

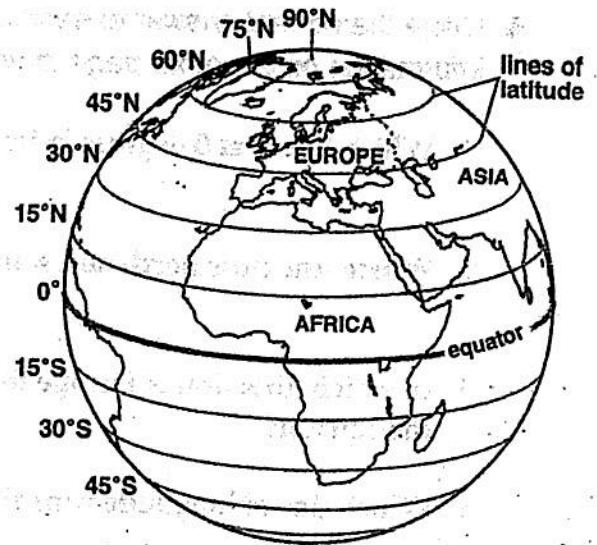
## Europe's Absolute Location

Many globes contain lines that make it easier to find specific places on Earth. Lines of latitude measure the distance north and south of the equator. Lines of longitude measure the distance east and west of the prime meridian. You can use lines of latitude and longitude to find the absolute location of Europe on a globe.

### Latitude

The equator is found at the absolute location of  $0^\circ$  (zero degrees) latitude. Other lines of latitude run parallel to the equator and are labeled with an *N* or *S*, depending on whether they are north or south of the equator. Latitude lines are also called *parallels*.

On the picture of the globe, notice the lines of latitude. Look for the continent of Europe. Since all of the continent is north of the equator, all of the latitude lines used to find the absolute location of places in Europe are labeled in *degrees north*, or  $^\circ\text{N}$ .

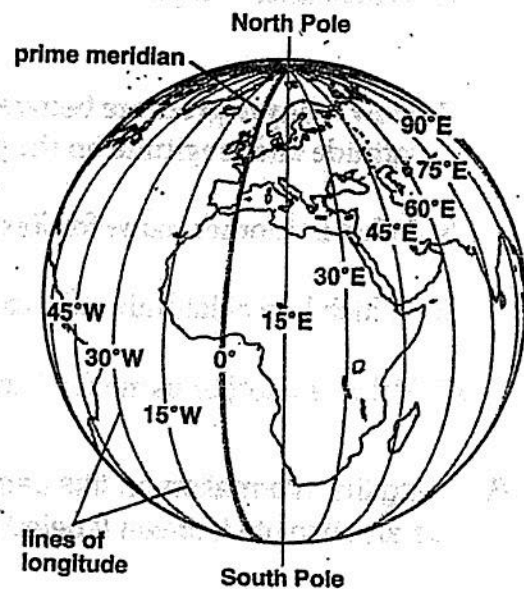


*Lines of Latitude (Parallels)*

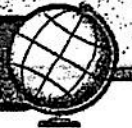
### Longitude

The prime meridian is an imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole at  $0^\circ$  (zero degrees) longitude. Other lines of longitude run north and south, too, and are labeled with an *E* or *W*, depending on whether they are east or west of the prime meridian. Longitude lines are also called *meridians*.

On the picture of the globe, notice the lines of longitude. Look for the continent of Europe. Since most of the continent is east of the prime meridian, most of the longitude lines used to find the absolute location of places in Europe are labeled in *degrees east*, or  $^\circ\text{E}$ . Some parts of Europe are west of the prime meridian. The absolute locations of those parts are labeled in *degrees west*, or  $^\circ\text{W}$ .



*Lines of Longitude (Meridians)*



## Europe's Absolute Location

To find the absolute location of a place, read the latitude line first and then read the longitude line. For example, the latitude  $40^{\circ}\text{N}$  runs through the southern part of Italy. The longitude  $15^{\circ}\text{E}$  also runs through the southern part of Italy. So the absolute location of southern Italy is  $40^{\circ}\text{N}$  latitude,  $15^{\circ}\text{E}$  longitude.

**A.** Circle the correct answer to each question. Use the pictures of the globes and the information on the other page to help you.

- |  |                      |                      |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Which line is at 0 degrees latitude?  | equator              | prime meridian       |
| 2. Which line runs north and south?  | equator              | prime meridian       |
| 3. In which direction is Europe from the equator?  | north                | south                |
| 4. Which line of longitude runs through Italy?   | $15^{\circ}\text{W}$ | $15^{\circ}\text{E}$ |
| 5. Where is the North Pole located?  | $90^{\circ}\text{S}$ | $90^{\circ}\text{N}$ |
| 6. Which lines run parallel to the equator?  | latitude lines       | longitude lines      |
| 7. How many degrees are between each line of latitude and longitude on the globe pictures? | 10 degrees           | 15 degrees           |
| 8. What is another name for <i>lines of latitude</i> ?                                     | meridians            | parallels            |
| 9. Which line of latitude runs through Europe?   | $45^{\circ}\text{N}$ | $45^{\circ}\text{S}$ |
| 10. What is another name for <i>lines of longitude</i> ?                                   | parallels            | meridians            |

**B.** Using the information on this page and the other page, explain why southern Italy has an absolute location labeled in degrees north and east.

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