

Exploration and Discovery of Continents and Oceans

Geography · Practice Test · 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