

Maritime Technology and Celestial Navigation

Maritime Technology · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which celestial body was historically used by sailors to determine their latitude by measuring its altitude?

- A) The Sun
- B) The Moon
- C) The North Star (Polaris)**
- D) Mars

2. Ancient mariners used observations of the stars and planets to create early forms of:

- A) GPS systems
- B) Sonar
- C) Star charts and calendars**
- D) Radar

3. The concept of the 'celestial equator' is an imaginary circle on the celestial sphere directly above the Earth's:

- A) North Pole
- B) South Pole
- C) Equator**
- D) Prime Meridian

4. Which planet's retrograde motion was a significant observation for early astronomers and influenced celestial navigation theories?

- A) Jupiter
- B) Venus
- C) Mars**
- D) Saturn

5. The 'International Date Line' is roughly based on the:

- A) Celestial Equator
- B) Prime Meridian**
- C) Equator
- D) Plane of the Ecliptic

6. Early celestial navigation relied on instruments like the astrolabe and sextant to measure the angle between a celestial object and the:

- A) Horizon**
- B) Zenith
- C) North Star
- D) Sun's direct rays

7. The sidereal day, used in astronomy, is based on the Earth's rotation relative to the:

- A) Sun
- B) Moon
- C) Distant Stars**
- D) Galaxies

8. What is the primary reason sailors studied the phases of the Moon and its position in the sky?

- A) To predict weather patterns
- B) To understand tidal forces and timekeeping**
- C) To communicate with other ships
- D) To navigate by sound waves