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## **DEFINITIONS**

- Bias (or biased) favoring one side over another
- <u>Map projection</u> a method of representing a round object on a flat surface, which necessarily distorts the picture (even if it's a satellite photo!)

## **Mercator Projection**

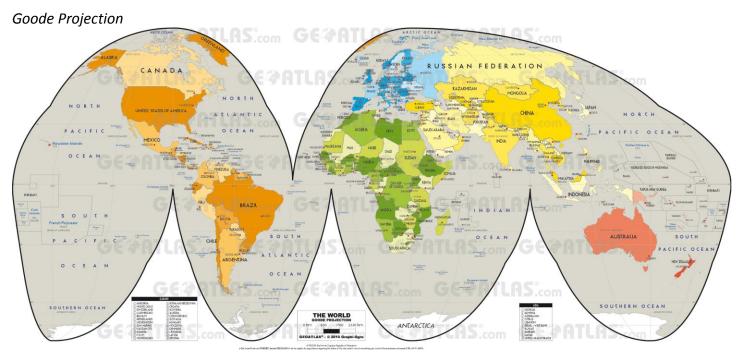


- 1. Compare Greenland in the Mercator Projection to Greenland on the globe. What's the difference? Why?
- **2.** Compare Antarctica in the Mercator Projection to Antarctica on the globe. What's the difference? Why?
- **3.** Find the U.S.A. on the Mercator Projection. What can its location tell you about where the mapmaker might be from? How can you tell?
- **4.** Compare the location of the equator on the Mercator Projection to the location of the equator on the globe. What's the difference? Why?

## Peters Projection



**5.** In the Peters Projection, the sizes are correct, but now the distances are all wrong. Why might it matter if distances are incorrect? Think of at least 2 examples of something that could go wrong.

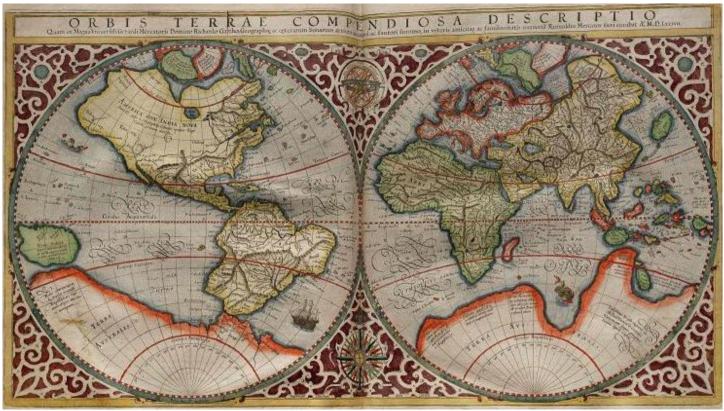


**6.** The Goode Projection fixes both the size and distance problems, more or less, and yet some people don't prefer it. Why do you think that is?

## London Tube (subway) Map for riders reality of the London Tube (subway) system Hackney London Town Islington Rothertuthe Dep

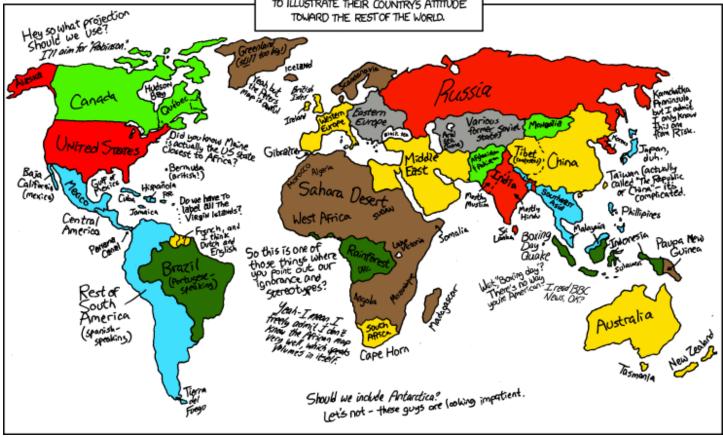
**7.** The first of these subway maps is easy to use. The second is accurate. Is the first map biased? If so, is that a bad thing? Explain your thought process on this.

Orbis Terrae – historic world map from the 1580s



**8.** What biases does this map reveal? Why might the mapmaker have seen the world this way?





- 9. What American biases about the world are revealed in this map from the webcomic xkcd.com?
- **10.** What was this mapmaker surprised to discover?
- **11.** Given all the maps you've just looked at, can a map ever show neutral facts with no bias? Why or why not?
- **12.** If maps, which can seem like such neutral facts, are more biased than they seem, what does this suggest about other information we believe to be neutral and/or simple fact?