ca. 900 B.C.

Babylonian world map on clay tablet. Babylon is at the center.

By permission of the British Library

ca. A.D. 335-366 Peutinger Map. Segment of the earliest known road map of the Roman empire. Copy of a 4th century original made in the 11th or 12th century.

From a facsimile. Courtesy of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.
Beatus Map, Religious beliefs shown alongside geographic facts. India can be seen in the upper right; Spain (Espania) bottom left center.

*By permission of the British Library.*

Portion of the World map by Muhammed b. Muhammed al-Idrisi. He was an Arab cartographer at the court of King Roger of Sicily. Arabian peninsula, top center. South is at the top.

*From a facsimile. Courtesy of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.*

Suchow planisphere. Chinese star chart. Apparent shape of the Milky Way is shown.

*Reproduced by kind permission of the Needham Research Institute, Cambridge University*
**W 1250**

Itinerary map by Matthew Paris (detail). Part of a larger map showing a pilgrimage route from London to the Holy Land. Canterbury Cathedral is second from top on left.

*By permission of the British Library*

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**1452-53**

Mappa Mundi by Giovanni Leardo. Many maps of this time were circular with the center in Jerusalem. The authors of the four gospels of the Bible are in the corners. North at left. The Red Sea and equatorial Africa are red.

*From the American Geographical Society Collection, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Library*
W 1482

World map from Ptolemy’s Geographia. This edition was the first to show contemporary discoveries and the first to use wooden printing plates. This type of map may have been used by Columbus.

*Courtesy of Rare Books and Manuscript Division, New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations*

1492

Sketch of the northwest coast of Hispaniola (Haiti) by Christopher Columbus. This is the only known map drawn by Columbus.

*From a facsimile, Courtesy of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress*

W 1502

Cantino Planisphere (detail). First map showing Papal Line of Demarcation (running through South America) dividing discoveries of the New World between Spain and Portugal. Retains features of the portolan charts of the Middle Ages—compass roses, "rhumb" lines, or lines of constant compass heading, and names of ports.

*Courtesy of the Biblioteca Estense, Modena, Italy*
1524

Map of Tenochtitlán by Hernando Cortez. The Aztec temple is in the middle.

*Courtesy of The Edward E. Ayer Collection, The Newberry Library*

1569

Portion of the World map by Geradus Mercator (detail). Mercator devised a new way to show the world on a flat surface. A ship’s course could be plotted in a straight line with this projection.

*From the private collection of Seymour I. Schwartz, M.D., University of Rochester*
World map by Willem Janszoon Blaeu. From an atlas, a comprehensive book of maps of the known world.

*Courtesy of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress*

Chart showing variations of the compass in the western and southern oceans by Edmund Halley. Compass variations are shown by a thematic map innovation.

*Courtesy of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress*
1744

Map of France based on triangulation surveys by Jacques Philippe Maraldi and Cesar François Cassini de Thury. This survey took three generations of the Cassini family to complete.

*Courtesy of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress*

1775

Track of the H.M.S. *Resolution* through the Pacific Ocean. Shows voyages of Captain James Cook. Polar projection, south at center.

*By permission of the British Library*
1814 V

A Map of Lewis and Clark’s Track by Samuel Lewis. Made from notes by William Clark.

*Courtesy Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress*

Ä1877

Northern Central Colorado, Geologic map from F.V. Hayden’s U.S. Geological and Geographical Atlas of Colorado ...

*Courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey*
Fire insurance map of Tombstone, Arizona, (detail) by the Sanborn Map Company. Colorcoded to indicate flammability of buildings.

*Courtesy of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress*

Pheil’s Universal Time Indicator. A dial, rotating around the center point, shows time around the world. Polar projection, north at center.

*Courtesy of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress*
1936

Mosaic of aerial photographs of Oswald Dome, Tennessee.

*Courtesy of the Tennessee Valley Authority*

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1937

Oswald Dome Quadrangle, Tennessee, by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Topographic map made photogrammetrically from aerial photographs.

*Courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Tennessee Valley Authority*
1957

Physiographic Diagram, Atlantic Ocean by, Bruce C. Heezen and Marie Tharp. The topography of the Atlantic Ocean bottom showing for the first time the Mid-Ocean Ridge.

By Bruce C. Heezen and Marie Tharp

1969

Map of Tranquility Base. The astronauts of Apollo 11 landed on the Moon in 1969 with maps of their landing sites made on Earth from images from earlier lunar orbiters.

Courtesy of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
**W 1980-1987**

Mosaic map of Antarctica. Created from 23 Landsat images.

*Courtesy of the British National Remote Sensing Centre*

**1984**

Sea-surface temperature image of the western North Atlantic Ocean. Satellite image; red tones denote warmer temperatures.

*Courtesy of O. Brown, R. Evans, and M. Carle, University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science*

**W 1988**

Copper Basin, Arizona. Modeled surface of proposed strip mine created in a geographic information system.

*Courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Forest Service*
Global wind speed and direction. From data acquired in 1978 by the Seasat satellite. Arrows show wind direction, colors show speed—blue for the lightest winds and yellow for the heaviest.

*Courtesy of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration*

Computer-generated map showing earthquake-prone areas. High-risk areas appear as white peaks.

*Courtesy of Melvin L. Prueitt, Los Alamos National Laboratory. Data from the U.S. Geological Survey*
1990

Image of Saturn from the Hubble space telescope orbiting the Earth.

*Courtesy of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration*