

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will understand the concepts of latitude and longitude, how to locate places on a map, and the importance of these coordinates in navigation.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and pencil
- A printed world map or globe (if available)
- Access to a computer or tablet (optional for online map exploration)
- Markers or colored pencils (optional for map activities)

Before the lesson, ensure that the student understands basic map concepts, such as what a map is and how to read simple symbols.

Activities

- **Map Exploration:** Have the student locate their home on a printed map using latitude and longitude. They can draw a star or use a sticker to mark the spot.
- **Coordinate Hunt:** Create a simple game where you give the student specific latitude and longitude coordinates, and they have to find those locations on the map.
- **Latitude and Longitude Drawing:** Using the paper, the student can create their own map, drawing lines for latitude and longitude, and marking different countries or cities they want to learn about.
- **Story Time:** Ask the student to come up with a fun story about a character who travels to different places using latitude and longitude. They can illustrate their story with drawings and maps.

Talking Points

- "Latitude lines run horizontally around the Earth. They help us know how far north or south we are from the Equator."
- "Longitude lines run vertically. They help us know how far east or west we are from the Prime Meridian."
- "The Equator is at 0 degrees latitude. Can you guess what the latitude is at the North Pole?" (Answer: 90 degrees North)
- "Longitude is measured in degrees from the Prime Meridian, which is at 0 degrees longitude. The Prime Meridian runs through Greenwich, England!"
- "Every place on Earth has a unique pair of latitude and longitude coordinates. It's like an address for the whole planet!"
- "Why do you think knowing latitude and longitude is important for explorers and travelers?" (Encourage them to think about navigation and maps)
- "Let's think about our own city. What do you think the latitude and longitude coordinates are? How can we find them?"
- "Maps can be fun! You can use latitude and longitude to plan a treasure hunt. Would you like to create one?"