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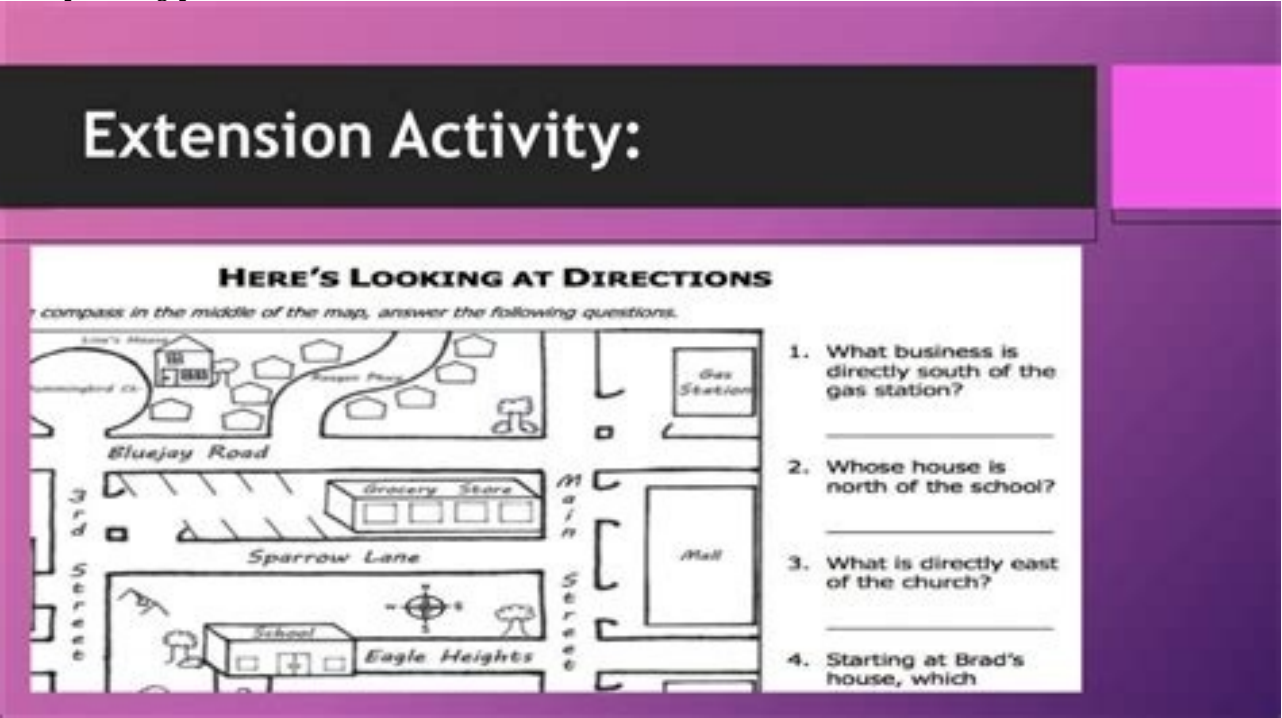
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What is the difference between absolute location and relative location quizlet

Both relative location and absolute location are geographic terms used to describe the location of a place on the Earth's surface. They are each unique in their ability to pinpoint a location on Earth. Relative location refers to locating a place relative to other landmarks. For example, you could give the relative location of St. Louis, Missouri as being in eastern Missouri, along the Mississippi River, southwest of Springfield, Illinois. As one drives along most major highways, there are mileage signs indicating the distance to the next town or city. This information expresses your current location relative to the upcoming place. So, if a highway sign states that St. Louis is 96 miles away from Springfield, you know your relative location in relation to St. Louis. Relative location is also a term that is used to indicate a place's location within a larger context. For example, one could state that Missouri is located in the Midwest of the United States and is bordered by Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. That is the relative location of Missouri based on its location within the United States. Alternatively, you could state that Missouri is south of Iowa and north of Arkansas. This is yet another example of relative location. On the other hand, absolute location references a place on the Earth's surface based on specific geographic coordinates, such as latitude and longitude. Applied to the previous example of St. Louis, the absolute location of St. Louis is 38°43' North 90°14' West. One can also give an address as an absolute location. For example, the absolute location of St. Louis City Hall is 1200 Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103. By providing the full address, you can pinpoint the location of St. Louis City Hall on a map. While you can give the geographic coordinates of a city or a building, it is difficult to provide the absolute location of an area such as a state or country because such places can't be pinpointed. With some difficulty, you could provide the absolute locations of the boundaries of the state or country but most of the time it's easier just to display a map or describe the relative location of a place like a state or country. A location is the place where a particular point or object exists. Location is an important term in geography, and is usually considered more precise than "place." A locality is a human settlement: city, town, village, or even archaeological site.A place's absolute location is its exact place on Earth, often given in terms of latitude and longitude.For example, the Empire State Building is located at 40.7 degrees north (latitude), 74 degrees west (longitude). It sits at the intersection of 33rd Street and Fifth Avenue in New York City, New York, United States. That is the building's absolute location.Location can sometimes be expressed in relative terms. Relative location is a description of how a place is related to other places. For example, the Empire State Building is 365 kilometers (227 miles) north of America's White House in Washington, D.C. It is also about 15 blocks from New York's Central Park. These are just two of the building's relative locations.Relative location can help analyze how two places are connected, whether by distance, culture, or even technology. The city of Kiev, Ukraine, for example, is about 2,298 kilometers (1,428 miles) east of London, England. The U.S. cities of Key West, Florida, and Anchorage, Alaska, are even further apart—6,436 kilometers (3,999 miles). However, Floridians and Alaskans share the same language, national government, and geographic features. (They both have long ocean coasts subject to heavy storms, for instance.). Culturally, Ukraine and England are much further apart than the U.S. states of Florida and Alaska: They speak different languages, have different government systems, and different geographic features. (Ukraine is landlocked, for instance, while England is part of the island nation of the United Kingdom.)Directions like north, south, east, and west help describe where one place is in relation to another. The "Wild West" is a cultural location that vaguely refers to parts of the United States west of the Mississippi River. The Wild West, however, rarely includes the states of Alaska and Hawai'i, the westernmost states in the nation.Coordinates of longitude and latitude help pinpoint the absolute location of a person, place, or thing.



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Knowing a location is 0 degrees west (longitude) and 51 degrees north (latitude) tells you it's probably near Greenwich, England, for instance. Knowing the location is 0 degrees west and 51 degrees, 28 minutes, and 40 seconds north tells you the location is the Royal Observatory, a building in Greenwich. At the Royal Observatory, directions like left, right, upstairs, and downstairs give visitors even more precise locations.Even absolute location is a form of relative location! Coordinates simply give a place's position relative to the Equator (latitude) and prime meridian (longitude).