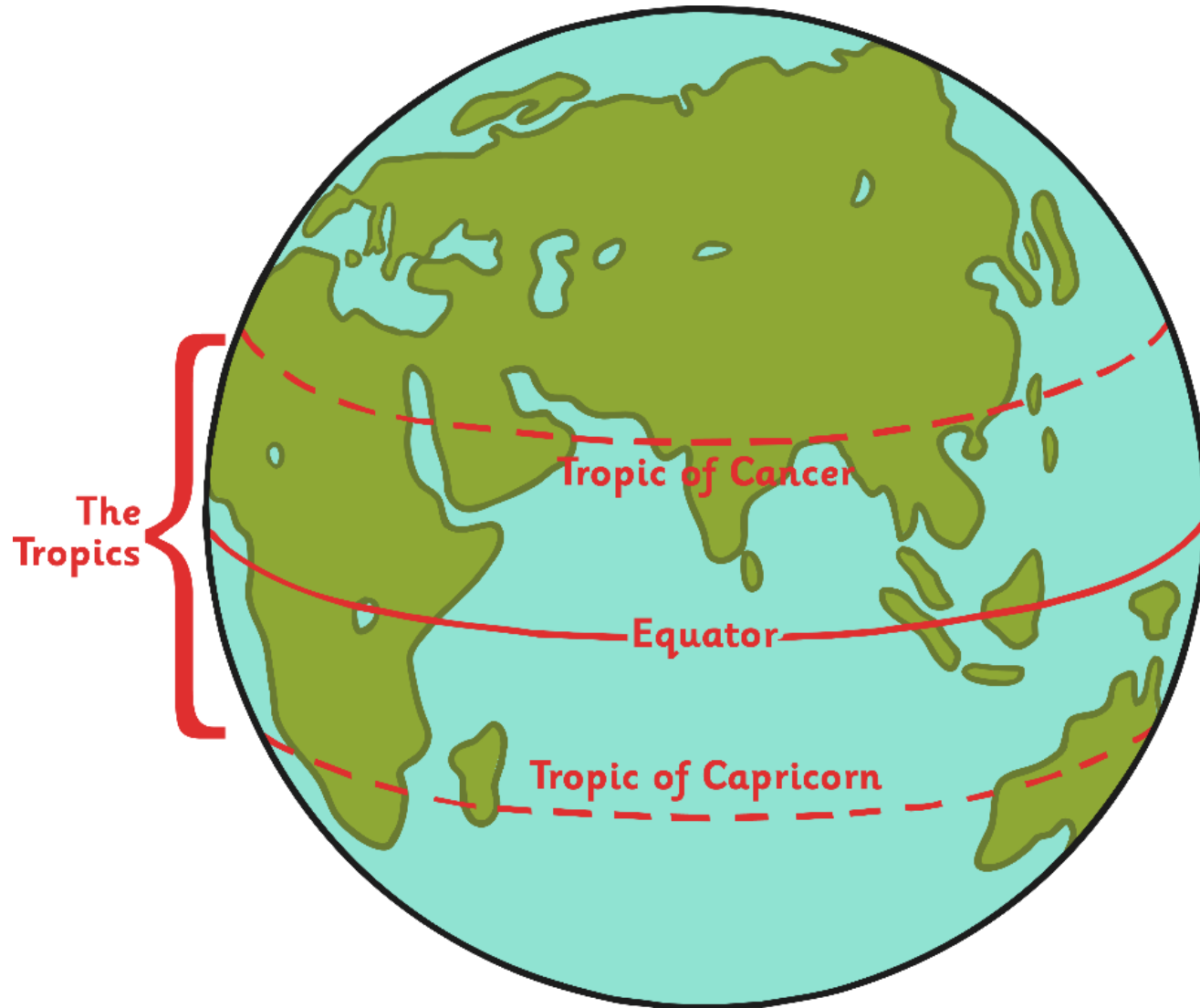


The Tropics



Tropic of Cancer

- The tropic of Cancer is an imaginary line in the northern hemisphere.
- It is also called the northern tropic.
- It is the furthest north you can ever go and still have the sun directly overhead.
- This happens once a year in June. This day is called the solstice.

