



Living in the United States

Directions: Read about time zones. Then follow the directions on pages 2–7.

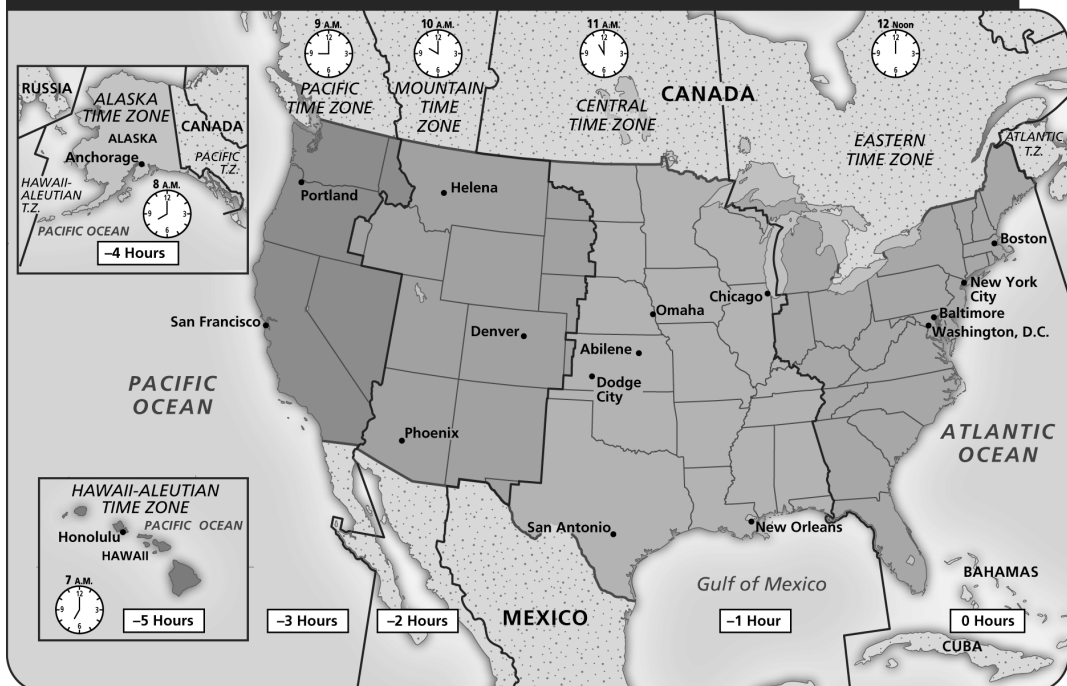
Read a Time-Zone Map

- 1 Building railroads changed the way people used time. Before railroads crossed the country, each town and city set its own time. People would note when the sun was at its highest point in the sky. At that time, people would set their clocks to noon. However, the sun appears to travel across the sky from east to west. So noon would be at a different time in a neighboring area.
- 2 Having slightly different times in different towns caused trouble for people making train schedules. The railroads came up with a new idea. They would establish time zones. In each time zone, clocks would all be set to the same time. The United States adopted this plan in the 1880s. It is the basic plan we use for setting our clocks today.

You can best understand time zones by looking at a time-zone map. A time-zone map shows the boundaries of the time zone across a continent or for the entire Earth. Earth is divided into 24 time zones. Each time zone is an hour behind its neighbor to the east and an hour ahead of its neighbor to the west.

3

Time Zones in the United States



**Strategy 1** Locate Key Words in the Question

Directions: Before you can answer a question, you need to understand the question. Follow these steps to understand the question.

- Read the question.
- Ask yourself: “**Who** or **what** is the question about?” Words that tell “who” or “what” are **key words**. Circle key words.
- Look for and circle other key words. Often question words and other important words are key words.
- Turn the question into a statement using key words. Follow this model: “I need to find out ____.”

Learn

Read the question. Circle the key words and complete the sentence.

1. When did the United States adopt the plan for time zones?

Circle key words.

- A in 1824
 B in the 1880s
 C in the 1980s
 D in 1776

I need to find out when the United States adopted
the plan for time zones.

Turn the question into a statement using key words.

Try It

Read each question. Circle the key words and complete each sentence.

2. What does a time-zone map show?
- A a railroad schedule
 B the boundaries of railroad lines
 C the boundaries of the time zones
 D the regions where the sun is the highest

I need to find out _____

3. Into how many time zones is Earth divided? Use details from the text to support your answer.

I need to find out _____

**Strategy 2** Locate Key Words in the Text

Directions: You can also understand a question by thinking about where you need to look for the answer. Follow these steps to understand the question.

- Read the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the text that match key words in the question.
- Decide where to look for the answer.
 - To find the answer, you may have to **look in one place in the text**. The answer is *right there* in the text.
 - To find the answer, you may have to **look in several places in the text**. You have to *think and search* for information.
 - To find the answer, you may have to **combine what you know with what the author tells you**. The answer comes from the *author and you*.

Learn

Read the question. Circle the key words and complete the sentence.

1. Based on paragraph 1, (how) did (towns) and (cities) (set) their (time) (before) (time zones)? Use details from the text to support your answer.

I found the answer in paragraph 1, sentences 2–4.

