

Latitude and Longitude

Chapter 1: Locating Places on the Earth · Topic 1

Key Concept

Latitude lines run horizontally (east-west) around the Earth, measuring distance north or south of the Equator (0 degrees latitude), up to 90 degrees at the poles.

Longitude lines run vertically (north-south) from pole to pole, measuring distance east or west of the Prime Meridian (0 degrees longitude), which passes through Greenwich, England.

Together, latitude and longitude form a grid system, allowing us to pinpoint any location on Earth using a pair of coordinates, like 28°N, 77°E for Delhi.

This coordinate system is essential for navigation, mapmaking, and understanding the exact position of countries, cities, and geographic features around the world.

Quick Revision Notes

- Latitude lines run east-west, measuring distance from the Equator.
- The Equator is 0 degrees latitude.
- Longitude lines run north-south, measuring distance from the Prime Meridian.
- The Prime Meridian is 0 degrees longitude, through Greenwich.
- Latitude and longitude together form a grid system.
- Coordinates like 28°N, 77°E pinpoint exact locations.
- This system is essential for navigation and mapmaking.
- Every place on Earth has unique coordinates.

Practice Questions

- 1 Find the latitude and longitude of your city.
- 2 Locate the Equator and Prime Meridian on a world map.
- 3 Practice reading coordinates for three different cities.
- 4 Explain why latitude and longitude are needed together.
- 5 Draw a simple grid showing latitude and longitude lines.
- 6 Discuss how sailors historically used these lines to navigate.