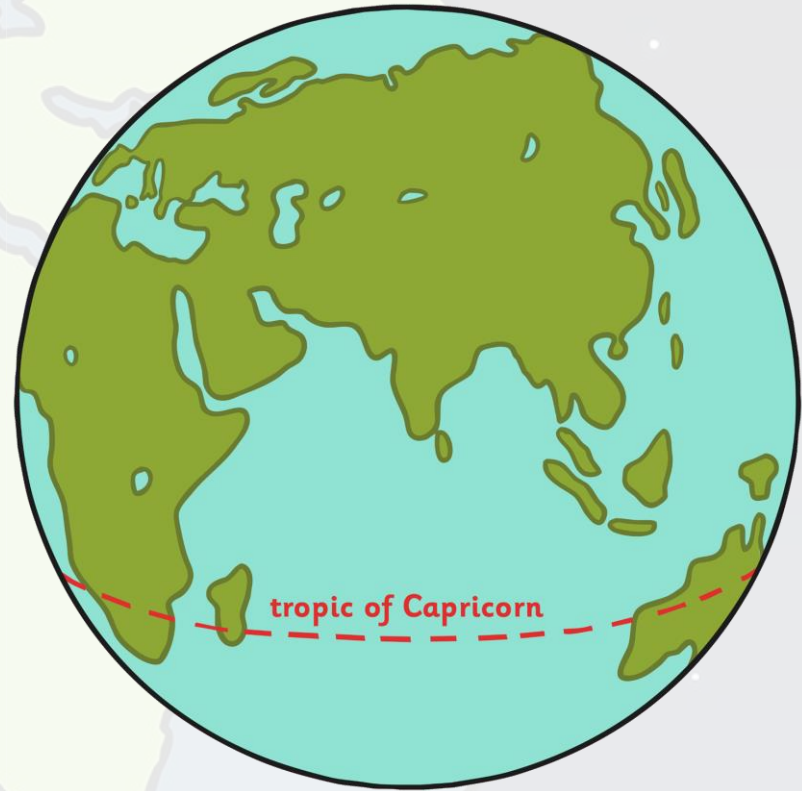


Did You Know?

In Latin, the language the Romans spoke, 'cancer' means crab!

Tropic of Capricorn

- The tropic of Capricorn is an imaginary line in the southern hemisphere.
- It is the opposite of the tropic of Cancer.
- Similar to the tropic of Cancer, it is the furthest south you can go and still have the sun directly overhead.
- This happens once a year in December. This day is also called the solstice.




Did You Know?

Every year, both tropics move north or south a little bit!

What Is It like in the Tropics?

Between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, the weather is hot all year round.

Rainfall can be very varied in tropical locations – some areas have very little rain, some have a rainy season and some have fairly consistent rainfall throughout the year.



Rainforests have an average monthly rainfall of at least 60mm.

Comparing the UK and the Tropics

How would the weather in the tropics be different to the weather in the UK?

- There are no cold seasons
- It is always hot
- It feels very humid or sweaty
- Some areas have lots of rain all year round
- Some areas are very dry all year round
- It is hot when it rains
- It never snows
- The sun shines every day

How would the weather in the tropics be similar to the weather in the UK?

- Sometimes we have a lot of rain here; we can have big rain storms as you do in the tropics
- It can be hot in summer in the UK (but not as hot as the tropics!)

The UK climate is very different to a tropical climate!



Activity 3

Now that you have learnt about the position of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, label them on the world map.



Challenge Question

The tropic of Cancer passes through 16 countries.

The tropic of Capricorn passes through 10 countries.

Can you name any of them?

