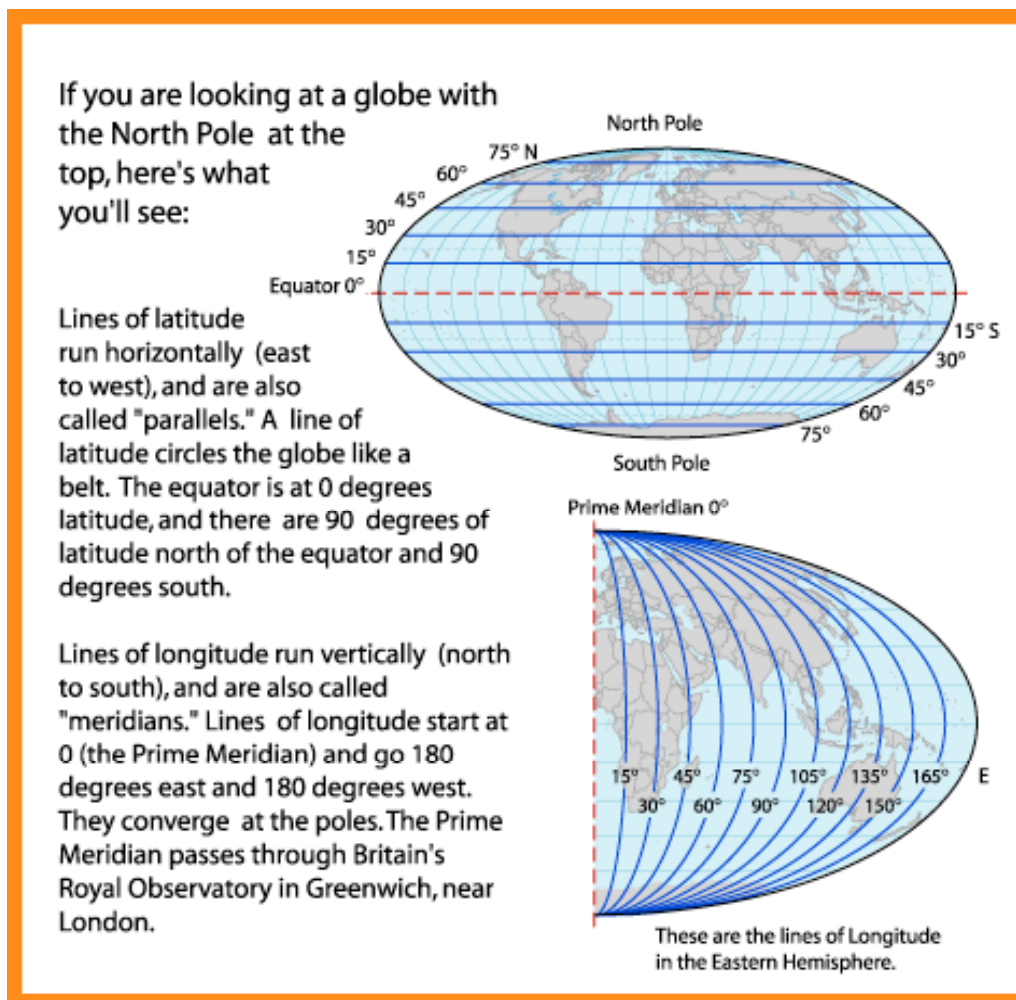


## Latitude and Longitude Made Easy

**Adapted from:** GM Education, Mapping the Globe with Latitude and Longitude  
[http://www.gm.com/experience/education/9-12/technology/latitude\\_longitude.html](http://www.gm.com/experience/education/9-12/technology/latitude_longitude.html)

How do you give a friend directions to your home? You might use street names and tell her where to turn right or left. Or you might use directional terms to say you are north, or southeast, for example, of a landmark.

But how would you tell a satellite where your home is located? Most satellites locate points on the surface of the Earth using latitude and longitude. These two terms represent a coordinate system that marks locations over the entire globe. Latitude and longitude lines do not stop where the land stops, like a street. The imaginary lines continue across the globe, making it a universal system that doesn't change.



So, to give a satellite your address, you would tell it where you are on the Earth's imaginary latitude and longitude grid. By combining longitude and latitude measurements, any location on earth can be determined. For example, Victoria, B.C. is located at about latitude 48 degrees north, and longitude 123 degrees west. For greater precision, each degree of latitude and longitude is divided into 60 minutes. A more exact address for Victoria is: 48°25' N, 123°21' W, meaning its latitude is 48 degrees 25 minutes north, and its longitude is 123 degrees 21 minutes west.