

Cartography Influences How Europe Looks at the World

"The hidden half of the globe is brought to life"

Each new discovery made by explorers during the **Age of Exploration** helped to change the way Europeans looked at the world.



Before Columbus' voyages, nearly 2,000 years earlier, the European view of the world focused on the Mediterranean Sea and the lands that surrounded it. Pre-Columbian maps mirrored this view. After Columbus' explorations, the European worldview stretched from the Americas in the west to the Spice Islands in the East (Indonesia).



Cartographers (mapmakers), played a leading role in changing this worldview. Earlier medieval maps showed a very narrow view of the actual world.



Maps of the early 16th century, however, became increasingly precise. They also began to show two new continents in the west. The first whole-world maps began to appear during this time, following the voyages of Columbus and others to the ***New World (the Americas)***.

The first true world map is generally credited to one mapmaker, ***Martin Waldseemüller*** in 1507, and it was the first map to use the name "***America***" for the ***New World***. *America* is the feminized version of Amerigo Vespucci's name. All the continents are feminized versions - Asia, Australia, Africa, Europa, Antarctica.

Waldseemüller named these continents after the navigator, ***Amerigo Vespucci***. Vespucci was one of the first to explore and map the coasts of this new region.

Vespucci was also the first to realize that the newly discovered lands were, indeed, *new continents*. An account of his explorations was published under the title "***New World***."

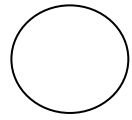
As the decades passed, the Americas were explored and mapped, until they would be almost recognizable to us today.



Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Cartography Influence – Assessment

Directions: *Circle the letter of the correct answer.*



1. Before Columbus' voyages, the European view of the world focused on:
 - a. the Atlantic Ocean
 - b. the Mediterranean Sea
 - c. the Pacific Ocean

2. After Columbus' explorations, the European worldview stretched from:
 - a. the Americas in the west to Indonesia in the east.
 - b. Europe in the west to Indonesia in the east.
 - c. the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Hawaiian Islands in the east.
 - d. a + b + c

3. Who played a leading role in changing the old worldview ?
 - a. the clergy
 - b. cartographers
 - c. marine biologists

4. Who was the first to name the "new world" continents, *America* ?
 - a. Amerigo Vespucci
 - b. Christopher Columbus
 - c. Martin Waldseemuller

5. The Americas were named after which navigator ?
 - a. Christopher Columbus
 - b. Amerigo Vespucci
 - c. Captain America

Name_____Period_____Date_____

Cartography Influence - Short Answer Assessment

Directions: Complete the following task correctly, using complete sentences and support from the text.

(1-2 pt. Correct Answer)

(1-2 pt. Complete Sentences)

(1-2 pt. Support from Text)

1-6. Explain the connection between Martin Waldseemuller and Amerigo Vespucci.

