



Midday Around the World - Teacher's Notes

Midday Around the World

This activity is designed to assist students with their understanding of the rotation of the Earth.

Materials

- The attached map cut into 24 pieces
- A powerful torch

Method:

1. Copy the map of the world, attached, with the equator marked on it as large as possible (at least A3).
2. Cut the map in N/S strips of 24 (approximately equal) pieces.
3. Assemble students in a circle facing outwards with their strip of map in the correct sequence and with the equator at the same height.
4. Ask one student to shine a torch at the equator of the student nearest them (they are not to move for this activity).
5. Ask students to shuffle in their circle anticlockwise.
6. Students should call out when they think it is midday at their location (the torch is shining directly on their equator).

Before clocks and watches were common, some cities would rely on bells or flags to indicate specific hours. Both Edinburg in Scotland and Fremantle in WA fired a cannon to indicate one o'clock and both ports sometimes a ball on a high pole was also "dropped" to alert sailors entering the port to adjust their timepieces.



