

Years 5 and 6 Knowledge Organiser - Time Zones

Key Vocabulary

Latitude - lines that 'cut' the Earth horizontally

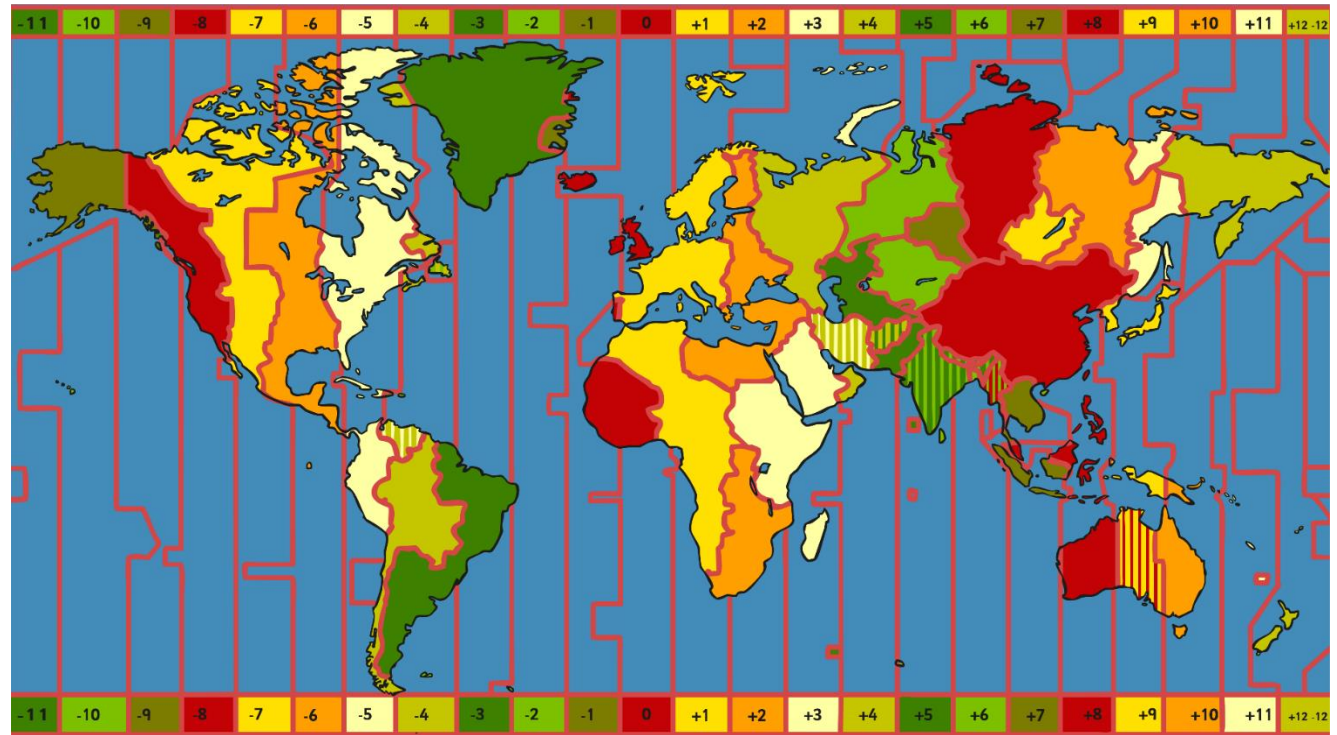
Longitude - lines that 'cut' the Earth vertically

Prime Meridian - the line of longitude at 0°

Equator - the line of latitude at 0°

Greenwich Mean Time - the yearly average (or 'mean') of the time each day when the Sun crosses the Prime Meridian at the Royal Observatory Greenwich (London)

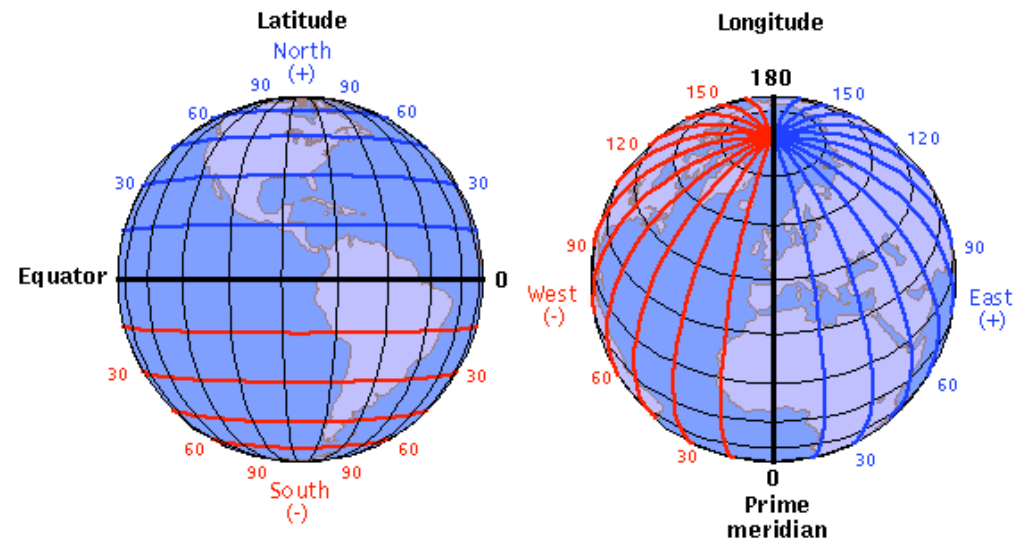
Co-ordinated Universal Time - the primary time standard by which the world regulates clocks and time



Why do we have different Time Zones?

The sun is highest in the sky at 12pm - this is midday. This happens at different times in different places around the world. For every place to have midday when the sun is highest, we have to divide the Earth into Time Zones. The sphere divided into the 24 hours means each section is 15°. As you can see from the map, the world is split into these sections with almost vertical lines. Any place in the 0 section, also known as GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) or UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time) has midday at the same time. This means it is always the same time in these places. Anywhere one hour ahead of GMT, and therefore one hour ahead of the U.K, is in the +1 section. See the map to know which places are in which time zone. Some countries have more than one time zone as they span across two sections on the time zone map.

New Year is celebrated at different times in different places due to these time zones, meaning some people see in the new year before we do. Some people celebrate New Year after us!



Daylight Saving Time

In the UK, during summer, there are more hours of daylight. The days are lighter for longer. In the winter, there are fewer hours of daylight. The days become darker earlier in the evening.

In the UK, the day which has the most hours of daylight in the year is the 21st June. This is called the summer solstice. The day which has the fewest hours of daylight in the year is the 21st December. This is called the winter solstice.

When British Summer Time begins, everyone moves the time on their clocks forward one hour. This is called 'putting the clocks forward'.

In April 1916, Germany became the first country to switch to Daylight Saving Time (DST). This saved fuel during the war. In May 1916, Britain also switched to Daylight Saving Time.

Some people are in favour of DST but some people think it is a bad idea. There is lots of information on the internet about this!



Good things about DST:

- Fewer traffic accidents as people can see more clearly in daylight.
- Saving energy as not as many lights are on so less electricity is being used.
- More people exercise outside.

Not so good things about DST:

- Darker mornings can mean it is less safe for children to walk to school.
- Farmers get up early, so are working in the dark for longer.

