

Determining Latitude And Longitude Lab Answer Key Manual

Determining Latitude and Longitude Lab Answer Key

Understanding how to determine latitude and longitude is essential in geography, navigation, and various scientific applications. Whether you're working on a lab assignment or seeking to improve your knowledge of geographic coordinates, mastering the concepts and procedures involved is fundamental. This article provides a comprehensive guide to the process of determining latitude and longitude, including key steps, common methods, and sample answers for laboratory exercises. With clear explanations and organized sections, you'll gain a thorough understanding to excel in your lab activities and assessments.

Introduction to Latitude and Longitude

What Are Latitude and Longitude?

Latitude and longitude are the two coordinate values used to specify any location on Earth's surface. They form a grid system that allows precise identification of geographic points.

- **Latitude:** Measures the distance north or south of the Equator, ranging from 0° at the Equator to 90° at the poles.
- **Longitude:** Measures the distance east or west of the Prime Meridian, ranging from 0° at the Prime Meridian to 180° east or west.

Importance of Accurate Determination

Knowing how to accurately determine these coordinates is crucial for navigation, mapping, environmental studies, and emergency response.

Methods for Determining Latitude and Longitude

Using a GPS Device

Global Positioning System (GPS) devices are the most common tools for determining geographic coordinates today.

- Turn on the GPS device and wait for it to establish a fix.
- Ensure the device is in a location with clear sky view for better signal reception.
- Read the latitude and longitude values displayed on the device.

Using a Map and a Compass

Before GPS, navigators relied on map reading combined with compass bearings to estimate coordinates.

- Identify your current location on a detailed map.
- Use a compass to determine the bearing to known landmarks.
- Estimate your position relative to these landmarks, then derive approximate latitude and longitude based on map scales and grid lines.

Using Celestial Navigation

Celestial navigation involves measuring angles between celestial bodies and the horizon.

- Measure the altitude of the Sun or a star with a sextant.
- Use time and astronomical tables to determine your position.
- Apply navigational formulas to calculate latitude and longitude.

Step-by-Step Procedure for a Typical Lab Activity

Gathering Necessary Tools

Before starting, ensure you have the following:

- GPS device or map and compass
- Ruler or scale for map measurements
- Calculator
- Notebook for recording data

Conducting the Measurement

Follow these general steps:

- Identify your current location or the location you wish to determine.
- If using a GPS, record the displayed latitude and longitude directly.
- If using a map, locate your position by triangulating from known landmarks or grid lines.
- Record the estimated latitude and longitude values.

Calculating Coordinates (If Needed)

In some labs, students are asked to calculate coordinates based on given data.

- Use known distances and directions from reference points.
- Apply basic trigonometry to find the position relative to landmarks.
- Convert map measurements to actual geographic coordinates using scale ratios.

Sample Lab Answer Key for Determining Latitude and Longitude

Scenario 1: Using a GPS Device

Question: What are the latitude and longitude of the specified location?

Sample Answer:

- Latitude: 40.7128° N
- Longitude: 74.0060° W

Explanation: The GPS device read the coordinates as approximately 40.713° N and 74.006° W, which corresponds to New York City. The slight rounding is acceptable based on device precision.

Scenario 2: Map and Compass Method

Question: Based on the map readings, estimate the coordinates of the observation point.

Sample Answer:

- Latitude: 34° 03' N
- Longitude: 118° 15' W

Explanation: The map indicates the location is near the intersection of the 34° N latitude line and the 118° W longitude line, consistent with Los Angeles.

Scenario 3: Calculating Coordinates from Landmarks

Question: Using the given distances from known landmarks, determine the approximate coordinates.

Given Data:

- Distance from Landmark A (located at 35° N, 120° W): 20 km east
- Distance from Landmark B (located at 33° N, 122° W): 15 km north

Sample Calculation:

- Since 1 degree of longitude at 35° N $\approx 111 \text{ km} \cos(35^\circ) \approx 91 \text{ km}$, moving 20 km east corresponds to approximately 0.22° east.
- Moving 15 km north corresponds to approximately 0.135° north, since 1° latitude $\approx 111 \text{ km}$.

Final Coordinates:

- Latitude: 33° 13' N (33.135°)
- Longitude: 120° 13' W (120.22° W)

Note: Precise calculations depend on more detailed measurements and corrections, but this provides an approximate location.

