

# All Around the World: On the Line

<p><b>Aim:</b> To identify the position and significance of the Prime /Greenwich Meridian by exploring countries on the Meridian Line.</p> <p>I can explain the position and significance of the Prime Meridian.</p>	<p><b>Success Criteria:</b></p> <p>I can identify the location of the Prime Meridian.</p> <p>I can tell you why one Prime Meridian was needed.</p> <p>I can tell you why the Prime Meridian's location was chosen.</p> <p>I can tell you more about one country on the Prime Meridian.</p>	<p><b>Resources:</b> <a href="#">Lesson Pack</a></p> <p>Globe</p> <p>World maps</p> <p>Information books about countries on the Prime Meridian</p> <p>Internet access</p>
	<p><b>Key/New Words:</b> Prime Meridian, Greenwich Meridian, Greenwich Mean Time.</p>	<p><b>Preparation:</b> <a href="#">Countries on the Line Activity Sheet</a> - as required</p>

**Prior Learning:** It will be helpful if children have previously learnt about latitude and longitude in order to be able to identify the location of the Prime Meridian.

## Learning Sequence

	<p><b>What Is the Prime Meridian?</b> Share the facts about the Prime Meridian with the children. Explain that the term meridian comes from a Latin word that means midday. The Sun crosses each meridian halfway between sunrise and sunset. The Prime Meridian is the line of longitude 0°E/W.</p>	
	<p><b>Where Is the Prime Meridian?</b> Show the children the meridians (or lines of longitude) marked on a globe or world map. Look together at the numbers. <i>Where is the 0°E/W line? Which countries does it pass through?</i></p>	
	<p><b>Why Do We Need a Prime Meridian?</b> Explain to the children that, prior to 1884, different countries based their maps and charts on a 0° longitude line that passed through their own capital city. <i>What problems could that cause?</i> (Sailors would need to convert between charts when travelling long distances.)</p>	
	<p><b>Why Does It Pass through London?</b> Explain that, In 1884, the International Meridian Conference chose to make the line at 0° longitude run through the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England. The conference chose Greenwich as most of the world's ships used this meridian already,</p>	
  	<p><b>What Is on the Line?</b> Remind children how to complete a fact card about the UK as in lesson 1 by illustrating the flag, marking the location on the world map, filling in key details and recording the average daily temperature on the thermometer. Children choose one of the countries located on the Prime Meridian and <i>research key information</i> about it using the <a href="#">Countries on the Line Activity Sheet</a>.</p> <p>Children find out about one of the European countries on the Prime Meridian, using information books.</p>	  
	<p><b>Are There Other 'Prime' Meridians?</b> Ask the children their thoughts. <i>Why might 'prime' meridians be useful to scientists?</i></p>	

## Taskit

- Exploreit:** Plan a trip travelling to all the countries that are 'on the line' of the Prime Meridian – how could you travel? What would you see?
- Seeit:** Use these [interactive maps](#) to look at some of the markers which have been placed to show visitors that they are 'on the line', both in the UK and overseas.
- Makeit:** The Royal Observatory in Greenwich is home to some clocks made by clockmaker John Harrison in the 1700s. His clocks helped sailors keep time even on stormy seas. Challenge children to make a water clock or sand timer that will time exactly one minute!