

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will understand the concepts of latitude and longitude, be able to identify coordinates on a map, and appreciate how these coordinates help us locate places on Earth.

Materials and Prep

- A piece of paper
- A pencil or pen
- A simple world map (can be drawn or printed)
- A ruler
- Access to a globe or an online map (optional)

Before the lesson, make sure to familiarize yourself with the basic concepts of latitude (the lines that run horizontally) and longitude (the lines that run vertically) and how they form a grid on the Earth.

Activities

- **Map Drawing:**

Have the student draw a simple map of the world. They can include the equator and the prime meridian. Use a ruler to draw lines for latitude and longitude, labeling them with degrees (e.g., 0°, 30°, 60°).

- **Coordinate Hunt:**

Give the student a few coordinates (like 0°, 0° or 30°N, 60°W) and ask them to find these locations on their map. Discuss what countries or oceans these coordinates correspond to.

- **Latitude and Longitude Bingo:**

Create a bingo card with different coordinates. Call out coordinates, and the student marks them on their card. This activity reinforces their ability to recognize and locate coordinates quickly.

Talking Points

- "Latitude lines run across the globe like the rungs of a ladder. They tell us how far north or south a place is from the equator."
- "Longitude lines run up and down the globe. They help us find out how far east or west a place is from the prime meridian."
- "Together, latitude and longitude create a grid that helps us pinpoint any location on Earth!"
- "The equator is at 0° latitude, and it divides the Earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres."
- "The prime meridian is at 0° longitude, and it divides the Earth into the Eastern and Western Hemispheres."