

## Crack the Code

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Briefing:** Crafty robbers broke into the Royal Geographical Society in London and stole armfuls of priceless maps. Finding them would be hopeless, except that they dropped a scrap of paper with some odd scribbles on it.

**Your Mission:** Crack the code to find out where the thieves are taking the loot.

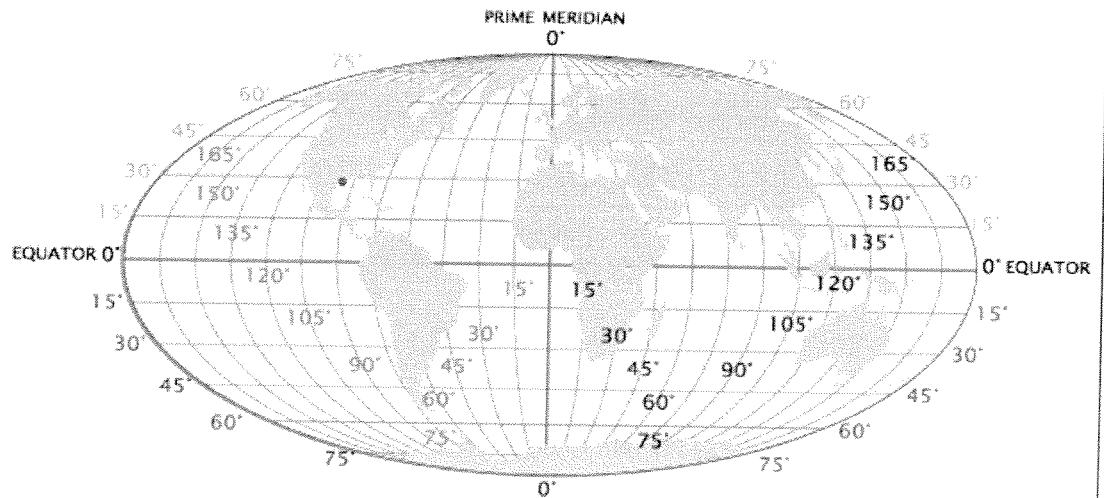
At the top is a rhyme that seems to be an instruction from the thieves' boss:

*First letters from each place-name read.  
Spell out the town and come with speed.*

But the note doesn't mention any places! All you see are weird combinations of letters and numbers. Luckily, a sharp-eyed geographer peers over your shoulder and says, "Coordinates. How fascinating!" She refreshes your memory on latitude and longitude, those imaginary lines that help us locate places.

### REVIEW

**THE GRID:** Lines of latitude, like the Equator, run east to west around the globe. Lines of longitude, like the Prime Meridian, run north to south, meeting at the poles. Taken together, latitude and longitude lines form a grid. Every place on earth has a unique position on the grid, like a street address in a big city.



**PARALLELS:** Lines of **latitude** are often called parallels because they run parallel to the Equator. Although not every line of latitude is shown on a map, every place does have specific latitude. All places along the same latitude have the same temperatures.

**MERIDIANS:** Lines of **longitude**, called meridians, run from pole to pole, crossing the lines of latitude. Every place is located at a specific longitude. These lines are not parallel.

