

Introduction to Cartography

Cartography · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. What is the primary purpose of a map projection?

- A) To make maps look more artistic
- B) To accurately represent the curved surface of the Earth on a flat surface**
- C) To increase the resolution of geographical data
- D) To measure the exact distance between any two points on Earth

2. Which of the following is a fundamental element commonly found on most maps?

- A) A weather forecast
- B) A scale bar**
- C) A list of historical events
- D) A detailed biography of the mapmaker

3. What does the term 'topographic map' primarily represent?

- A) Political boundaries of countries
- B) Population density of a region
- C) Natural and man-made features, including elevation**
- D) Ocean currents and tides

4. Which historical civilization is credited with some of the earliest known maps?

- A) Ancient Romans
- B) Ancient Greeks
- C) Ancient Egyptians
- D) Ancient Chinese**

5. What does the legend or key on a map explain?

- A) The author's personal opinions
- B) The meaning of the symbols used on the map**
- C) The publication date of the map
- D) The map's overall size

6. The Mercator projection, a well-known map projection, is particularly useful for:

- A) Accurately showing the true size of landmasses near the poles
- B) Navigational purposes, as lines of constant compass bearing are straight**
- C) Representing the exact shape of countries at all latitudes
- D) Minimizing distortion of area near the equator

7. What is the scientific study of maps called?

- A) Geology
- B) Astronomy
- C) Cartography**
- D) Archaeology

8. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are primarily used for:

- A) Writing fictional stories
- B) Capturing, storing, managing, and analyzing spatial or geographic data**
- C) Composing musical scores
- D) Performing chemical experiments

9. What is the purpose of contour lines on a map?

- A) To indicate major cities
- B) To show lines of latitude
- C) To represent areas of equal elevation above sea level**
- D) To mark the boundaries of national parks

10. Which of the following is a type of thematic map?

- A) A map showing all streets in a city
- B) A map displaying climate zones**
- C) A map with a detailed depiction of mountain ranges
- D) A map showing the boundaries of a county

11. The North Star (Polaris) is a significant landmark in celestial navigation because it is located very close to:

- A) The celestial equator
- B) The ecliptic
- C) The north celestial pole**
- D) The prime meridian

12. What does a 'scale' on a map represent?

- A) The map's color scheme
- B) The ratio between a distance on the map and the corresponding distance on the ground**
- C) The map's projected date
- D) The type of paper used for printing