

Longitude

Latitude and longitude are two of the most basic terms in all of geography. To understand them, you need to think of Earth as a globe. Further, you need to think of the globe as divided into lots of little sections. Some go east. Some go west. Some go north. Some go south. You know how a circle has 360 degrees? Well, that's true for Earth as well. If you put your finger on the city of Portland and trace all the way around the globe, from right to left, you will trace the full 360 degrees. Go just halfway and you get 180 degrees. You have traced degrees of longitude. Longitude is lines that run north and south that measure east or west. The Prime Meridian, in Greenwich, England, is at 0 degrees longitude.

