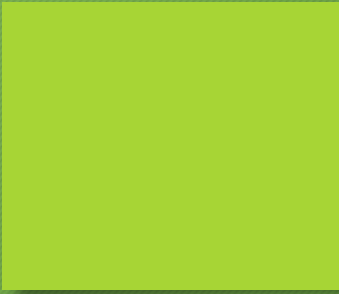


Geography

All Around the World: On the Line

Year 4: Lesson 5- Wednesday 10th February



On the
Line

Aim

- I can explain the position and significance of the Prime Meridian.

Success Criteria

- I can identify the location of the Prime Meridian.
- I can tell you why one Prime Meridian was needed.
- I can tell you why the Prime Meridian's location was chosen.
- I can tell you more about one country on the Prime Meridian.

What is the Prime Meridian?

The lines of longitude are also called meridians.

Meridian comes from a Latin word that means midday.

The sun crosses each meridian half way between sunrise and sunset.

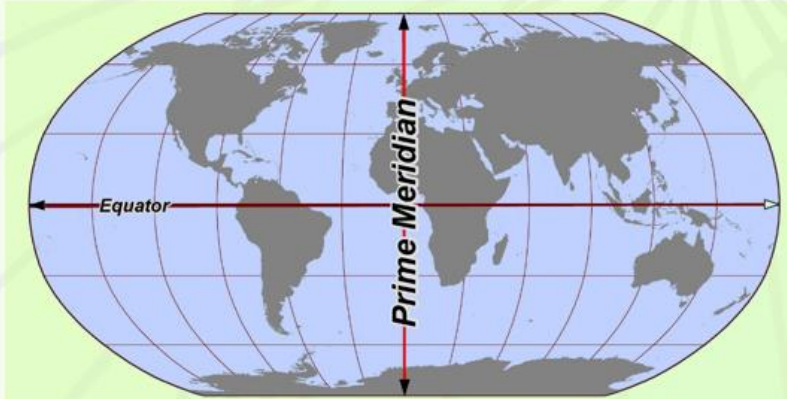
The Prime Meridian is at longitude 0° .

It divides the Earth into two hemispheres, the Eastern Hemisphere and the Western Hemisphere.



The Prime Meridian passes through the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England. It is marked by a red line on the building.

Where is the Prime Meridian?



What countries does it pass through?

In the Northern Hemisphere, the Prime Meridian passes through the UK, France and Spain in Europe and Algeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo and Ghana in Africa.

The only landmass crossed by the Meridian in the Southern Hemisphere is Antarctica.

Photo courtesy of Pearson Scott Foresman, Wikimedia Commons - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Watch the clip about the prime Meridian.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKxKgSGoEbE>

Why Does It Pass Through London?

In 1884, the International Meridian Conference chose to make the line at 0° longitude run through the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England.

Why London?

Most of the world's ships already used charts based around this meridian for navigation.



Are There Other 'Prime' Meridians?

Why might prime meridians be useful to scientists?

Scientists use craters or other features to identify a location for a 'prime' meridians on planets and moons.

It's not just Earth that has a prime meridian.



The prime meridian of Mars passes through a crater named Airy-0.



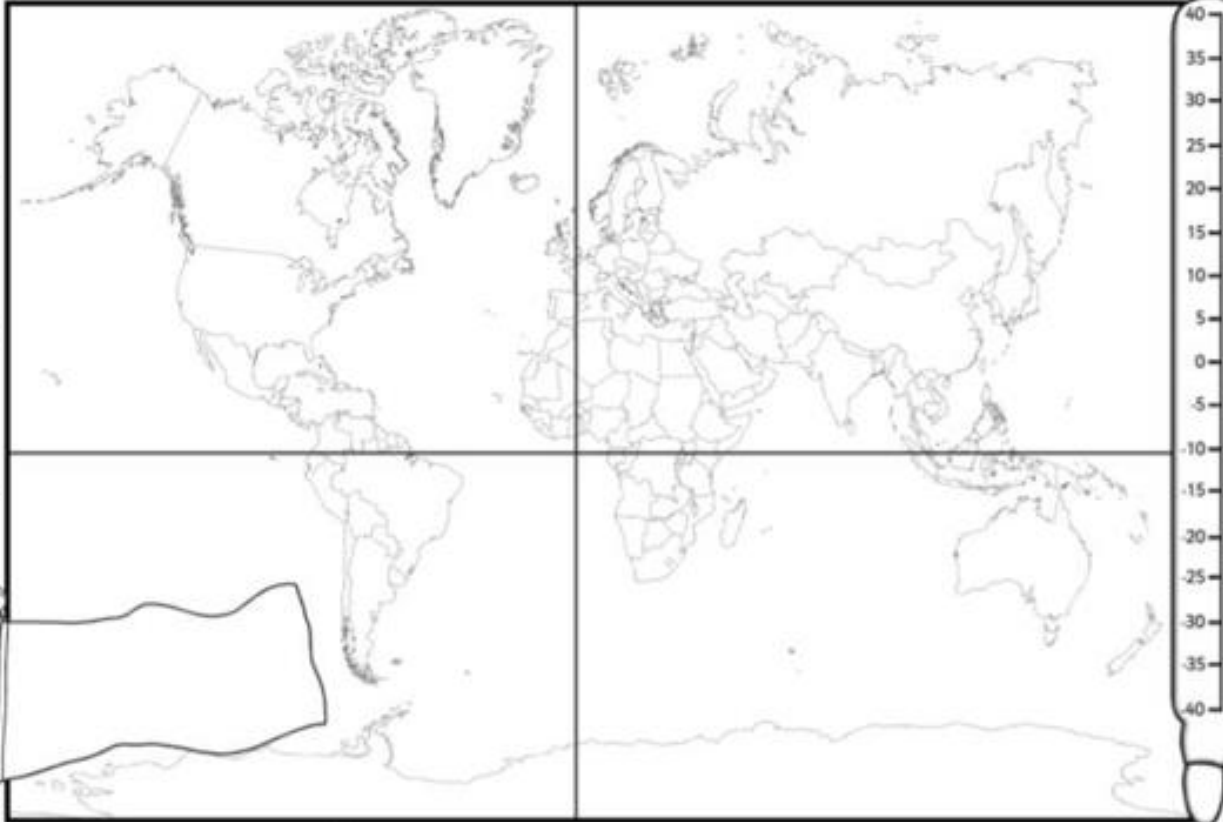
The prime meridian of the Earth's moon is near to a crater named Bruce!



You can print the activity from the home learning page if you wish to.

Countries on the Line

I can explain the position and significance of the Prime Meridian.

Name of Country:	
Capital City:	
Population:	
Official Language(s):	
Average Rainfall:	

Task:

Choose one of the countries that the prime meridian passes through:

UK

France

Spain

Algeria

Mali

Ghana

1. Mark your country on the map
2. Find out the information and fill in the boxes.
3. Colour in the flag for your country.

