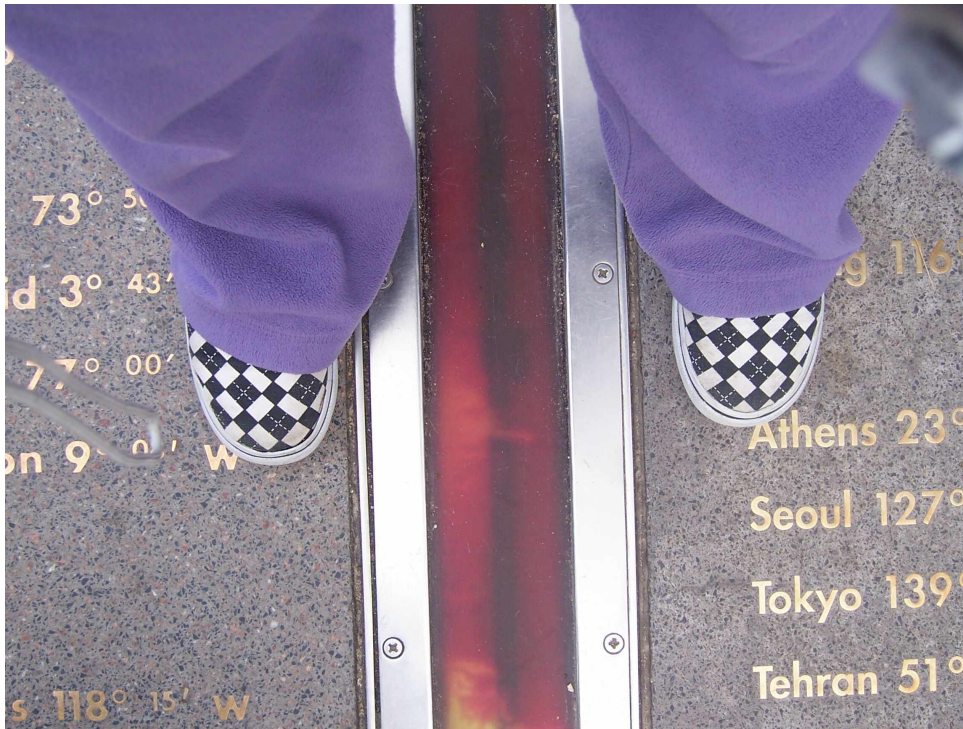


Prime Meridian

Definition and Description: The Prime Meridian is the reference line of longitude in Earth's coordinate system. The Prime Meridian is an imaginary line that runs from North Pole to South Pole like all meridians of longitude. The Prime Meridian passes through the town of Greenwich, England and can be referred to as the Greenwich meridian. The actual line passes through the Royal Observatory on a hill in Greenwich where celestial observations have been made for centuries. The time at the Prime Meridian was called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) but is now referred to as Universal Time (UTC). There is a large Z placed at the end of the time to show it is Universal Time (1800Z).

Photograph:



This photograph was taken in April 2004 outside the Royal observatory in Greenwich, England. My daughter, Miranda, looked at her feet and liked the image. On the left of the photo are longitudes of points in the western hemisphere while all of the cities named on the right side of the photo are in the eastern hemisphere.

This photo clearly shows the prime meridian because of the labeling of the western and eastern

hemispheres. Can you determine what direction she was facing in the photograph?



This photograph below shows Miranda standing outside the Royal Observatory with the Prime Meridian running directly through the building. The Prime Meridian passes through a Telescope that has been used to make observations of the stars for Centuries.

Related Terms: Longitude, Latitude, Time Zones, Meridian, Parallel

Submitted by K. Abbott, March 2012