

History of Continents and Oceans

Geography And History · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which explorer is credited with naming the Pacific Ocean 'Mar Pacifico' due to its calm waters in 1520?

- A) Ferdinand Magellan
- B) Vasco da Gama
- C) Christopher Columbus
- D) James Cook

2. Which continent was the last to be officially mapped and documented by European explorers during the late 18th and early 19th centuries?

- A) Africa
- B) South America
- C) Antarctica
- D) Australia

3. In 1507, the mapmaker Martin Waldseemüller was the first to use which name for the landmass now known as the Americas?

- A) Columbia
- B) America
- C) Atlantis
- D) Vespuccia

4. The 'Great Southern Land' or 'Terra Australis Incognita' was a hypothetical continent long believed by geographers to exist where, before its eventual discovery?

- A) The North Pole
- B) The South Pacific
- C) The Indian Ocean
- D) The Arctic

5. Which ocean was the primary route for the 15th-century Portuguese expeditions seeking a maritime path to India?

- A) Pacific Ocean
- B) Atlantic Ocean
- C) Arctic Ocean
- D) Southern Ocean

6. Which explorer successfully led the first expedition to cross the Indian Ocean and reach the Malabar Coast of India in 1498?

- A) Bartolomeu Dias
- B) Vasco da Gama
- C) Amerigo Vespucci
- D) John Cabot

7. The Suez Canal, completed in 1869, created a direct maritime link between the Mediterranean Sea and which body of water?

- A) The Persian Gulf
- B) The Red Sea
- C) The Black Sea
- D) The Caspian Sea

8. Which ancient Greek scholar is credited with being the first to divide the known world into three continents: Europe, Asia, and Libya (Africa)?

- A) Herodotus
- B) Aristotle
- C) Ptolemy
- D) Plato

9. During the 19th-century 'Scramble for Africa', which European conference formally divided the African continent among colonial powers?

- A) The Berlin Conference
- B) The London Treaty
- C) The Paris Agreement
- D) The Vienna Congress

10. The Bering Land Bridge, which connected Asia and North America during the last glacial period, is now submerged under which body of water?

- A) The Bering Strait
- B) The Gulf of Alaska
- C) The Beaufort Sea
- D) The Sea of Okhotsk

11. In 1513, which explorer became the first European to sight the Pacific Ocean from the American continent?

- A) Vasco Núñez de Balboa
- B) Hernán Cortés
- C) Francisco Pizarro
- D) Juan Ponce de León

12. Which ocean was historically known as the 'Ethiopian Sea' on many 16th and 17th-century European maps?

- A) Indian Ocean
- B) Atlantic Ocean
- C) Pacific Ocean
- D) Southern Ocean

13. The first circumnavigation of the globe, completed in 1522, proved that the world's oceans were interconnected and primarily traversed which two major oceans?

- A) Atlantic and Pacific
- B) Indian and Arctic
- C) Atlantic and Indian
- D) Pacific and Arctic

14. Which continent experienced the 'Great Trek' in the 1830s, a movement of Dutch-speaking colonists into its interior?

- A) South America
- B) Australia
- C) Africa
- D) North America

15. Which major explorer of the 18th century is responsible for the first recorded European contact with the eastern coastline of Australia?

- A) James Cook
- B) William Dampier
- C) Abel Tasman
- D) Matthew Flinders