

Finding places using latitude and longitude

If you are given the latitude and longitude of a place and asked to identify it, follow the steps below.

- 1 Using a world map, find the general location of the latitude and longitude you have been given.
- 2 Turn to a map of the region or continent, and locate the latitude and longitude more accurately.
- 3 Check your answer by finding the place name in the index of the atlas. Most atlas indexes include the latitude and longitude of each place.

Kobe, Japan (see Figure 1.9.4), for example, has a latitude of approximately 35° north of the Equator and a longitude of approximately 135° east of the Prime Meridian. To be even more accurate, each degree ($^{\circ}$) can be divided into smaller units, called minutes ($'$). There are 60 minutes in each degree. Kobe's location using degrees and minutes is latitude $34^{\circ}40'$ north, longitude $135^{\circ}12'$ east.



Source: Heinemann Atlas Fifth Edition

1.9.4 A map extract of Japan, showing latitude and longitude, and features of the biophysical and built environments

ACTIVITIES

Knowledge and understanding

- 1 Define the terms 'parallel of latitude' and 'meridian of longitude'.
- 2 Explain the difference between parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude.
- 3 Describe the location and significance of the Prime Meridian and the International Date Line.

Geographical skills

- 4 a Study Figure 1.9.4. Name the feature of the physical environment located at each of the following sets of coordinates.
 - i $36^{\circ}05'N$ $133^{\circ}00'E$
 - ii $42^{\circ}30'N$ $132^{\circ}00'E$
 - iii $35^{\circ}23'N$ $138^{\circ}42'E$

- iv $38^{\circ}20'N$ $138^{\circ}30'E$
- v $41^{\circ}20'N$ $140^{\circ}15'E$
- vi $42^{\circ}N$ $129^{\circ}E$
- vii $33^{\circ}30'N$ $135^{\circ}45'E$

- b Study Figure 1.9.4. Name the feature of the human environment found at each of the following locations.

- i $35^{\circ}40'N$ $139^{\circ}45'E$
- ii $34^{\circ}23'N$ $132^{\circ}27'E$
- iii $31^{\circ}00'N$ $130^{\circ}30'E$
- iv $38^{\circ}15'N$ $140^{\circ}52'E$
- v $43^{\circ}05'N$ $141^{\circ}21'E$
- vi $35^{\circ}02'N$ $135^{\circ}45'E$