**THE TROPIC OF CANCER:** A latitude line at 23.5 degrees north

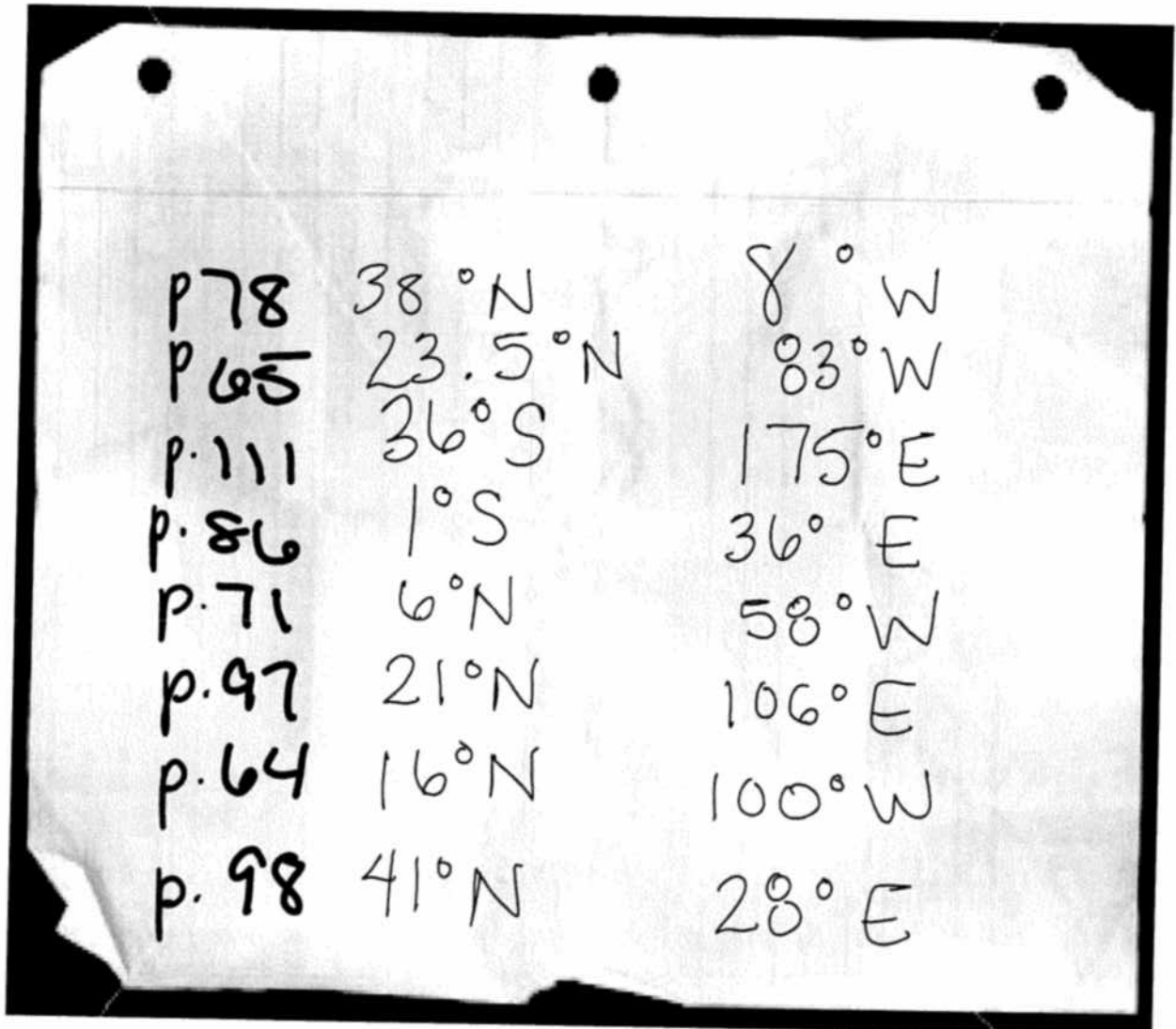
**THE TROPIC OF CAPRICORN:** A latitude line at 23.5 degrees south

The warmest places on the earth are found between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. This is also where the world's tropical rainforests can be found.

**DOCUMENTATION:** When writing the coordinates for a specific place you always write the latitude first and the longitude second – Washington D.C. is located at 39 degrees North, 77 degrees West

## The Evidence

The numbers, you realize, are the coordinates for cities all over the planet. (1) Find those places in an atlas or on a map. (2) As you find each place, write its name ON the lines below. (3) Circle the first letter of each name. (4) Read the letters from, and they should spell the name of a city. Now you know where to nab those cartographic crooks.



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

Where are the crooks? \_\_\_\_\_