

Name _____ **International Date Line**



International Date Line

The International Date Line is an imaginary line on the Earth's surface that passes through the mid-Pacific Ocean. The line runs north-south and coincides approximately with 180 degrees longitude. It is on the opposite side of the world from the prime meridian, which lies at 0 degrees longitude in Greenwich, England. The International Date Line was established in 1884 to indicate where one day ends and the next day begins. It is part of a logical and practical system of global timekeeping that takes into account the effect of the Earth's orbit around the sun. The effect of the International Date Line is that when you are traveling, if you cross the IDL traveling westward you gain a day. If you cross the IDL traveling eastward, you lose a day.

The prime meridian is the reference point for identifying time zones. There are 37 time zones on the Earth. If you begin at the prime meridian and traveling in one direction, each time zone is offset by a certain amount of time from Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), most commonly an hour for every 15 degrees of longitude. Countries are not required to acknowledge the International Date Line, and each country is free to choose its own time zone. The International Date line is also known as the line of demarcation.

1. What is the International Date Line?

- 2.. What happens if you cross the IDL while traveling eastward?

3. What happens if you cross the IDL while traveling westward?