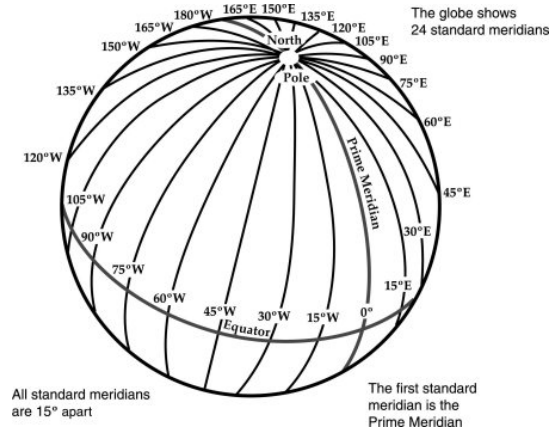


Name _____

TIME ZONES



Why do we have time zones? Summarize this before you answer questions.

Examine the time zone map and answer the following questions on your handout:

1. How many hours **behind** the Greenwich Meridian is El Paso, TX? _____
2. How many time zones are there in the world? _____
3. How many different time zones exist on the continent of Africa? _____
4. What's odd about China? _____

Reading 1: Rise at 11? China's Single Time Zone Means Keeping Odd Hours (Modified)

Javier C. Hernandez / June 16, 2016

Some days, the sun doesn't come up until 10 a.m. or later. People eat lunch after 2 p.m., or even after 4 if they're not in a rush. The school day stretches so late that children can't get home in time to catch their favorite cartoon shows.

Why are the clocks in Urumqi, [China](#), so far out of kilter with the cycles of the sun? Because of the legacy of Mao Zedong, a Chinese leader in the 1940s, and the Communist Party's desire for unified control. Though China is almost as wide as the continental United States, the whole country is officially in just one-time zone — Beijing time.

So when it's 7 a.m. in the Forbidden City, it's also officially 7 a.m. 2,000 miles to the west in Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang region — even if the stars are still out there.

That can lead to headaches — and lost sleep. "It's hard to adjust," says Gao Li, a sanitation worker in Urumqi. "I often think we must be the only people who eat dinner at midnight."

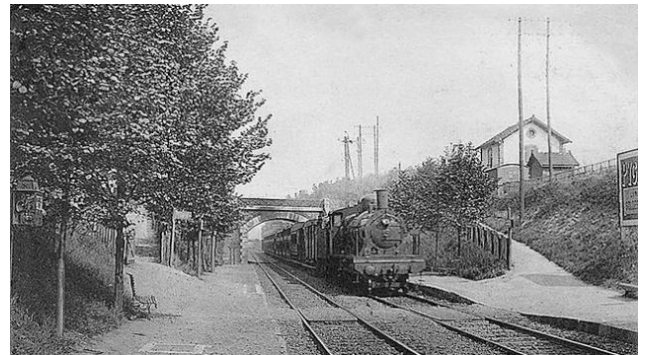
So schools, airports and train stations operate at odd hours; national exams are sometimes given in the dead of night; and restaurants stay open for dinner into the wee hours.

The eccentricities of the clock also tend to divide people in Xinjiang by ethnicity. The [Uighurs](#), Turkic-speaking Muslims who consider the region their homeland, tend to set their clocks two hours earlier, to more closely match the local day. But the Han Chinese who live there, members of China's predominant ethnic group, generally follow Beijing time. The discrepancies can be a source of confusion and frustration, especially for younger people who frequently socialize across ethnic lines.

5. What effect does it have on the people of Western China to have only one time zone?
6. Why does China have only one time-zone?
7. Who are the Uighurs? And who are the Han Chinese?
8. How has the time zone caused divisions between the Uighurs and the Han Chinese?

Reading 2: *This Was the First Instance of Science Changing the Way We Saw Time (Modified)*
Gizmodo Magazine, Esther Ingliss-Arkell, January 22, 2015

We know that Einstein's theory of special relativity established that speed could change time. But that was all the way in the twentieth century! Speed had already changed time about fifty years earlier, all across America, because of one special invention.



There was an era in history, American history, during which every locality had its own time. People waited until the sun was directly overhead and set their clocks to noon. No one cared if their town clock was a few minutes off. And no one cared if the next town over had their noon at a slightly different time.

