

13. Parallels.—Parallels are small circles, lying in the same direction as the equator. Parallels mark the latitude, that is to say, the distance of a place from the equator. On the Map of the World, latitude is marked on the meridian; on the other maps, it is marked on the sides. There are 90° of latitude north, and 90° south, from the equator to each pole.

14. Tropics.—The Tropics are two parallel lines, placed at the distance of $23^{\circ} 27'$, one north and the other south of the equator. The Tropic north of the equator is called the Tropic of Cancer, and that south of it, the Tropic of Capricorn. The word Tropic signifies *return*; for the sun, in his annual revolution, seems to stop there about the 23d of June, and the 22d of December, to return to the equator. One of these days is called the *summer solstice*, the other, the *winter solstice*; the word *solstice* signifies the sun standing still.

15. Polar circles.—The Polar Circles are two lesser circles parallel to the equator at the distance of $23^{\circ} 27'$ from the poles; their latitude is $66^{\circ} 33'$. They are marked at this latitude, because at these points commence the month-climates.

16. Zones.—The two Tropics and the two Polar Circles divide the earth into five belts or zones: the space between the two tropics is called the Torrid Zone; it is about $46^{\circ} 54'$ wide: between the Tropics and Polar Circles lie the Temperate Zones; they are $43^{\circ} 6'$ wide: north and south of the Polar Circles are the Frigid Zones, covering a breadth of $23^{\circ} 27'$.

QUESTIONS.—What is a great circle? Name the great circles? What is a lesser or small circle? Name the lesser circles? What is the equator? Why is the equator also called the equinoctial line? What are meridians? What is the first meridian? Of what use are meridians? Where is longitude marked on the map of the world? Where is it marked on other maps? What are the parallels of latitude? What do they mark? What are the Tropics? What are the Polar circles? What are Zones?