

Foundations of Physical Geography

Physical Geography · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Who is credited with creating the first world map that included the Americas, published in 1507?

- A) Martin Waldseemüller**
- B) Gerardus Mercator
- C) Claudius Ptolemy
- D) Alexander von Humboldt

2. Which 17th-century scientist is credited with inventing the mercury barometer, a key tool for atmospheric geography?

- A) Galileo Galilei
- B) Evangelista Torricelli**
- C) Blaise Pascal
- D) Robert Boyle

3. In 1912, which scientist first proposed the theory of continental drift, suggesting all landmasses were once a single supercontinent?

- A) Harry Hess
- B) Alfred Wegener**
- C) Charles Darwin
- D) James Hutton

4. What device, invented by John Hadley in 1731, revolutionized maritime navigation by measuring the angle between the horizon and a celestial body?

- A) Compass
- B) Astrolabe
- C) Sextant
- D) Octant**

5. Who was the first person to calculate the circumference of the Earth with remarkable accuracy using shadow lengths and geometry in ancient Egypt?

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

6. In 1952, which deep-sea exploration vessel made the first successful descent to the bottom of the Mariana Trench?

- A) Trieste**
- B) Alvin
- C) Deepsea Challenger
- D) Nereus

7. Which famous explorer and naturalist is widely considered the 'father of modern physical geography' for his exploration of South America and work on plant geography?

- A) Captain James Cook
- B) Alexander von Humboldt**
- C) David Livingstone
- D) Marco Polo

8. What is the name of the first satellite launched into Earth's orbit in 1957, which began the era of space-based geographic observation?

- A) Explorer 1
- B) Vostok 1
- C) Sputnik 1**
- D) Telstar 1

9. Which cartographer published the first map to use a cylindrical projection that allowed for straight-line navigation (rhumb lines) in 1569?

- A) Abraham Ortelius
- B) Gerardus Mercator**
- C) Piri Reis
- D) John Flamsteed

10. Who first documented the existence of the Gulf Stream in a scientific report while serving as the Deputy Postmaster General for the American Colonies?

- A) Benjamin Franklin**
- B) Thomas Jefferson
- C) Alexander Hamilton
- D) James Madison