Then came the railroad. The railroad was fast, and suddenly what had been the journey of months became a journey of weeks or even days. The railroad also had to be kept fast – and profitable – and that meant selling

tickets up and down the line, and telling people when they had to be at the station to get on board. In a country where every ten miles had its own time, where each time was reset whenever people noticed that the season had changed enough that the sun wasn't overhead at noon, and where some people measured the time inaccurately, this was damn near impossible. And so, in 1883, there was something called the General Time Convention. There the heads of American railroads set out five time zones across the continent. When we acquired speed, we acquired the necessity to change time.

9. Before the railroad, how did people set their time?
10. Why do you think it didn't matter if different towns had different times?
11. Explain (in 2-3 sentences) why the railroad made it important for people to have the same time.
12. Who set the time zones in the United States? How many time zones did they create?

Reading 3: *The Real Reason Why Spaniards Eat Late (Modified)*
BBC.Com / Jessica Jones / May 8, 2017

Many travellers believe Spain's late mealtimes are a reflection of the country's laidback attitude, but that couldn't be further from the truth.



It is 10pm in Madrid and the cobbled streets thrum with the sounds of people enjoying plates of *gambas al ajillo* (garlic prawns) and *cocido Madrileño* (a hearty chickpea, pork and chorizo stew). Restaurants are bustling at an hour when, in most other countries, chefs would be hanging up their aprons for the night.

While travellers might attribute Spain's late mealtimes to the country's laidback Mediterranean attitude, the real reason is a little more peculiar. Spaniards are living in the wrong time zone, and have been for more than 70 years. Glance at a map and you'll realise that Spain – sitting, as it does, along the same longitude as the UK, Portugal and Morocco – should be in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). But Spain goes by Central European Time (CET), putting it in sync with the Serbian capital Belgrade, more than 2,500km east of Madrid.

So why are Spaniards living behind their geographic time zone? In 1940, General Francisco Franco changed Spain's time zone, moving the clocks one hour forward in solidarity with Nazi Germany.

Being 60 minutes behind the correct time zone means the sun rises later and sets later, bestowing Spain with gloriously long summer evenings and 10pm sunsets. Those who run Spain's tourist resorts believe that more sunlight in the evenings is a large draw for visitors.

But for many Spaniards, living in the wrong time zone has resulted in sleep deprivation and decreased productivity. The typical Spanish work day begins at 9am; after a two-hour lunch break between 2 and 4pm, employees return to work, ending their day around 8pm. The later working hours force Spaniards to save their social lives for the late hours. Prime-time television doesn't start until 10:30pm.

13. Why do many people incorrectly believe that Spaniards eat their dinner so late at night?

14. Why are the Spaniards living in Central European Time Zone?

15. What benefits does being in the European Central Timezone have for Spaniards?

16. What drawbacks does being in the European Central Timezone have for Spaniards?

Reading 3: **North Korea sets clocks back 30 minutes creating its own time zone** (Modified)

CNN.Com / Kathy Novak / August 13, 2015

North Korea is its own world in many ways. Now, it is getting its own time zone to match.

State news agency, KCNA, has announced that North Korea will set its clocks back by 30 minutes to "Pyongyang time" on August 15--the 70th anniversary of liberation from Japan.

That will reset the time to GMT+08:30, as it was before Japanese colonization.

"The wicked Japanese imperialists committed such unpardonable crimes as depriving Korea of even its standard time while mercilessly trampling down our land, with its 5,000 year-long history and culture and pursuing the unheard-of policy of obliterating the Korean nation," KCNA reported on Friday.

North Koreans already have their own calendar. Instead of counting from the birth of Christ, they count from the birth of founding leader, Kim Il Sung. Kim was born in 1912 -- known in North Korea as Juche 1, making this year Juche 104.

The new time will put Pyongyang half an hour behind Tokyo and Seoul – Japan's two biggest cities.



South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman, Jeong Joon-hee told a briefing on Friday that could cause some problems.

"Some difficulties are likely to come in inter-Korean exchanges (changes between South and North Korea), [including trade]," he said.

Jeong added it could have negative effects on inter-Korean integration (combining the two countries) in the long-term.

17. North Korea's new time zone made it how many hours past the Greenwich Meridian time zone?

18. Why did North Korea want to change to this time zone?

19. How is North Korea's calendar different from ours?

20. In what two ways could this affect the relationship between North and South Korea?