

Cartography Fundamentals: Dates, Names, and Numbers

Cartography · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. Which ancient Greek scholar, often called the 'Father of Geography', produced one of the earliest known maps of the world around 200 BCE?

- A) Ptolemy
- B) Eratosthenes
- C) Strabo
- D) Herodotus

2. The Mercator projection, developed in 1569, is renowned for its ability to preserve which property of maps, crucial for navigation?

- A) Area
- B) Shape (conformal)
- C) Distance
- D) True direction

3. What year saw the publication of Abraham Ortelius's 'Theatrum Orbis Terrarum', considered the first modern atlas?

- A) 1569
- B) 1570
- C) 1588
- D) 1600

4. The concept of the 'equidistant projection' aims to preserve accurate distances from a single point or along specific lines. Which historical cartographer is particularly associated with developing such projections, including his eponymous one?

- A) Gerardus Mercator
- B) Charles-François de Cisternay du Fay
- C) Guillaume de l'Isle
- D) Bernardus Sylvanus

5. What was the approximate average radius of the Earth as calculated by Eratosthenes in the 3rd century BCE, expressed in stadia?

- A) 5,000 stadia
- B) 250,000 stadia
- C) 50,000 stadia
- D) 5,000,000 stadia

6. The 'Great Trigonometrical Survey of India' began in 1802. Which famous cartographer and surveyor led its initial phases?

- A) George Everest
- B) William Lambton
- C) James Rennell
- D) Alexander Cunningham

7. The Winkel Tripel projection, adopted by the National Geographic Society in 1998, attempts to balance several map properties. What percentage of the Earth's surface does it aim to represent without significant distortion?

- A) 70%
- B) 85%
- C) 90%
- D) 99%

8. The first known world map depicting the Americas was created by which cartographer in 1500?

- A) Juan de la Cosa
- B) Martin Waldseemüller
- C) Amerigo Vespucci
- D) Christopher Columbus

9. What is the approximate horizontal resolution (in meters) of a standard 1:10,000 scale map, meaning each millimeter on the map represents how many meters on the ground?

- A) 0.1 meters
- B) 1 meter
- C) 10 meters
- D) 100 meters

10. The Dymaxion map projection, created by Buckminster Fuller, was patented in which year?

- A) 1938
- B) 1943
- C) 1947
- D) 1951

11. The cartographic convention of using contour lines to represent elevation was popularized by which 19th-century surveyor and geologist?

- A) Charles Lyell
- B) James Hutton
- C) Sir George Airy
- D) William Smith

12. What is the name of the primary meridian that passes through Greenwich, London, and serves as the 0° longitude reference point?

- A) Prime Meridian
- B) International Meridian
- C) Greenwich Meridian
- D) 0° Meridian

13. The Albers equal-area conic projection is commonly used for maps of which continent due to its area-preserving properties?

- A) Africa
- B) North America
- C) Australia
- D) South America

14. Which year marks the founding of the International Cartographic Association (ICA), a global professional body for cartography?

- A) 1950
- B) 1955
- C) 1960
- D) 1965

15. The term 'choropleth map' refers to a map that uses different shades of color or patterns to represent statistical data for predefined areas. What is the typical number of distinct categories often used in a choropleth map for clarity?

- A) 2-4
- B) 5-8
- C) 10-15
- D) Over 20

16. What significant cartographic achievement is attributed to Nicolaus Copernicus in his work published in 1543?

- A) Development of the Mercator projection
- B) Creation of the first global atlas
- C) Proposal of the heliocentric model of the solar system
- D) Mapping of the stars with unprecedented accuracy

17. The Cassini projection, developed by César-François Cassini de Thury in the 18th century, is a type of projection that minimizes distortion along which specific line?

- A) Equator
- B) Prime Meridian
- C) Central Meridian
- D) Poles

18. What is the nominal scale of a world map that aims to show all continents without significant distortion of shape or area, often using a projection like the Mollweide or Goode Homolosine?

- A) 1:5,000,000
- B) 1:25,000,000
- C) 1:100,000,000
- D) 1:1,000,000,000

19. Which famous 15th-century cartographer created a world map in 1452 that significantly influenced later explorers, including Columbus?

- A) Fra Mauro
- B) Paolo dal Pozzo Toscanelli
- C) Martin Behaim
- D) Piri Reis

20. The Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinate system divides the Earth's surface into how many zones, each approximately 6 degrees wide in longitude?

- A) 12
- B) 24
- C) 36
- D) 60