

International Date Line

Chapter 7: International Date Line · Topic 1

Key Concept

The International Date Line roughly follows the 180° longitude meridian, running through the Pacific Ocean, avoiding populated landmasses where possible.

Crossing the date line from west to east means subtracting a day, while crossing from east to west means adding a day.

The date line exists because Earth is divided into 24 time zones, and without it, there would be confusion about which day it is.

The date line's path zigzags around certain countries and territories to keep them on a consistent, convenient date for practical reasons.

Quick Revision Notes

- International Date Line: near 180° longitude.
- Runs through Pacific Ocean.
- Avoids populated landmasses where possible.
- West to east crossing: subtract a day.
- East to west crossing: add a day.
- Exists due to Earth's 24 time zones.
- Prevents date confusion globally.
- Line zigzags for practical country convenience.

Practice Questions

- 1 Locate the International Date Line on a map.
- 2 Discuss what happens when crossing the line.
- 3 Research why the line zigzags in some areas.
- 4 Discuss why the date line is near the Pacific.
- 5 Calculate the date change crossing the line.
- 6 Explain the International Date Line in your own words.