Common Challenges and Tips for Accurate Determination

Dealing with Errors and Uncertainties

- Ensure GPS devices have a clear view of the sky for optimal signal strength.
- Cross-reference map-based estimations with GPS data when possible.
- Be aware of potential human errors in reading measurements or recording data.

Using Multiple Methods for Verification

- Cross-check GPS readings with map estimations.
- Use celestial navigation techniques for validation in field conditions.

- Confirm readings at different times to account for variations.

Practice Questions and Solutions

- **Question:** You are at a location with a GPS reading of 51.5074° N, 0.1278° W. Which city are you in?

- **Solution:** These coordinates correspond to London, United Kingdom.

- **Question:** Using a map, you estimate your position near the intersection of 48° N and 2° E. What is the approximate location?

- **Solution:** This is near Paris, France.

- **Question:** From a landmark at 30° N, 90° W, you measure a 50 km eastward displacement. What is your new longitude?

- **Solution:** Since 1° longitude at 30° N $\approx 111 \text{ km} \cos(30^{\circ}) \approx 96 \text{ km}$, 50 km east corresponds to approximately 0.52° east. Therefore, new longitude: 90° W - 0.52° = approximately 89.48° W.

Conclusion

Determining latitude and longitude accurately is a vital skill in geography and navigation. Whether employing modern GPS technology, traditional map and compass methods, or celestial navigation techniques, understanding the principles and procedures is essential. The key to success lies in careful measurement, cross-verification, and awareness of potential errors. By practicing these methods and reviewing sample answer keys, students can enhance their proficiency and confidence in geographic coordinate determination.

Remember, precise data collection and critical thinking are fundamental to achieving accurate results. With consistent practice and application of the principles outlined here, mastering the determination of latitude and longitude becomes an attainable goal.

Determining Latitude and Longitude Lab Answer Key: A Comprehensive Guide

Understanding how to determine latitude and longitude is fundamental in geography, navigation, and Earth sciences. The determining latitude and longitude lab answer key serves as an essential resource for students and educators alike, providing step-by-step solutions to exercises that involve pinpointing exact locations on the globe. Whether you're working through a classroom activity or preparing for a fieldwork project, mastering these concepts is crucial for accurate mapping and spatial awareness.

In this guide, we'll explore the core principles behind latitude and longitude, walk through typical lab exercises, and offer tips to interpret answer keys effectively. By the end, you'll have a clearer understanding of how these coordinate systems work and how to confidently solve related problems.

Understanding the Basics of Latitude and Longitude

Before diving into lab exercises and answer keys, it's important to revisit the fundamental concepts of latitude and longitude.

What Are Latitude and Longitude?

- Latitude measures how far north or south a location is from the Equator, which is at 0° latitude. It ranges from 0° at the Equator to 90° North at the North Pole and 90° South at the South Pole.

- Longitude measures how far east or west a location is from the Prime Meridian, which runs through Greenwich, England, at 0° longitude. It ranges from 0° to 180° east or west.

How Are Coordinates Expressed?

Coordinates are typically expressed in degrees (°), minutes ('), and seconds ("), for example: 40° 44' 55" N, 73° 59' 11" W. Alternatively, decimal degrees are used, such as 40.7486° N, -73.9857° W.

Common Lab Exercises for Determining Coordinates

Lab activities often involve interpreting maps, globe images, or satellite data to identify specific locations. Here are typical exercises:

- Reading Coordinates on a Map

Students are given a map with marked locations and asked to identify the latitude and longitude of each point.

- Calculating Coordinates from Data

Given measurements or descriptions, learners calculate the approximate latitude and longitude.

- Using Coordinates to Find Locations

Using provided coordinates, students locate the points on maps or globes.

Step-by-Step Approach to Solving Lab Exercises

A structured approach helps ensure accuracy in determining latitude and longitude:

Step 1: Understand the Map Scale and Symbols

- Check the map legend for scale and symbols.
- Note the coordinate grid lines (parallels for latitude, meridians for longitude).

Step 2: Identify the Reference Lines

- Find the nearest latitude and longitude lines.
- Determine the degrees between the reference lines and the point of interest.

Step 3: Read the Coordinates

- For latitude, read the degrees from the nearest parallel.
- For longitude, read the degrees from the nearest meridian.

Step 4: Estimate Minutes and Seconds (if needed)

- Use the scale between lines to estimate minutes.
- For more precise readings, estimate seconds based on smaller divisions.

