





▲ Figure 2.1 Plotting coordinates

The antipode is the point on the opposite side of Earth from another point. You may have heard that if you dig straight down, you'll eventually reach China. Setting aside the difficulties of digging through the molten iron outer core of Earth, you wouldn't end up in China if you started digging from the United States.

To find the antipode of a location, you'll need to find both the latitude and longitude of the antipode. To find the antipodean latitude, convert the location's latitude to the opposite hemisphere. If the latitude is 50°N, its antipodean latitude is 50°S. With longitude, the antipode is always 180° away. To find the antipodean longitude, simply subtract the location's longitude from 180° and change it to the other hemisphere. To find the antipodean longitude of 120°W, subtract 120° from 180°, and change it to the Eastern Hemisphere to find 60°E.

5. What is the antipode of your current location?

*Personal answer, depending upon students' locations*

6. If you wanted to dig through the center of the Earth and come up in Beijing, China, where should you start digging?

**39°S 64°W**

## SECTION 2

### Latitude and Longitude Values

1. From the table, you can see that latitude lines are evenly spaced, approximately 111 km (69 miles) apart at any latitude. Using these values as the linear distance separating each degree of latitude, the distance between any given pair of parallels can be calculated. (*Note: Locations must be due north-south of each other.*) For example, Denver is approximately 40° north of the equator (arc distance). The linear distance between Denver and the equator can be calculated as follows:

$$40^\circ \text{ N to } 0^\circ = 40^\circ \times 111 \text{ km}/1^\circ = 4440 \text{ km}$$

or

$$40^\circ \text{ N to } 0^\circ = 40^\circ \times 69 \text{ miles}/1^\circ = 2760 \text{ miles}$$

Using these same values for a degree of latitude and an atlas for city location, calculate the linear distance in kilometers and miles between the following sets of points (along a meridian):

- Mumbai, India, and the equator  $19^\circ \times 111 \text{ km}/1^\circ = 2109 \text{ km or, } 19^\circ \times 69 \text{ mi}/1^\circ = 1311 \text{ mi}$
  - Miami, Florida, and 10° south latitude  $26^\circ \times 111 \text{ km}/1^\circ = 2886 \text{ km or, } 26^\circ \times 69 \text{ mi}/1^\circ = 1794 \text{ mi}$
  - Edinburgh, Scotland, and 5° north  $51^\circ \times 111 \text{ km}/1^\circ = 5661 \text{ km or, } 51^\circ \times 69 \text{ mi}/1^\circ = 3519 \text{ mi}$
  - Your location and the equator *Personal answer*
2. The table also shows that the linear distance separating each 1° of longitude decreases toward the poles. For example, at 30° latitude each degree of longitude is separated by slightly more than 96 km (nearly 60 miles), and at 60° latitude, the linear distance is reduced to approximately half that at the equator. For each of the following latitudes, determine the linear distance in kilometers and in miles for 15° of longitudinal arc (along a parallel): The first answer is provided for you in bracketed italics.

	km	miles
a) 30° latitude:	<u><math>[15^\circ \times 96.49 \text{ km} = 1447 \text{ km}]</math></u>	<u><math>[15^\circ \times 59.96 \text{ mi} = 899 \text{ mi}]</math></u>
b) 40° latitude:	<u><math>15 \times 85.40 \text{ km} = 1281 \text{ km}</math></u>	<u><math>15 \times 53.07 = 796 \text{ mi}</math></u>
c) 50° latitude:	<u><math>1075.50 \text{ km} (15 \times 71.70 \text{ km})</math></u>	<u><math>668.25 \text{ mi} (15 \times 44.55 \text{ mi})</math></u>
d) 60° latitude:	<u><math>837 \text{ km} (15 \times 55.8 \text{ km})</math></u>	<u><math>520.05 \text{ mi} (15 \times 34.67 \text{ mi})</math></u>

3. Again using Table 2.1, what is the linear distance in kilometers and miles along the parallel at your latitude from your location to the prime meridian?

*Personal answer*

4. What is the approximate linear distance of the following angular distances, at your present latitude?

	km	miles
One degree	<u><i>Personal answers</i></u>	<u>_____</u>
One minute of longitude	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
One second of longitude	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
A tenth of a degree	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
One hundredth of a degree	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>





**Lab Exercise 2: The Geographic Grid and Time**

Calculate the difference between standard and Sun time using the answer you determined in no. 3 above. How many minutes ahead or behind your standard meridian are you?

*Personal answer*

5. Assume the time on your watch, showing local standard time, is 4:15 P.M. A chronometer reads 2:15 A.M. What is your longitude?

*150°W*

6. John Harrison's chronometer (a clock giving Coordinated Universal Time) lost 5 seconds during the 81-day voyage from England to Jamaica. Given that Earth rotates through 15° in 1 hour, how many degrees of longitude would the ship be off, with an error of 5 seconds? How many kilometers and miles would that be, assuming 111 km per degree of longitude?

*0.02 degrees, 2.3 km or 1.4 mi*

7. Does your community adopt daylight saving time? What are the dates for adjusting clocks in the spring and fall?

*Personal answer*

8. What time does your physical geography lab start

- a) according to standard time? \_\_\_\_\_ *Personal answers*
- b) according to daylight saving time? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) in UTC? \_\_\_\_\_  
(24-hour clock time in Greenwich, England, e.g., 3:00 P.M. = 15:00 hours)