apart as they near the equator.

**Hemispheres:** The Earth can be divided into hemispheres. Or halves of the Earth. The half of the Earth that is North of the Equator is the Northern Hemisphere. The half of the Earth that is South of the Equator is the Southern Hemisphere.

The Prime Meridian and the  $180^{\circ}$  longitude line divide the Earth into the Eastern Hemisphere and the Western Hemisphere. The Eastern Hemisphere covers the half of the Earth from the Prime Meridian East to  $180^{\circ}$  longitude. The Western Hemisphere covers the half of the Earth from the Prime Meridian West to  $180^{\circ}$  longitude.