- Look for and circle key words in the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the text that match key words in the question.

- The question asks how time was set before time zones.
- You will have to **look in one place in the text** for information.

Try It

Read each question. Circle the key words and complete each sentence.

2. Based on paragraph 3, what does a time-zone map show?
- A a railroad schedule
 - B the boundaries of railroad lines
 - C the boundaries of the time zones
 - D the regions where the sun is the highest

I found the answer in _____

3. Into how many time zones is Earth divided? Use details from the text to support your answer.

I found the answer in _____



Strategy 3 Choose the Right Answer

Directions: Use this strategy for a multiple-choice question in which you need to choose the best answer. Follow these steps to answer a multiple-choice question.

- Read the question.
- Read each answer choice.
- Rule out any choice you know is wrong. Go back to the text to rule out other choices.
- Mark your answer choice.
- Check your answer by comparing it with the text.

Learn

Cross out any choice you know is wrong. Next, go back to the text to rule out any other choices. Then mark your answer choice.

1. When did the United States adopt the plan for time zones?

- A ~~in 1824~~
- B in the 1880s
- C ~~in the 1980s~~
- D ~~in 1776~~

You will have to **look in one place** in the text.

Rule out the incorrect choices. Choose answer B because the text supports this choice.

Try It

Cross out any choice you know is wrong. Next, go back to the text to rule out any other choices. Then mark your answer choice.

2. What does a time-zone map show?
- A a railroad schedule
- B the boundaries of railroad lines
- C the boundaries of the time zones
- D the regions where the sun is the highest
3. Into how many time zones is Earth divided?
- A 24
- B 60
- C one for every place where the sun shines
- D 12



Strategy 4 Use Information from the Text

Directions: A question may tell you to support your answer with details from the text. If it does, then you must include information from the text. Follow these steps to answer such questions.

- Read the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the question.
- **Make notes** about details from the text that answer the question.
- Reread the question and your notes.
- If details are missing, go back to the text.

Learn

Use information from the text to answer the question.

1. How did towns and cities set their time before time zones? Use details from the text to support your answer.

My Notes: railroads, changed way, people, used time,
towns and cities, note sun highest, set clocks, noon

My Answer: Before time zones, town and cities set
their own time. People would note when the sun was
the highest. Then they would set their clocks to noon.

- Look for and circle key words in the question.
- The question asks you to tell the ways towns and cities set their time before time zones.
- Read the text and **make notes** about how towns and cities used to set their time.

Reread the question and cross out any notes that do not apply to the question.

Answer the question in your own words.

Try It

Use information from the text to answer the question.

2. What does a time-zone map show? Use details from the text to support your answer.

My Notes: _____

My Answer: _____



Strategy 5 Use Information from Graphics

Directions: A question may ask you about a map or tell you to support your answer with details from a map. If it does, then you must include information from the map. Follow these steps to answer questions about the map.

- Read the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the question.
- Use what you know to analyze the map.
- Use details from the map to answer the question.

Learn

Look at the map on page 1. Use information from the map to answer the question.

1. Based on the map, how many time zones does the United States have? Use details to support your answer.

Look for and circle key words in the question.

To find the answer, I will look at the time zones in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

My Answer: The United States has six time zones.

Look at page 1. Analyze the map. Use details to answer the question.

Try It

Look at the map on page 1. Use information from the map to answer the question.

2. Based on the map, in what time zone is Washington, D.C.? Use details to support your answer.

To find the answer, I will _____

My Answer: _____

**Strategy 6 Write Your Answer to Score High**

Directions: A question may tell you to write an answer. Follow these steps to write a correct, complete, and focused answer.

- Read the question.
- Make notes about details that answer the question.
- Reread the question and your notes. If details are missing, go back to the text.
- Begin your answer with words from the question. Include details from your notes.
- Check your answer. Ask yourself:
 - Is my answer correct? Are some details incorrect?
 - Is my answer complete? Do I need to add more details?
 - Is my answer focused? Do all my details help answer the question?

Learn

Examine this sample done by an imaginary student named Claudia. Analyze Claudia's work. Cross out incorrect or unfocused information. What should she do to score higher?

1. Why were time zones established? Use details from the text to support your answer.

Claudia circled key words in the question.

Claudia's Notes: *different times, trouble, ~~people in towns~~ make time zones, U.S. ~~adopted plan, 1880s~~*

Claudia's notes are incorrect.

Claudia's Answer: *Different times in different towns caused trouble making train schedules. So the people in towns established time zones. The United States adopted the plan in the 1880s.*

Claudia's notes include unfocused information.

To score higher, Claudia needs to replace "people in towns" with "railroads," and cross out information about when time zones were adopted.

Try It

Examine this sample done by an imaginary student named Josh. Analyze Josh's work. Cross out incorrect or unfocused information. What should he do to score higher?

2. How is Earth divided into time zones? Use details from the text to support your answer.

Josh's Notes: *map shows boundaries of time zones; Earth, 24 time zones, hour behind to west, hour ahead to north*

Josh's Answer: *To understand time zones, look at a time-zone map. Earth is divided into 24 time zones. Each time zone is an hour ahead the zone to the west and an hour behind of the zone to the north.*

To score higher, Josh needs to _____