

Historical Cartography Quiz

Cartography · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which ancient Greek scholar is credited with the first attempt to measure the circumference of the Earth using geometry and observations of shadows?

- A) Ptolemy
- B) Aristotle
- C) Eratosthenes**
- D) Herodotus

2. The 'Tabula Peutingeriana,' a medieval Roman road map, is believed to be a copy of what original source?

- A) A Hellenistic map from the library of Alexandria**
- B) An Etruscan cadastral survey
- C) A military survey from the reign of Emperor Augustus
- D) A merchant's route log from the Silk Road

3. Which cartographer is renowned for his 1569 world map, which introduced a projection that became the standard for navigation for centuries?

- A) Abraham Ortelius
- B) Gerardus Mercator**
- C) Sebastian Münster
- D) Andreas Vesalius

4. The discovery and mapping of the Americas significantly impacted European cartography. Which Italian explorer's voyages, documented by others, led to the naming of the continent 'America'?

- A) Christopher Columbus
- B) Ferdinand Magellan
- C) Amerigo Vespucci**
- D) Marco Polo

5. During the Age of Exploration, portolan charts were a crucial navigational tool. What was their primary characteristic that made them so useful?

- A) Detailed topographic relief features
- B) Accurate longitude measurements
- C) Rhumb lines for compass bearings**
- D) Astronomical observations for latitude

6. The Al-Idrisi map, created in the 12th century for King Roger II of Sicily, was groundbreaking for its time. What distinctive feature did it incorporate?

- A) A grid system of latitude and longitude
- B) A depiction of the Earth as a sphere
- C) A representation of the world upside down compared to modern maps**
- D) The first accurate representation of the Americas

7. The Domesday Book, commissioned by William the Conqueror in 1086, included what type of cartographic element to document land ownership?

- A) Detailed city plans
- B) Cadastral maps of individual landholdings**
- C) Regional administrative boundary maps
- D) Sea charts of English coastlines

8. Which famous atlas, published in 1570, is considered the first true atlas, with maps organized in a systematic collection?

- A) Theatrum Orbis Terrarum**
- B) Cosmographia
- C) Geographia
- D) Hortus Sanitatis

9. During the Renaissance, the development of perspective in art influenced mapmaking. Which cartographer's work is often cited as an early example of this influence in city mapping?

- A) Leonardo da Vinci
- B) Leon Battista Alberti
- C) Francesco di Giorgio Martini**
- D) Donatello

10. The Cassini family of cartographers played a pivotal role in mapping which European country with unprecedented detail during the 18th century?

- A) Great Britain
- B) Spain
- C) France**
- D) Italy