



The Equator is an imaginary line. It goes around the globe, halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole. It divides the globe into the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere. Remember that the globe is a sphere. A hemisphere is half of a sphere.

The Equator is the most important line of latitude. The other lines of latitude measure distance on a globe north or south of the Equator. We use lines of latitude to locate places on the globe.

- ▶ Find the Equator on the large globe above. It is marked 0° . The symbol $^{\circ}$ stands for **degrees**.
 - ▶ Find the 45°N line of latitude. What continent does it cross?
 - ▶ Find the 45°S line of latitude. What continent does it cross?
- Lines of latitude are also called **parallels**. Lines of latitude never touch.
- ▶ Look at the small globe above. Find the 75°N parallel. Does it touch any other parallel? What continents does it cross?