

Pioneers of Mapping

Cartography · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Who is historically credited with creating the first world map that depicted the Americas as a separate continent in 1507?

- A) Martin Waldseemüller**
- B) Gerardus Mercator
- C) Claudius Ptolemy
- D) Abraham Ortelius

2. Which invention allowed cartographers to accurately determine longitude at sea for the first time?

- A) The astrolabe
- B) The marine chronometer**
- C) The sextant
- D) The magnetic compass

3. What was the title of the first true modern atlas, published by Abraham Ortelius in 1570?

- A) Geographia
- B) Cosmographia
- C) Theatrum Orbis Terrarum**
- D) Atlas Maior

4. Gerardus Mercator is best known for developing a map projection in 1569 that was revolutionary for which purpose?

- A) Topographic surveying
- B) Navigational sailing**
- C) Aeronautical charting
- D) Population density mapping

5. In the 2nd century AD, who wrote 'Geographia', a work that provided the first formal instructions on how to create maps using latitude and longitude?

- A) Eratosthenes
- B) Anaximander
- C) Claudius Ptolemy**
- D) Herodotus

6. Which Greek scholar is famously credited with being the first to calculate the circumference of the Earth with surprising accuracy using simple geometry?

A) Eratosthenes

B) Aristotle

C) Strabo

D) Hipparchus

7. What instrument was introduced to European cartography in the 12th century, significantly improving the ability to determine cardinal directions?

A) The cross-staff

B) The quadrant

C) The magnetic compass

D) The vernier scale

8. Which 17th-century French cartographer produced the first scientific map of France, correcting errors regarding the nation's longitudinal width?

A) Nicolas Sanson

B) Jean-Dominique Cassini

C) Guillaume Delisle

D) Jacques Nicolas Bellin