

Map and Graph Skills Activity

Using Latitude and Longitude

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARD 1: The geographically informed person knows and understands how to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.



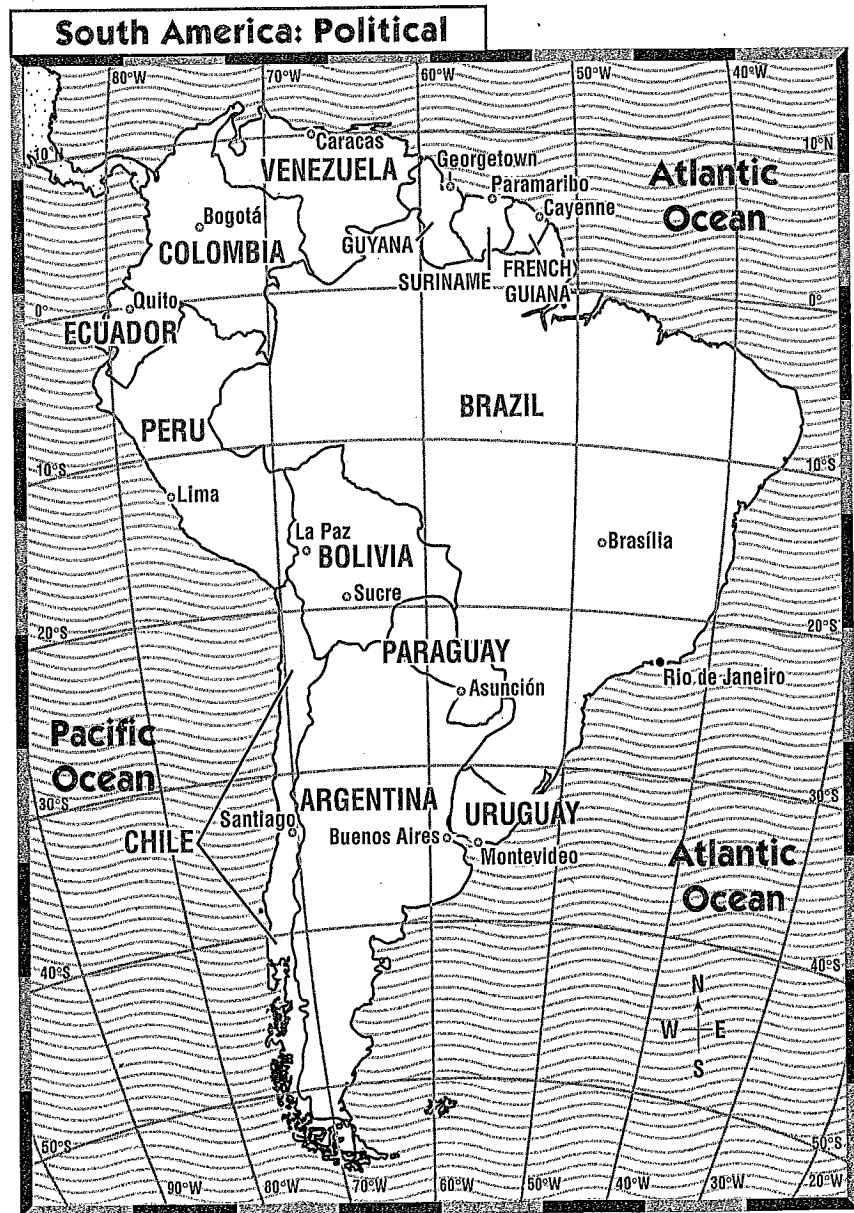
Learning the Skill

To find exact locations on a map, you can use the imaginary lines of latitude and longitude. Latitude lines circle the earth east to west. Longitude lines run vertically from the North Pole to the South Pole. The point at which the lines of latitude and longitude cross are the coordinates of an exact location. To find latitude and longitude, follow these steps:

- Choose a location on the map or globe.
- Identify the number of the nearest line of latitude.
- Identify the number of the nearest line of longitude that crosses it.

Applying the Skill

Directions: Study the political map of South America. Use the lines of latitude and longitude to answer the questions on the next page.



THE WORLD'S PEOPLE

Map and Graph Skills Activity (continued)

1. Which South American countries shown on the map lie entirely to the east of the 60°W longitude line?

2. Through which South American countries does the Equator run?

3. Which South American countries shown on the map are entirely north of the Equator?

4. What is the closest line of latitude to Buenos Aires? To Georgetown?

5. **Critical Thinking** Write the names of the countries located at the following degrees of latitude and longitude.

	Country
a. 9°S, 53°W	_____
b. 8°N, 65°W	_____
c. 24°S, 57°W	_____
d. 36°S, 67°W	_____
e. 35°S, 72°W	_____

6. **Activity** Turn to the Reference Atlas map of the United States in your textbook. Find your city or the city closest to it. What are its coordinates?

Practicing the Skill

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the map by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. Which city shown on the map is closest to the Equator?

- A. Bogotá, Colombia
- B. Quito, Ecuador
- C. Caracas, Venezuela
- D. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2. Which city shown on the map is closest to 20°S, 40°W?

- A. Caracas, Venezuela
- B. Buenos Aires, Argentina
- C. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- D. Quito, Ecuador

3. Which of the following are the correct coordinates of Montevideo, Uruguay?

- A. 35°S, 56°W
- B. 25°S, 58°W
- C. 33°S, 71°W
- D. 19°S, 65°W

4. Which of the following are the correct coordinates of Santiago, Chile?

- A. 35°S, 56°W
- B. 25°S, 58°W
- C. 33°S, 71°W
- D. 19°S, 65°W