

A Wonderful World of Knowledge...Know More About It

Episode #12: Time Zones

In tonight's segment, we'll answer the question, "Why do we have time zones?"

Once upon a time, wherever you were, noon was the time at which the Sun was directly overhead. For example, the Sun is directly overhead in Accra about one hour before it is in Freetown, so when it was noon in Accra, it was 11:00 in Freetown.

That sort of local time worked well until trains became a popular mode of transportation and before the invention of the telephone, radio and television.

Today, scheduling events, such as a televised football match, would be terribly complicated if the game started in Abuja at 12:00, but at 12:24 in Maidiguri and 11:48 in Lagos.

Time zones were created in the 1880s, based not only on geography, but also with commercial and political considerations in mind.