Step 5: Record Coordinates with Hemisphere Indicators

- North or South for latitude.
- East or West for longitude.

Interpreting the Lab Answer Key

An answer key provides correct solutions to practice exercises. Here's how to interpret and utilize it:

- Cross-Check Your Answers

- Compare your solutions with the answer key.
- Check each coordinate for proper degree and hemisphere notation.

- Understand the Rationale

- Review explanations or steps provided.
- Note any approximations made, especially when reading between lines.

- Identify Common Mistakes

- Mixing up hemispheres.
- Confusing latitude with longitude.
- Misreading scale divisions.

- Practice Additional Exercises

- Use the answer key as a model to solve similar problems.
- Create your own practice questions based on map features.

Tips for Accurate Determination of Coordinates

- Use a ruler or straightedge when reading map grid lines to improve precision.
- Pay attention to hemispheres; always specify North/South and East/West.
- Familiarize yourself with map scales to better estimate minutes and seconds.
- Practice with different map types (topographic, political, satellite) to develop versatility.
- Double-check your work to minimize errors, especially in exams or fieldwork.

Sample Exercise and Answer Key Explanation

Exercise:

Given a map with a marked location, the nearest latitude line is 40° N, and the nearest longitude line is 74° W. The point lies halfway between 40° N and 41° N, and just a quarter of the way between 74° W and 73° W. Determine the coordinates.

Solution:

- Latitude: halfway between 40° and 41° N is 40° 30' N.
- Longitude: a quarter of the way from 74° W to 73° W:
 - Distance between lines: 1°
 - Quarter of that: 0.25°
 - Since it's west of 74°, and moving toward 73°, subtract 0.25°:
- $74^{\circ} \text{ W} - 0.25^{\circ} = 73^{\circ} 45' \text{ W}.$

Answer:

40° 30' N, 73° 45' W

Final Thoughts

Mastering the determining latitude and longitude lab answer key process enhances spatial reasoning and map-reading skills vital for many fields. Remember, practice makes perfect?regularly working through exercises, understanding map symbols, and interpreting answer keys will develop your proficiency.

By following the structured approach outlined above, you can confidently determine precise locations on Earth's surface, whether for academic purposes, navigation, or geographic analysis. Keep exploring different maps and data sources, and soon, reading and interpreting coordinates will become second nature.

Question What is the purpose of a 'Determining Latitude and Longitude' lab? The purpose of the lab is to teach students how to accurately determine their geographic position using latitude and longitude coordinates through practical activities or map readings. What tools are typically used in a latitude and longitude determination lab? Tools often include GPS devices, compasses, maps, protractors, and sometimes digital or manual coordinate calculators. How do you find your latitude in a lab setting? Latitude can be found by measuring the angle between the horizon and the North Star (Polaris) in the Northern Hemisphere or by using a GPS device or map coordinates if available. What is the significance of longitude in geographic location? Longitude determines a location's east-west position on the Earth's surface, which is essential for pinpointing exact locations and navigation. How can students verify the accuracy of their latitude and longitude readings in the lab? Students can verify their readings by cross-referencing with known coordinates,

using multiple tools like GPS and maps, or comparing with established geographic data. What are common challenges faced when determining coordinates in a lab activity? Common challenges include inaccurate measurements, environmental factors affecting GPS signals, misreading instruments, or errors in map interpretation. How does understanding Earth's coordinate system benefit real-world navigation? It enables precise location identification, improves navigation accuracy, assists in emergency response, and enhances understanding of geographic relationships. What steps are involved in calculating latitude and longitude from a map? Steps include locating the point on the map, identifying the nearest grid lines, measuring the distance from the equator and the prime meridian, and recording the coordinates accordingly. Why is it important to understand the concept of Earth's coordinate system in geography? Understanding the coordinate system is fundamental for navigation, mapping, spatial analysis, and understanding global positioning, which are essential skills in geography and related fields.

Related keywords: latitude, longitude, GPS, coordinate system, map reading, navigation, geographic coordinates, lab activity, spatial orientation, coordinate calculation

latitude and longitude answer

Latitude and longitude answer: These terms are fundamental in understanding how we locate places on Earth's surface. Whether you're navigating with a GPS device, reading a map, or learning about geography, knowing what latitude and longitude are and how they work is essential. This article provides a comprehensive overview of latitude and longitude answer, explaining their definitions, how they function together, and their significance in navigation, cartography, and global positioning systems (GPS).

Understanding Latitude and Longitude

What is Latitude?

