

Geographic Milestones and Discoveries

Geography · Practice Test · 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