

## Skill Worksheet

### Understand Latitude and Longitude

Geographers identify locations on the globe by using two sets of imaginary lines. The horizontal lines are called *parallels of latitude* (or lines of latitude). These lines of latitude are measured in degrees ( $^{\circ}$ ) north or south of the equator. The equator is the parallel of latitude at  $0^{\circ}$ . The vertical lines are called *meridians of longitude* (or lines of longitude). A special line, called the Prime Meridian, runs through Greenwich, England. The Prime Meridian is at  $0^{\circ}$  longitude. All other meridians are measured in degrees east or west of the Prime Meridian.

Use a reliable source, such as the Atlas in your textbook, to determine the parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude that should be added to the map below. Then draw these lines at  $10^{\circ}$  intervals on the map. Label each line. Be sure to label the equator and the Prime Meridian. Then answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper.

### Europe in 1873



### Questions

1. Why did geographers create lines of latitude and longitude?
2. Use the Atlas in your textbook to determine whether lines of longitude ever intersect. If so, explain where they intersect.
3. Use degrees of longitude and latitude to give Rome's location.
4. List four countries on this map that lie at  $40^{\circ}$  N.