Latitude is a geographic coordinate that specifies the north-south position of a point on Earth's surface. It is expressed in degrees, ranging from 0° at the Equator to 90° at the poles (North or South). Lines of latitude, also called parallels, run east-west but are used to measure distance north or south of the Equator.

- Equator: The zero-degree latitude line dividing the Earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.
- North Latitude: Values from 0° to 90°N, indicating locations north of the Equator.

- South Latitude: Values from 0° to 90°S, indicating locations south of the Equator.

What is Longitude?

Longitude measures the east-west position of a point on Earth's surface. It is also expressed in degrees, ranging from 0° at the Prime Meridian to 180° east or west. Lines of longitude, called meridians, run from the North Pole to the South Pole.

- Prime Meridian: The zero-degree longitude line passing through Greenwich, England.
- Eastern Longitude: Values from 0° to 180°E, indicating locations east of the Prime Meridian.
- Western Longitude: Values from 0° to 180°W, indicating locations west of the Prime Meridian.

How Latitude and Longitude Work Together

The Coordinate System

Latitude and longitude combine to create a coordinate system that pinpoints any location on Earth with remarkable precision. For example, the coordinates of the Eiffel Tower in Paris are approximately 48.8584° N (latitude) and 2.2945° E (longitude). This pair of numbers uniquely identifies that spot.

Understanding the Format

Coordinates are often written in various formats:

- **Degrees, Minutes, Seconds (DMS):** e.g., 48°51'30.24"N, 2°17'40.20"E
- **Decimal Degrees (DD):** e.g., 48.8584° N, 2.2945° E

Decimal degrees are more common in digital applications because they simplify calculations and data processing.

The Importance of Hemisphere Indicators

Since latitude and longitude can be positive or negative, understanding hemisphere indicators is vital:

- North (N): Positive latitude
- South (S): Negative latitude

- East (E): Positive longitude
- West (W): Negative longitude

The Significance of Latitude and Longitude in Various Fields

Navigation and GPS Technology

Modern navigation relies heavily on latitude and longitude to guide users accurately to their destinations. GPS devices use satellite signals to determine a device's precise coordinates in real-time, enabling:

- Driving directions
- Hiking and outdoor activities
- Maritime navigation
- Aviation routing

Mapping and Cartography

Cartographers use latitude and longitude to create detailed maps, including topographical, political, and thematic maps. These coordinates help:

- Identify exact locations
- Plot routes and boundaries
- Assess geographical features

Emergency Response and Disaster Management

Accurate geographic coordinates are vital during emergencies to:

- Locate stranded individuals or disaster zones quickly
- Coordinate rescue efforts efficiently
- Distribute aid accurately based on precise location data

Research and Climate Monitoring

Scientists use latitude and longitude to monitor climate patterns, track animal migrations, and study environmental changes across different regions.

How to Find Latitude and Longitude of a Location

Using Online Tools and Maps

You can find the latitude and longitude of any place using various online tools:

- **Google Maps:** Right-click on a location and select "What's here?" to display coordinates.
- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** Advanced tools for detailed spatial analysis.
- **Coordinate Conversion Websites:** Convert between different coordinate formats.

Using GPS Devices

Most GPS devices automatically display the current latitude and longitude coordinates, which can be saved or shared as needed.

Manual Calculation

While more complex, understanding how to manually calculate or interpret coordinates is useful for those studying geography or surveying.

Common Misconceptions About Latitude and Longitude

Assumption That Coordinates Are Always in Degrees

While most coordinates are expressed in degrees, minutes, and seconds, digital applications often prefer decimal degrees for simplicity.

Belief That Coordinates Are Always Exact

Coordinates provide a high degree of accuracy but can have minor errors due to device precision, atmospheric conditions, or data sources.

Thinking Latitude and Longitude Are the Same as Address

Coordinates are a universal way to locate a place, but they are not the same as a traditional address, which might be more user-friendly but less precise.

Conclusion: The Power of Latitude and Longitude Answer

Understanding the latitude and longitude answer is fundamental for anyone involved in navigation,

geography, or global positioning. These coordinates form the backbone of modern mapping and navigation systems, enabling us to find, describe, and explore any location on Earth with remarkable accuracy. Whether you're a traveler, a researcher, or just curious about the world, mastering the concepts of latitude and longitude will enhance your geographical literacy and help you navigate the planet more confidently.

