Lines Across Earth

Use directions to locate five important lines.

SS24.3.1a "Identify the Equator, International Date Line, Prime Meridian, Tropic of Capricorn, and Tropic of Cancer, using cardinal and intermediate directions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the five named lines in the passage, and circle the direction words in paragraph 2 to show how the lines help you find places.

A Ship at the Crossroads

1. Imagine a ship at a point where two invisible lines cross in the Atlantic Ocean. The Equator circles Earth's middle from east to west. It separates the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The Prime Meridian runs from the North Pole to the South Pole and passes through Greenwich, England. It helps divide the globe into eastern and western halves. The ship is where these lines meet.

2. Now picture two special lines around Earth. The Tropic of Cancer lies north of the Equator, and the Tropic of Capricorn lies south of it. Both run east to west, like the Equator. From the ship, you could travel northeast to a place above the Equator and east of the Prime Meridian. You could also travel southwest to a place below the Equator and west of the Prime Meridian.

3. The International Date Line is another north-to-south line. It zigzags through the Pacific Ocean, far from the Prime Meridian. When travelers cross it, the calendar date changes by one day. A traveler going west across the line moves to the next date. A traveler going east moves to the previous date. Its bends help keep groups of islands on the same date.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Your boat sails east along Earth's middle. Which named line does it follow?

2. A plane flies north from the Equator to the northern tropic. Which line does it reach?

3. A plane flies southwest from the ship and lands on the southern tropic. Name that line. Is the plane east or west of the Prime Meridian?

4. A ship follows the line through Greenwich, then later crosses the line in the Pacific where the date changes. Name both lines in that order.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine three trips from the ship's starting point. Write three sentences, each naming a different line you are not already on and a direction you could travel to reach it. Use at least one intermediate direction, such as northeast or southwest.

Lines Across Earth

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the five named lines in the passage, and circle the direction words in paragraph 2 to show how the lines help you find places. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Your boat sails east along Earth's middle. Which named line does it follow?	**The Equator.**
2	A plane flies north from the Equator to the northern tropic. Which line does it reach?	**The Tropic of Cancer.**
3	A plane flies southwest from the ship and lands on the southern tropic. Name that line. Is the plane east or west of the Prime Meridian?	**The Tropic of Capricorn. The plane is west of the Prime Meridian.**
4	A ship follows the line through Greenwich, then later crosses the line in the Pacific where the date changes. Name both lines in that order.	**The Prime Meridian, then the International Date Line.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I could travel northwest from the ship to reach the Tropic of Cancer. I could travel southeast to reach the Tropic of Capricorn. I could travel east along the Equator to reach the International Date Line.

Accept any three distinct lines other than the Equator and Prime Meridian if each direction could lead from their crossing point to the named line. At least one direction must be intermediate.