

Exploration and Discovery of Continents and Oceans

Geography · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which cartographer is credited with being the first to use the name 'America' for the New World on the 1507 Waldseemüller map?

- A) Martin Waldseemüller**
- B) Amerigo Vespucci
- C) Johannes Schöner
- D) Sebastian Münster

2. Who was the first person to reach the deepest known point of the Earth's oceans, the Challenger Deep, in 1960?

- A) James Cameron
- B) Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh**
- C) Sylvia Earle
- D) Robert Ballard

3. Which explorer led the first expedition to successfully circumnavigate the globe, though he died before its completion in 1521?

- A) Vasco da Gama
- B) Hernán Cortés
- C) Ferdinand Magellan**
- D) Francis Drake

4. What was the first recorded European expedition to reach the continent of Antarctica, occurring in 1820?

- A) The Bellingshausen-Lazarev expedition**
- B) The Ross expedition
- C) The Wilkes expedition
- D) The Shackleton expedition

5. Which ocean was the first to be crossed by a powered aircraft, achieved by the NC-4 flying boat in 1919?

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

6. In 1513, who was the first European to sight the 'South Sea' (the Pacific Ocean) from the Americas?

A) Juan Ponce de León

B) Vasco Núñez de Balboa

C) Pedro Álvares Cabral

D) Francisco Pizarro

7. Which explorer is officially credited with being the first to cross the Arctic Ocean by ship in a single season in 1940?

A) Roald Amundsen

B) Henry Larsen

C) Vilhjalmur Stefansson

D) Robert Peary

8. What is the name of the first deep-sea submersible to discover hydrothermal vents on the ocean floor in 1977?

A) Alvin

B) Trieste

C) Jason Junior

D) Deepsea Challenger

9. Which continent was the last to be reached by humans during their initial global migration, excluding Antarctica?

A) Australia

B) South America

C) North America

D) Africa

10. Who was the first person to reach the North Pole, a claim verified by the National Geographic Society in 1909?

A) Matthew Henson

B) Robert Peary

C) Frederick Cook

D) Roald Amundsen

11. The 'Great Circle' route across which ocean was first systematically mapped by Matthew Fontaine Maury in the 1840s?

A) Southern Ocean

B) Indian Ocean

C) Atlantic Ocean

D) Pacific Ocean

12. Which explorer was the first to realize that the 'New World' was a distinct continent rather than part of Asia?

- A) Christopher Columbus
- B) Amerigo Vespucci**
- C) John Cabot
- D) Giovanni da Verrazzano

13. What was the first vessel to reach the South Pole by sea, arriving in 1911 under Roald Amundsen?

- A) Fram**
- B) Discovery
- C) Terra Nova
- D) Endurance

14. The first scientific mapping of the deep-sea floor, revealing the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, was conducted by which team in the 1950s?

- A) Cousteau and Falco
- B) Heezen and Tharp**
- C) Piccard and Walsh
- D) Beebe and Barton

15. Who led the first expedition to successfully sail the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific between 1903 and 1906?

- A) John Franklin
- B) Roald Amundsen**
- C) Adolphus Greely
- D) Ernest Shackleton

16. Which sea was the first to be explored using a bathysphere, a deep-sea submersible developed in 1930?

- A) Mediterranean Sea
- B) Bermuda waters (Atlantic)**
- C) Red Sea
- D) Coral Sea

17. The first known evidence of human presence in Australia dates back approximately how many years, according to archeological discoveries?

- A) 10,000
- B) 25,000
- C) 50,000**
- D) 100,000

18. Who was the first explorer to successfully cross the continent of Africa from coast to coast?

- A) David Livingstone
- B) Henry Morton Stanley
- C) Verney Lovett Cameron**
- D) Richard Burton

19. The first successful transatlantic telegraph cable, linking Europe and North America, was completed in what year?

- A) 1858
- B) 1866**
- C) 1872
- D) 1880

20. Which continent is the only one without a permanent human population, despite having the first recorded human sighting in 1820?

- A) Australia
- B) Greenland
- C) Antarctica**
- D) Arctic

21. The 'Challenger Expedition' (1872-1876) is considered the first to do what?

- A) Map the coast of Africa
- B) Perform global oceanographic research**
- C) Circumnavigate the North Pole
- D) Discover the Pacific Ocean

22. In 1500, which Portuguese explorer became the first European to discover Brazil while attempting to sail to India?

- A) Bartolomeu Dias
- B) Pedro Álvares Cabral**
- C) Diogo Cão
- D) Fernão de Magalhães

23. Which ocean contains the first identified 'dead zone' discovered by oceanographers in the mid-20th century?

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

24. What is the first geological theory to describe the movement of continents, proposed by Alfred Wegener in 1912?

A) Plate Tectonics

B) Continental Drift

C) Seafloor Spreading

D) Subduction

25. Which nation launched the first satellite dedicated to ocean observation, named SEASAT, in 1978?

A) Soviet Union

B) United States

C) France

D) Japan