Remember, the next time you look at a map or use a GPS, you're engaging with the powerful coordinate system that makes our world accessible and interconnected.

Latitude and longitude answer: Unlocking the Coordinates of Our World

Understanding the concepts of latitude and longitude is fundamental to navigating, mapping, and understanding our planet. These two coordinate systems form the backbone of geographic positioning, allowing us to pinpoint any location on Earth with remarkable precision. Whether you're a seasoned traveler, a geography enthusiast, or someone interested in technological applications like GPS or cartography, grasping the intricacies of latitude and longitude is essential. This comprehensive analysis explores their definitions, historical development, practical applications, and the technological advances that have transformed how we interpret these geographic coordinates.

Introduction to Latitude and Longitude

At the core of geographic coordinate systems lie latitude and longitude, a set of numerical values that uniquely identify any point on Earth's surface. These coordinates are expressed in degrees, minutes, and seconds, or in decimal degrees, and serve as a universal language for mapping and navigation.

Latitude measures the position north or south of the Equator, which is designated as 0° latitude. Values range from 0° at the Equator to 90° North at the North Pole and 90° South at the South Pole.

Longitude measures the position east or west of the Prime Meridian, which passes through Greenwich, England. Values range from 0° at the Prime Meridian to 180° East and West.

Together, these coordinates provide a precise, two-dimensional method of locating any point on Earth's surface.

The Fundamentals of Latitude

Definition and Measurement

Latitude lines, also known as parallels, run horizontally around the globe and are parallel to the Equator. They are measured in degrees, with the Equator at 0°, the North Pole at 90° North, and the

South Pole at 90° South.

Key points:

- Latitude lines are parallel to each other and never intersect.
- Each degree of latitude is approximately 111 kilometers (69 miles), though this varies slightly due to Earth's oblate shape.
- Latitude determines climate zones: tropical, temperate, and polar.

Significance and Applications

Latitude influences various natural phenomena:

- Climate and weather patterns
- Day length and seasons
- Distribution of flora and fauna

From a practical standpoint, latitude helps in:

- Climate research
- Agricultural planning
- Navigation and mapping

Visualizing Latitude

Imagine a series of horizontal lines encircling Earth, each representing a specific latitude. The further from the Equator, the colder and more polar the climate tends to be.

The Fundamentals of Longitude

Definition and Measurement

Longitude lines, or meridians, run vertically from the North Pole to the South Pole. They are measured relative to the Prime Meridian (0° longitude) passing through Greenwich, England.

Key points:

- Longitude lines converge at the poles.
- Values range from 0° at the Prime Meridian to 180° East or West.
- Earth's rotation causes different longitudes to experience day and night at different times.

Significance and Applications

Longitude is critical for:

- Timekeeping (time zones)
- Navigation, especially maritime and aeronautical
- Coordinating global events

For example, the International Date Line roughly follows 180° longitude, marking the boundary where the date changes.

Visualizing Longitude

Picture a series of vertical lines running from pole to pole, spaced evenly around Earth. These lines help define east-west positioning, and their intersection with latitude lines creates a grid.

The Coordinate System: How Latitude and Longitude Work Together

Creating a Global Grid

Together, latitude and longitude form a coordinate grid, allowing precise location identification. Each point on this grid is represented by a pair of values: (latitude, longitude).

Example:

- The Eiffel Tower in Paris is approximately at 48.8584° N, 2.2945° E.
- The Great Pyramid of Giza is around 29.9792° N, 31.1342° E.

Coordinate Formats

Coordinates can be expressed in different formats:

- Degrees, minutes, seconds (D° M' S")
- Decimal degrees (DD)

Conversion example:

- $48^{\circ} 51' 29'' \text{ N} = 48.8581^{\circ} \text{ N}$
- $2^{\circ} 17' 40'' \text{ E} = 2.2944^{\circ} \text{ E}$

Quadrants and Hemispheres

The Earth's surface is divided into four hemispheres based on latitude and longitude:

- Northern Hemisphere (north of Equator)
- Southern Hemisphere (south of Equator)
- Eastern Hemisphere (east of Prime Meridian)
- Western Hemisphere (west of Prime Meridian)

Coordinates are expressed with positive or negative signs to indicate hemispheres:

- North latitude: positive
- South latitude: negative
- East longitude: positive
- West longitude: negative

Historical Development of Latitude and Longitude

Origins and Early Navigation

Ancient civilizations, such as the Greeks and Chinese, recognized the importance of latitude and longitude for navigation and mapping. Early methods included:

- Using the position of the Sun and stars
- Observing shadow lengths (e.g., Gnomon method)
- Developing primitive charts

Advancements in Measurement

- 17th Century: Development of more accurate instruments like the quadrant and sextant allowed sailors to determine latitude with relative ease.

