



### **Activity #3: Latitude and Longitude**

**Module:** GEOGRAPHY *Where In the World Is This Painting?*

**Associated Exhibit:** *What's In a Maritime Painting?*

**Grade Level: 5-8**

The globe is divided like an orange into segments known as longitude. Lines of longitude cross at two points on the globe, the North and the South poles. Each line of longitude represents one degree of arc. The 0 line of longitude or Prime Meridian is arbitrarily placed at Greenwich, England at the National Observatory. Three hundred and sixty lines of longitude fan out around the globe. The 180° line of longitude marks the end of one day the beginning of the next. It is located in the Pacific Ocean and is known as the *International Date Line*. Longitude is counted West from the 0 meridian to 180° and East from the 0 meridian to 180°.

In addition to lines of longitude, lines of latitude divide the globe horizontally. The bands of latitude are divided one degree of arc apart. Latitude lines run parallel to one another and never cross. The 0 line of latitude runs around the globe at its widest point and is known as the Equator. Ninety degrees to the north is the North Pole and 90 degrees to the South is the South Pole.

To accurately locate a point on the globe, you need both the longitude and the latitude. For example, the painting depicting the *Mississippi* in a typhoon is located only by latitude and longitude (35°59'N / 153°47'E). These coordinates are read 35 degrees and 59 minutes north of the equator and 153 degrees and 47 minutes east of the prime meridian. That would put the *Mississippi* in the North Pacific east of Japan.

Using the following latitude and longitude coordinates locate places on your map. Plot the coordinates and then identify the place.

1. 53°27'N / 3°2'W
2. 22°17'N / 114°10'E
3. 40° 41'N / 74°2'W
4. 37°48'N / 122°31'W
5. 49°34'N / 126°35'W
6. 38°15'N / 15°39'E
7. 33°54'S / 18°26'E
8. 56°00'S / 67°14'W
9. 21°16'N / 157°50'W
10. 5°59'S / 105°48'E