

Equator Map Sort

Use the Equator to locate cities and regions on a world map or globe.

WG.10.a "identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

NORTH OF THE EQUATOR

A place in the Northern Hemisphere is north of the Equator. Its latitude is marked with °N.

The Scandinavian Peninsula is north of the Equator.

SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR

A place in the Southern Hemisphere is south of the Equator. Its latitude is marked with °S.

The Kalahari Desert is south of the Equator.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Use a world map or globe to circle NORTHERN or SOUTHERN for each place, then choose two items and explain which map clue helped you locate them.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Tokyo, Japan | ☐ NORTHERN | ☐ SOUTHERN |
| 2. The Pampas | ☐ NORTHERN | ☐ SOUTHERN |
| 3. Cape Town, South Africa | ☐ NORTHERN | ☐ SOUTHERN |
| 4. The Himalayas | ☐ NORTHERN | ☐ SOUTHERN |
| 5. Cairo, Egypt | ☐ NORTHERN | ☐ SOUTHERN |
| 6. The Great Barrier Reef | ☐ NORTHERN | ☐ SOUTHERN |
| 7. Mexico City, Mexico | ☐ NORTHERN | ☐ SOUTHERN |
| 8. Patagonia | ☐ NORTHERN | ☐ SOUTHERN |

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new major city or geographic region for NORTHERN and one for SOUTHERN. Include a map clue, such as its location compared with the Equator or its latitude.

NORTHERN _____

SOUTHERN _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a major city and a major geographic region in the same hemisphere. Name the hemisphere and give one map clue for each place.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Tokyo, Japan	NORTHERN	Tokyo is about 36°N latitude, north of the Equator.
2	The Pampas	SOUTHERN	The Pampas grassland region is in Argentina and Uruguay, south of the Equator.
3	Cape Town, South Africa	SOUTHERN	Cape Town is about 34°S latitude, south of the Equator.
4	The Himalayas	NORTHERN	The Himalayas are in Asia, north of the Equator.
5	Cairo, Egypt	NORTHERN	Cairo is about 30°N latitude, north of the Equator.
6	The Great Barrier Reef	SOUTHERN	The Great Barrier Reef is off northeastern Australia, south of the Equator.
7	Mexico City, Mexico	NORTHERN	Mexico City is about 19°N latitude, north of the Equator.
8	Patagonia	SOUTHERN	Patagonia is in southern Argentina and Chile, south of the Equator.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **NORTHERN:** Istanbul, Türkiye, is north of the Equator at about 41°N.
- **SOUTHERN:** The Atacama Desert is in northern Chile, south of the Equator.

Challenge: Sydney, Australia, and the Great Dividing Range are in the Southern Hemisphere. Sydney is about 34°S, and the Great Dividing Range is in eastern Australia, south of the Equator.

Students should use the Equator or latitude labels on a world map or globe as evidence. Accept accurate location evidence that clearly places each selected city or region north or south of the Equator.