

Ch-2 Latitudes and Longitudes

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Important notes on latitudes and longitudes

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1) Latitudes And Longitudes

i) Latitudes and Longitudes are imaginary lines used to determine the location of a place on earth.

ii) The shape of the earth is 'Groid'. And the location of a place on the earth can be mentioned in terms of latitudes and longitudes.

Example: The location of India - The longitudinal extent of India is

is 8 degree 4' N and 36 degree 7' N.

2) LATITUDE (The parallels of latitude refer to the angular distance, in degrees, minutes and seconds of a point north or south of the Equator. Lines of latitude are often referred to as parallels.)

A) Important PARALLELS OF LATITUDES

(i) Besides the equator (0°), the north pole ($90^\circ N$) and the south pole ($90^\circ S$), there are four important parallels of latitudes.

(ii) Tropic of Cancer ($23\frac{1}{2}^\circ N$) in the northern hemisphere.

iii) Tropic of capricorn ($22\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S) in the southern hemisphere.

iv) Arctic circle at $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ north of the equator;

v) Antarctic circle at $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ south of the equator.

B) LATITUDINAL HEAT ZONES OF THE EARTH.

TORRID ZONES

The mid-day sun is exactly overhead at least once a year on all latitudes in between the Tropic of cancer and the Tropic of capricorn.

TEMPERATE ZONES

The areas bounded by the Tropic of Cancer and the Arctic circle in the northern hemisphere and the Tropic of Capricorn and the Antarctic circle in the southern hemisphere have moderate temperatures.

FRIGID ZONES

Areas lying between the arctic circle

and the north pole in the northern hemisphere and the antarctic circle and the south pole in the southern hemisphere, are the Antarctic ice circles.

and the south pole in the southern hemisphere are very cold. It is because here the sun does not rises enough above the horizon.