- Longitude Problem: Determining longitude was significantly more challenging due to the difficulty in measuring time accurately at sea.

Solving the Longitude Problem

- The invention of the marine chronometer by John Harrison in the 18th century revolutionized navigation.

- Accurate timekeeping allowed sailors to compare local noon with Greenwich Mean Time, thereby calculating longitude precisely.

Modern Era

- The advent of satellite technology and GPS has transformed the measurement and application of latitude and longitude.

- Today, these coordinates are generated electronically and are integral to digital mapping systems.

Technological Applications of Latitude and Longitude

Global Positioning System (GPS)

GPS technology relies on a network of satellites that broadcast signals containing precise time and position data. Devices triangulate signals to determine exact latitude and longitude coordinates, enabling:

- Navigation for vehicles, ships, and aircraft
- Personal location services
- Emergency response coordination

Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

GIS platforms use latitude and longitude to layer spatial information, supporting:

- Urban planning
- Environmental monitoring
- Disaster management

Applications in Various Fields

- Maritime navigation: chart plotting and route optimization
- Aviation: flight path planning
- Agriculture: precision farming based on location data
- Tourism: geotagging points of interest
- Research: tracking animal migration patterns

Challenges and Limitations

While latitude and longitude provide a universal framework, several challenges persist:

- Accuracy: Environmental factors and technological limitations can affect precision.
- Coordinate Transformation: Converting between different formats or coordinate systems (e.g., UTM) can be complex.
- Human Error: Data input mistakes can lead to significant errors in location identification.
- Geographical Constraints: Certain remote or underwater locations may lack reliable GPS signals.

Future Trends and Innovations

The evolution of geographic coordinate systems continues with advancements such as:

- Enhanced Satellite Networks: Next-generation GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite Systems) like Galileo and BeiDou improve accuracy and reliability.
- Augmented Reality (AR): Integration of precise coordinates for immersive navigation experiences.
- Indoor Positioning: Developing systems that use latitude and longitude or similar coordinates for indoor environments.
- Quantum Computing: Potentially revolutionizing real-time global positioning and mapping.

Conclusion: The Significance of Latitude and Longitude in Our World

The concepts of latitude and longitude are more than mere numbers—they are the backbone of modern navigation, mapping, and spatial understanding. From ancient sailors crossing uncharted waters to today's autonomous vehicles and global digital maps, these coordinates underpin our ability to explore, understand, and manage our planet. As technology advances, the precision and utility of latitude and longitude continue to grow, promising even more sophisticated applications in

the future.

Understanding their historical development, practical applications, and technological significance enables us to appreciate how these simple yet powerful tools help us navigate the complexities of our world. Whether used in everyday GPS devices or in complex geographic information systems, latitude and longitude remain indispensable in connecting us to our global environment.

Question What are latitude and longitude used for? Latitude and longitude are coordinate systems used to specify precise locations on Earth's surface, essential for navigation, mapping, and GPS technology. **How do I find the latitude and longitude of a place?** You can find the latitude and longitude of a place using online maps like Google Maps, GPS devices, or geographic information systems (GIS). Usually, right-clicking on a location reveals its coordinates. **What is the difference between latitude and longitude?** Latitude measures how far north or south a location is from the Equator, while longitude measures how far east or west a location is from the Prime Meridian. **Why is latitude always between -90 and 90 degrees?** Because latitude lines run parallel from the Equator (0°) to the poles, which are at 90° north and south, so latitude values cannot exceed these bounds. **Can latitude and longitude be negative?** Yes, negative latitude indicates south of the Equator, and negative longitude indicates west of the Prime Meridian. **How accurate are latitude and longitude coordinates?** The accuracy depends on the method used; GPS devices can provide accuracy within a few meters, while manual entry or online maps may vary in precision. **How are latitude and longitude used in navigation?** Navigators use latitude and longitude coordinates to determine precise positions, plot routes, and ensure accurate travel directions across the globe.

Related keywords: coordinates, geolocation, GPS, mapping, coordinate system, hemispheres, geographic coordinates, global positioning, spatial data, map coordinates

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