

Geographic Milestones and Discoveries

Geography · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Who is credited with being the first person to calculate the Earth's circumference with high accuracy using the angle of the sun at two different locations?

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

2. Which explorer was the first to lead a recorded expedition that successfully circumnavigated the globe, completed in 1522?

- A) Vasco da Gama
- B) Ferdinand Magellan**
- C) Francis Drake
- D) James Cook

3. In 1911, which explorer led the first expedition to reach the geographic South Pole?

- A) Robert Falcon Scott
- B) Ernest Shackleton
- C) Roald Amundsen**
- D) Douglas Mawson

4. The first known world map to explicitly use the name 'America' was created by which cartographer in 1507?

- A) Gerardus Mercator
- B) Martin Waldseemüller**
- C) Abraham Ortelius
- D) Sebastian Münster

5. What was the first deep-sea submersible to reach the deepest point of the Mariana Trench, the Challenger Deep, in 1960?

- A) Alvin
- B) Trieste**
- C) DSV Limiting Factor
- D) Nautilus

6. Who is considered the 'father of modern geography' and the author of the multi-volume work 'Kosmos'?

A) Alexander von Humboldt

B) Carl Ritter

C) Friedrich Ratzel

D) Halford Mackinder

7. The first successful summit of Mount Everest was officially confirmed in 1953 by which two individuals?

A) George Mallory and Andrew Irvine

B) Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary

C) Reinhold Messner and Peter Habeler

D) Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenal

8. Which ancient scholar compiled the 'Geographia', an atlas and treatise on map-making that remained influential for over a millennium?

A) Strabo

B) Herodotus

C) Ptolemy

D) Pliny the Elder

9. What was the first artificial satellite to provide systematic global weather observations, launched by the U.S. in 1960?

A) Explorer 1

B) TIROS-1

C) Vanguard 2

D) Nimbus-1

10. Who was the first European to reach the Hawaiian Islands, which he originally named the Sandwich Islands in 1778?

A) Luis Váez de Torres

B) James Cook

C) Louis de Bougainville

D) Jean-François de Galaup

11. The 'Mercator Projection', the first map projection to represent lines of constant bearing as straight segments, was introduced in what year?

A) 1569

B) 1512

C) 1601

D) 1498

12. Which explorer led the first expedition to prove that Antarctica was a continent rather than just a group of islands?

A) Nathaniel Palmer

B) Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen

C) John Davis

D) James Clark Ross

13. What was the first maritime expedition to cross the Arctic Ocean via the Northeast Passage in a single season?

A) Vega expedition

B) Fram expedition

C) Gjoa expedition

D) Sedov expedition

14. In 1872, which vessel began the first global marine research expedition, effectively founding the science of oceanography?

A) HMS Challenger

B) HMS Beagle

C) USS Albatross

D) Meteor

15. Who was the first person to reach the North Pole by air, flying over it in the airship 'Norge' in 1926?

A) Richard E. Byrd

B) Roald Amundsen

C) Umberto Nobile

D) Lincoln Ellsworth