Geographical Discoveries and Firsts

Basic Geography · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Who was the first European explorer to reach the southern tip of Africa, the Cape of Good Hope, in 1488?

A) Bartolomeu Dias
B) Vasco da Gama
C) Ferdinand Magellan
D) Christopher Columbus

2. Which ancient Greek scholar is credited with calculating the Earth's circumference with remarkable accuracy using shadows?

A) Aristotle
B) Eratosthenes
C) Ptolemy
D) Strabo

3. In what year did the first human expedition reach the summit of Mount Everest?

A) 1924
B) 1953
C) 1960
D) 1945

4. Which explorer led the first expedition to successfully circumnavigate the globe?

A) Francis Drake
B) James Cook
C) Ferdinand Magellan
D) Amerigo Vespucci

5. Who was the first person to reach the geographic South Pole in 1911?

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

6. Which instrument, invented by ancient mariners, was essential for determining latitude by measuring the angle of the sun or stars?

A) Compass
B) Astrolabe
C) Sextant
D) Radar

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7. What is the name of the first satellite launched into Earth's orbit in 1957?

A) Explorer 1
B) Vostok 1
C) Sputnik 1
D) Voyager 1

8. Who is credited with producing the first world map that used the term 'America' in 1507?

A) Gerardus Mercator
B) Martin Waldseemüller
C) Abraham Ortelius
D) John Speed

9. Which explorer was the first European to encounter the Pacific Ocean from the Americas in 1513?

A) Hernán Cortés
B) Vasco Núñez de Balboa
C) Francisco Pizarro
D) Pedro Álvares Cabral

10. Which mountain range was the first to be surveyed using modern trigonometric methods in the 19th century?

A) The Alps
B) The Andes
C) The Himalayas
D) The Rocky Mountains

11. Who led the first expedition to successfully cross the Australian continent from south to north in 1862?

A) Robert O'Hara Burke
B) John McDouall Stuart
C) Ludwig Leichhardt
D) Edward John Eyre

12. What was the first deep-sea submersible to reach the deepest point of the Earth's oceans, the Challenger Deep?

A) Alvin
B) Trieste
C) DSV Limiting Factor
D) Nautile

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13. Which invention allowed cartographers to accurately map coastlines by correlating time with longitude?

A) Chronometer
B) Barometer
C) Telescope
D) Gyroscope

14. Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean?

A) Beryl Markham
B) Amelia Earhart
C) Jacqueline Cochran
D) Amy Johnson

15. Which desert was the first to be mapped comprehensively by satellite remote sensing technology?

A) Sahara
B) Gobi
C) Atacama
D) Kalahari

16. The Prime Meridian was officially established at the Greenwich Observatory in which year?

A) 1784
B) 1884
C) 1894
D) 1904

17. Which explorer is officially recognized as the first to reach the North Pole in 1909?

A) Robert Peary
B) Frederick Cook
C) Roald Amundsen
D) Richard Byrd

18. What was the first major international scientific project to map the global ocean floor?

A) The Challenger Expedition
B) The Beagle Voyage
C) The Endeavour Expedition
D) The Discovery Expedition

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19. Which ancient culture is credited with the invention of the magnetic compass for navigation?

A) Ancient Greeks
B) Ancient Chinese
C) Ancient Egyptians
D) Ancient Phoenicians

20. Who was the first European explorer to sail directly from Europe to India?

A) Vasco da Gama
B) Bartolomeu Dias
C) John Cabot
D) Pedro Álvares Cabral

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