

The International Date Line is an imaginary line on the earth's surface, that approximately coincides with the 180th meridian (LONGITUDE), and separates the calendar date. Traveling east across the line, takes the traveler back one day; traveling west, takes the traveler forward one day. Without the date line, calendar confusion would result for the traveler. Sailing thru Science...

INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE



Referring to the drawing above: As the earth turns, the old day gets smaller and eventually disappears when it reaches midnight, only to start again as another day. Remember that the IDL is rotating with the earth, as it is "attached" to the earth (the 180th meridian line). Also visualize the earth rotating past midnight, which is the deepest part of the earth's shadow in space.

International Date Line

:! QUESTIONS about the INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

1. What happens to the old day when you move from midnight toward morning?

(Answer: The part of earth in the old day becomes less and less.)

3. What happens when the IDL passes through midnight?

(Answer: The entire earth has the same day.)

4. What happens when the IDL is at 3:00 a.m.?

(Answer: Part of the earth is 3 hours into the next day.)

5. What happens when it is 6:00 a.m. and a Skipper crosses the IDL?

(Answer: the Skipper either goes into the next day (traveling east) or the