

# Historical Geography of Continents and Oceans

Continents & Oceans · Practice Test · 10 Questions

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**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