



### Bands of Latitude

Latitude measures distance north or south of the equator. It is measured in degrees and can also be called the angular distance north or south of the equator. Several values of latitude are particularly significant. The equator is the line from which latitude is measured and serves as the division between the Northern and Southern Hemisphere. It has a latitude of 0 degrees. All places north of the equator have a north latitude and all places south of the equator have a south latitude. The second latitude of significance is 90 degrees North or South as it represents the latitude of the North Pole or South Pole, respectively. It is the highest possible value for latitude. The third latitude of significance is that of the tropics. The tropics mark the northernmost and southernmost position of the vertical noontime sun. The Tropic of Cancer, 23.5 degrees North, marks the northernmost position of the noontime vertical sun, occurring on the June solstice. The other tropic, the Tropic of Capricorn, 23.5 degrees South, marks the southernmost position of the noontime vertical sun, occurring on the December solstice. The fourth set of significant latitude lines includes the Arctic Circle, at 66.5 degrees North, and the Antarctic Circle, at 66.5 degrees South. They represent the boundary of 24 hours of daylight and 24 hours of night on the solstices.

To make describing locations easier, the terms low latitude, middle latitude or mid-latitude, and high latitude are used. Locations close to the equator and between the tropics are said to have low latitudes. The values range from 0 degrees to 23.5 degrees North or South of the equator. Mid-latitudes or middle latitudes are generally found about halfway between the equator and the Poles. They are located between 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. Their latitudes range from 23.5 degrees and 66.5 degrees either North or South. The high latitudes are relatively distant from the Equator. They are located from the Arctic Circle to the North Pole in the Northern Hemisphere and from the Antarctic Circle to the South Pole in the Southern Hemisphere. Their latitudes range from 66.5 degrees to 90 degrees North or South.

*Using the chart, answer the following questions:*

**WorldView Software: World Geography**

**ART: Question 1**

*What is the latitude of the equator?*

**Question 2**

*What is the latitude of the Tropic of Cancer?*

**Question 3**

*What line has a latitude of 66.5 degrees South?*

**Question 4**

*What line has a latitude of 23.5 degrees South?*

**Question 5**

*Is a place with a latitude of 40 degrees North classified as low, middle, or high latitude?*

**Question 6**

*Is a place with a latitude of 55 degrees South classified as low, middle, or high latitude?*

**Question 7**

*Is a place with a latitude of 20 degrees North classified as low, middle, or high latitude?*