

The Equator and the Poles · Conversation & classroom guide

Learning with a grown-up · Ages 4–8 · Flexible participation

What does the Equator help us describe?

Learning aim: Locate the geographic poles and Equator, and distinguish the two hemispheres.

A five-minute conversation

Begin with the globe, then find the thin line around its middle. Let your child trace one half of Earth before introducing the word hemisphere. Compare this globe with the accepted continents and oceans posters.

Start here: Point to the middle line and choose the half above or below it when named.

Explore further: Explain why the line is imaginary and describe a pretend journey between the two hemispheres.

What does the Equator help us describe?

Answer cue: It divides Earth into a northern half and a southern half. Each half is called a hemisphere.

Where are the two geographic poles in this picture?

Answer cue: The North Pole is at the top of this upright globe and the South Pole at the bottom. They are opposite ends of Earth's north-south rotation axis.

Would a traveler find a gold stripe running all the way around Earth?

Answer cue: No. The Equator is an imaginary line used to describe locations. The gold line makes that idea visible on this globe.

Keep the idea clear

These are geographic poles, not magnetic poles. A globe can be tilted without changing which pole is north. The upright teaching view does not explain seasons or Earth's tilt. A hemisphere is half a sphere; this poster shows the northern and southern pair.

Try: Make a two-hemisphere picture

Materials: Paper and crayons; an optional large globe already available at home or school.

1. Draw a large circle to represent a view of Earth. Draw a line across its middle for the Equator.
2. Point to the northern half, the southern half and the two poles. An adult can write the names.
3. Add a pretend journey that crosses the Equator and describe how its hemisphere changes.

What this can show: The child identifies the Equator and one hemisphere, using pointing, words or an adult-supported drawing. Keep this a drawing or pointing activity. No travel, purchase, personal location or small model pieces are needed.

Return to it: Return to the continents poster. Find Africa and compare the land on either side of the Equator using this globe.

The Equator and the Poles · In the classroom

A 15-minute classroom lesson

Prepare: Paper and crayons; an optional large globe already available at home or school. Read the answer cues before sharing.

Words to explore

Equator — An imaginary line around Earth halfway between the geographic poles.

geographic pole — One of the two places where Earth's rotation axis meets its surface.

hemisphere — Half of a sphere.

north — The direction toward the North Pole.

south — The direction toward the South Pole.

3 min · Notice: Look together and name one visible detail before introducing new words.

4 min · Compare: Use the three prompts to connect the pictured evidence with the lesson.

5 min · Try together: Draw a large circle to represent a view of Earth. Draw a line across its middle for the Equator. Point to the northern half, the southern half and the two poles. An adult can write the names. Add a pretend journey that crosses the Equator and describe how its hemisphere changes.

3 min · Explain: The child identifies the Equator and one hemisphere, using pointing, words or an adult-supported drawing.

Understanding check: The child identifies the Equator and one hemisphere, using pointing, words or an adult-supported drawing.

Answer guidance: It divides Earth into a northern half and a southern half. Each half is called a hemisphere. The North Pole is at the top of this upright globe and the South Pole at the bottom. They are opposite ends of Earth's north-south rotation axis. No. The Equator is an imaginary line used to describe locations. The gold line makes that idea visible on this globe.

Say the positional words aloud and trace slowly. Offer a raised-line paper circle if useful; north and south do not depend on seeing different colors.

A response to keep

Draw, point or describe one idea from this picture.

One clue I can explain now...

Something else I wonder...

<https://kiddos.ai/learn/olivia-the-globetrotter/equator-and-poles>

Related story: Olivia and Doudou in Paris — Olivia and Doudou explore places together in their travel books. This new teaching globe connects that curiosity to the wider planet; it is not a newly claimed book scene.

Our discovery record

Use words, marks, a drawing or an adult's notes. Keep this page with you; nothing needs to be uploaded.

Date / time (if useful): _____

My question or idea

What I noticed

What I think now

What I want to explore next

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