Projections

AIM: Why do we use maps?

Do Now: Take out your 5 themes of geography worksheet for the last segment.

1. What can a map show us?

Map Basics - A map is a two-dimensional or flat-scale model of the earth’s surface, or a portion of it.

Vocabulary Terms

Scale –

Key/Legend –

Compass Rose -

1. Are maps 100% entirely accurate?

**Distortion Notes**

**Mercator Projection**

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Developed by Gerardus Mercator in 1569, it is a projection that was favored by ships captains during sea travel because it preserved direction.  However, the land masses get more distorted the closer you get to the poles.

As a result, Greenland, an island country, looks larger than Africa, the world's second largest continent.

**Robinson Projection**

The Robinson Projection attempts to preserve the shape and size of the landmasses better than the Mercator Projection.

**Winkel-Tripel Projection**

The Winkel-Tripel projection is slightly more accurant than the Robinson at preserving the size and shape of landmasses, and is the favored projection for world maps today.



**Azimuthal Projection**

An Azimuthal Projection is any map projection in which a region of the earth is projected onto a plane tangential to the surface, typically at a pole or the equator.

**Interrupted Projection**

The Interrupted Projection does the best job of preserving the relative size of the landmasses; however, it butchers our oceans.



1. **Aside from distorting the size of the land-masses, what are other ways the Robinson, Winkel-Tripel, and Mercator projections get wrong in their depiction of the earth?**