

The Earth

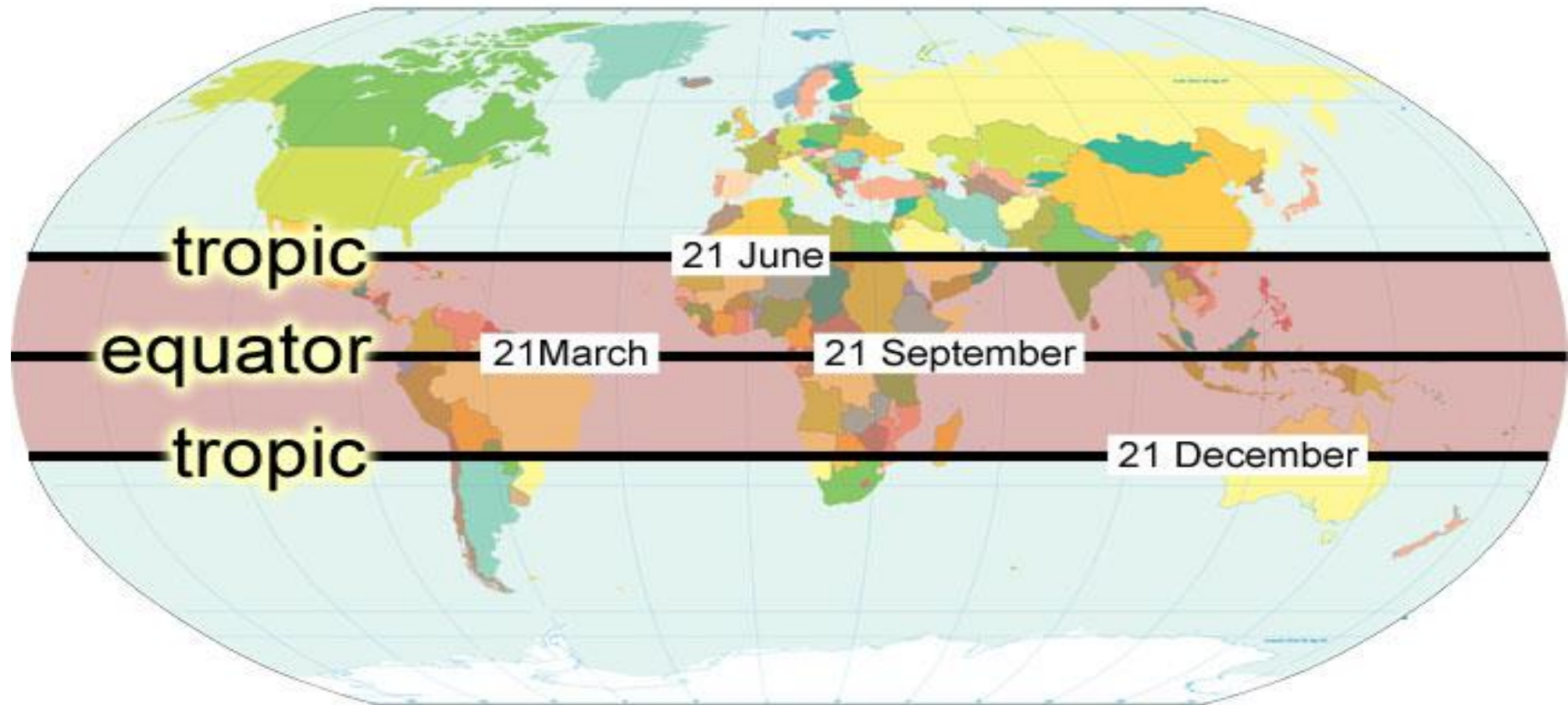
What distinguishes Earth from other planets

- An atmosphere of mainly oxygen and nitrogen
- Life forms in a wide diversity
- Liquid water (about 70% of the surface)

Earth' shape

- Average diameter is 13,000 km
- 42 km less pole to pole than at the equator
- Earth is an 'oblate spheroid'

The equator and the tropics



Eratosthene's calculation of the circumference of the Earth

