

Historical Geography of Continents and Oceans

Continents & Oceans · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which ancient Greek philosopher is credited with proposing the concept of a spherical Earth and theorizing the existence of antipodes, indirectly influencing later continental understanding?

A) Aristotle

B) Eratosthenes

C) Ptolemy

D) Herodotus

2. The name 'America' is derived from Amerigo Vespucci. However, the first European to conclusively describe the South American continent as a 'New World' distinct from Asia was:

A) Christopher Columbus

B) Ferdinand Magellan

C) Vasco da Gama

D) Amerigo Vespucci

3. During the Age of Exploration, which continent's connection to the broader Eurasian landmass was only fully recognized after extensive charting and expeditions, challenging earlier cartographical assumptions?

A) Africa

B) Australia

C) Antarctica

D) Asia

4. The term 'Terra Australis Incognita' (Unknown Southern Land) was a theoretical landmass appearing on maps for centuries. Its eventual identification and exploration led to the discovery of which continent?

A) North America

B) Greenland

C) Australia

D) Madagascar

5. The theory of continental drift, a precursor to plate tectonics, was formally proposed in the early 20th century by:

A) Charles Lyell

B) Alfred Wegener

C) James Hutton

D) Arthur Holmes

6. Which ancient civilization's extensive maritime trade routes, particularly during the Bronze Age, demonstrated a sophisticated understanding of ocean navigation and the interconnectedness of distant lands, implying early global awareness?

- A) Roman Empire
- B) Ancient Greece
- C) Minoan Civilization**
- D) Egyptian Empire

7. The mapping of the Pacific Ocean's vastness and the discovery of numerous islands within it are largely attributed to the voyages of:

- A) Sir Francis Drake
- B) Captain James Cook**
- C) Ferdinand Magellan
- D) Abel Tasman

8. Before the systematic exploration and mapping of the Antarctic continent, it was primarily conceptualized as:

- A) A vast desert
- B) A temperate landmass**
- C) An ice-covered ocean
- D) A volcanic archipelago

9. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 significantly altered global maritime trade routes, effectively shortening the sea passage between Europe and which ocean, bypassing the lengthy route around Africa?

- A) Pacific Ocean
- B) Atlantic Ocean
- C) Indian Ocean**
- D) Arctic Ocean

10. The geographical understanding of Africa, particularly its interior and river systems, was significantly shaped by 19th-century explorers such as Livingstone and Stanley. Before their expeditions, much of the continent's interior was considered:

- A) A well-charted desert
- B) A mythical 'dark continent' with unknown features**
- C) A collection of small, isolated islands
- D) An extension of the Arabian peninsula