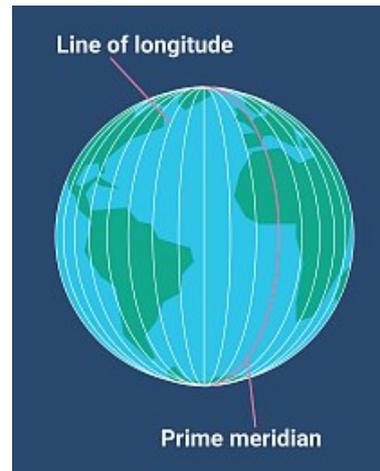


Around the World Time Zones

The world is divided by imaginary horizontal lines called 'lines of longitude' which run from the North Pole to the South Pole.

The earth is divided into two equal parts, the eastern & western hemispheres by the 'prime meridian'. The prime meridian is also used as the basis for time zones across the world and is the starting point for the measuring system called longitude. Meridians are used to measure distance in degrees east or west from the prime meridian.



The prime meridian line from the Greenwich Observatory

The prime meridian is 0° longitude. The 180th meridian is the line of longitude that is exactly opposite the prime meridian on the other side of the world. It is 180° longitude & most of it passes through the ocean, however also covers parts of Russia and the island of Fiji.

The prime meridian is also called the Greenwich meridian because it passes through Greenwich, England. Before 1884 map makers usually began numbering the lines of longitude on their maps at whichever meridian passed through the site of their national observatory. As Great Britain was a world leader in exploration and map making, many countries used British maps. In 1884, scientists decided that everyone should use the same starting longitude line and that it would run through the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London. It is also sometimes known as 'Greenwich Mean Time' or GMT. Time in places to the east of the prime meridian are always ahead of the UK & those to the west are always behind. Sydney, Australia, is 10 hours ahead of the UK so we write their time zone as 'GMT+10', whereas New York in America is 4 hours behind so we write 'GMT-4'

Did you know that the prime meridian runs through Cambridgeshire too? It passes through the a golf club just outside the small village of Toft, a few miles west of Cambridge.



Around the World

Time Zones



Ely Time Zones

Ely, England	GMT + 0
Ely, Wales	GMT + 0
Mt. Ely, Australia	GMT + 10
Ely, Nevada, USA	GMT - 8
Ely, Minnesota, USA	GMT - 6
Ely, Michigan, USA	GMT - 4
Ely, Texas, USA	GMT - 5
Ely, New Jersey, USA	GMT - 4
Ely, Vermont, USA	GMT - 5
Ely, Virginia, USA	GMT - 4
Ely, Iowa, USA	GMT - 6

Questions

See if you can answer these questions based on what we've learnt about time zones

1. If you live in Ely, England, and have your breakfast at 8am, what meal is your friend who lives near Mount Ely, Australia eating?
2. Why does the prime meridian run through Greenwich in London?
3. Nevada is on the west coast of America & New Jersey is on the east coast. What is the time difference between these?
4. What is the time difference between the two Elys in the United Kingdom?
5. Think of 3 different countries in the world & work out what time zone they are in. Do you think they do similar activities to you at the same time or are they going to sleep when you are waking up?