



TIME ZONES

DAVID A. ADLER
ILLUSTRATED BY EDWARD MILLER

About the Book

What are time zones and why do they exist? When it's noon where you live, why is it midnight halfway around the world? This entertaining book explains why time zones exist and includes little-known facts and historical lore, an explanation of Daylight Savings Time, and this hands-on activity that can be performed at home or in the classroom.

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FUN PROJECT: Why We Need Time Zones

Here's something you can do to help you understand why when it's noon on one side of the world, it's midnight on the other side.

Using a lamp and a globe in a darkened room, you can see how the turning Earth means it's morning on one side of the world and evening on the other side. If you don't have a globe, use a beach ball.

Turn on the lamp. Place the globe or ball near the lamp. If the lamp is the only source of light in the room, one side of the globe or ball—the side facing the lamp—will be in the light. The other side of the globe or ball will be dark.

Slowly turn the globe or ball. As the lighted side moves out of the light, the other side moves into the light. If you're using a globe, find the Atlantic Ocean. Shine the light directly on it. Since the earth turns in an easterly direction, as the globe turns, the sun first shines directly on the east coast of the United States: the side of the country from Maine to Florida.

Now slowly turn the globe to the right so as it turns, the light moves toward the Pacific Ocean. As you turn the globe, the light that was shining directly on New York City, Philadelphia, and Atlanta is soon shining directly on Chicago, New Orleans, and Houston. Keep slowly turning the globe. Soon the light is directly on Denver, Albuquerque, and Billings. Then it's shining on Phoenix, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles.

If you keep turning the globe, the light will soon be shining on Alaska. Then it will be shining on Hawaii. When it is shining directly on Shanghai, China, the east coast of the United States will be dark. When it's noon in Shanghai, it's midnight in Miami.

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