



# Geography

All Around the World



# On the Line

twinkl

# 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.

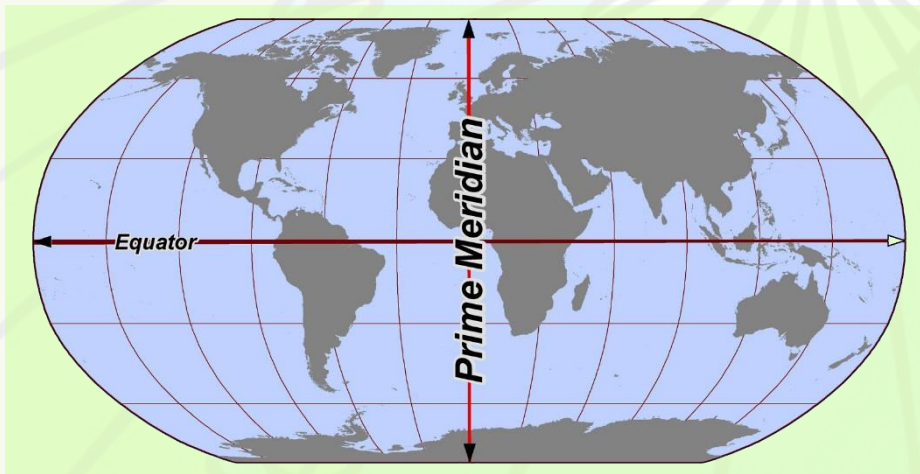
The Prime Meridian is at longitude  $0^\circ$ .

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?



Can you find the  $0^{\circ}$ E/W line on your map?

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.

# Why Do We Need a Prime Meridian?



Before 1884, different countries published maps and shipping charts with longitude based on the meridian passing through their capital city.



France would publish maps with 0 longitude running through Paris.

Cartographers in China would publish maps with 0 longitude running through Beijing.

Even different parts of the same country published materials based on local meridians.

What problems could that cause?



# Why Does It Pass Through London?

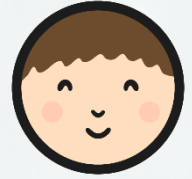
In 1884, the International Meridian Conference chose to make the line at  $0^{\circ}$  longitude run through the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England.

## Why London?

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



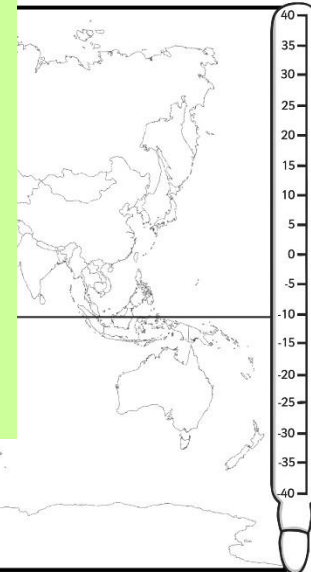
# What Is on the Line?



## Countries on the Line

### Challenge!

- What else can you find out about your chosen country?
- What tourist sites could you visit?
- How would you get there?
- What is the currency?



Average Rainfall:



# Are There Other 'Prime' Meridians?



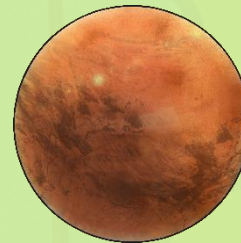
Why might prime meridians be useful to scientists?

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!



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