



Shift in Earth's Magnetic North Pole

- British Geological Survey has reported that the **earth's magnetic north pole is moving from its current position in Canada to Siberia.**
- The shift is causing geophysicists to **reconsider the world magnetic model** which is used for navigation purposes.
- The World Magnetic Model (WMM) is a **standard model of the core and large-scale crustal magnetic field.**
- It is used **extensively for navigation** by the United Kingdom and the US for Defence purposes, the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** and the **International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)**. It is also used widely in civilian navigation and heading systems.
- The Magnetic model which is **updated at every five years** and was supposed to be updated in 2020, but due to the unexpected shift, it has been postponed to January 30, 2019.
- Scientists think that reason for such shift is **geomagnetic pulses beneath South America** and the **high-speed jet of liquid iron beneath Canada.**

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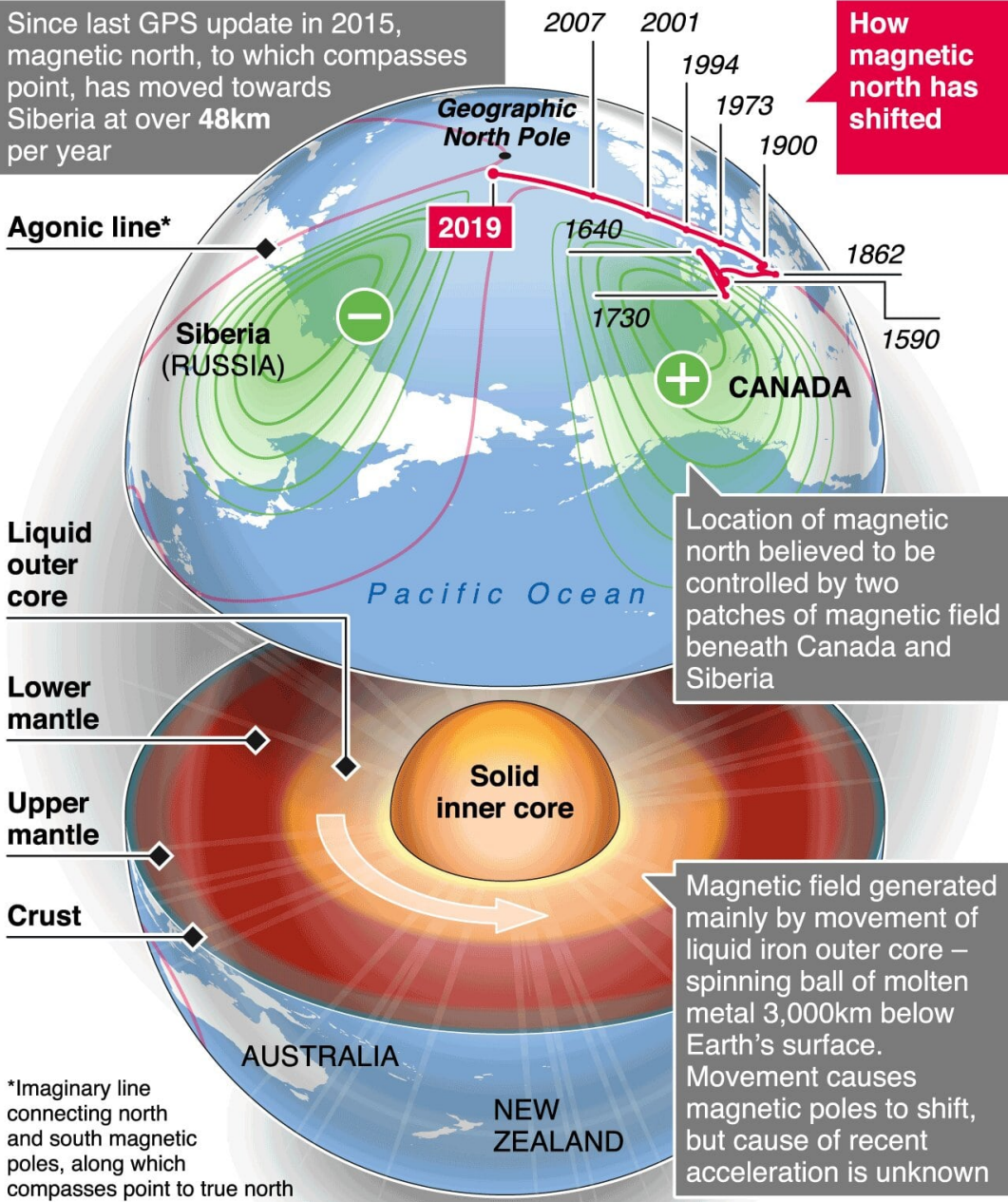


Earth's shifting magnetic north pole

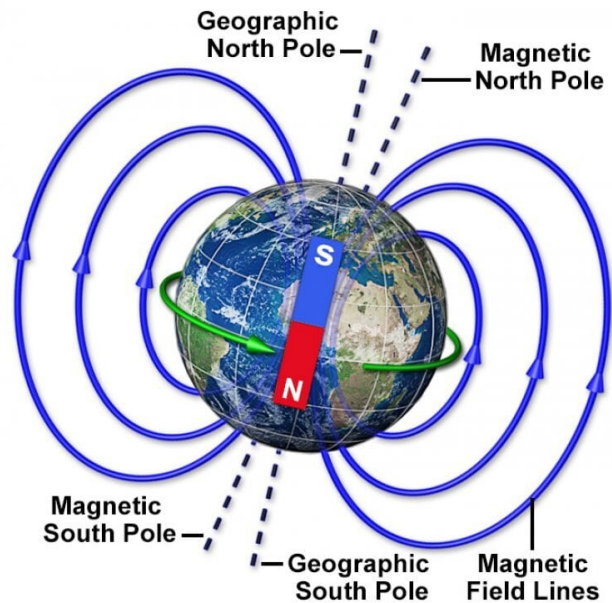
Magnetic north is on the move, forcing an emergency update for GPS systems which need its precise location to function accurately

Since last GPS update in 2015, magnetic north, to which compasses point, has moved towards Siberia at over 48km per year

How magnetic north has shifted



Geographical Poles vs. Magnetic Poles



▪ Geographic Poles

- The Earth rotates on the geographic north and south poles. The geographic north and south poles are where lines of longitude (meridians) converge in the north. The south and north pole are directly opposite to one another.

▪ Magnetic North Pole

- The Earth acts as one big magnet.
- The Earth consists of a solid iron core. Surrounding the iron core is an ocean of hot, liquid metal.
- The liquid metal that flows in Earth's core creates electrical currents, which in turn creates our magnetic field.
- The Magnetic North Pole (also known as the North Dip Pole) is a point on Ellesmere Island in Northern Canada where the northern lines of attraction enter the Earth.
- This means that a compass needle points to the Magnetic North Pole - which is different from the geographic north.

International Hydrographic Organization

- The International Hydrographic Organization is an **intergovernmental consultative and technical organization** that was **established in 1921** to support the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment.
- India is also a member of IHO.
- The objective of the Organization is to bring about:
 - The coordination of the activities of national hydrographic offices
 - The greatest possible uniformity in nautical charts and documents
 - The adoption of reliable and efficient methods of carrying out and exploiting hydrographic surveys
 - The development of the sciences in the field of hydrography and the techniques employed in descriptive oceanography