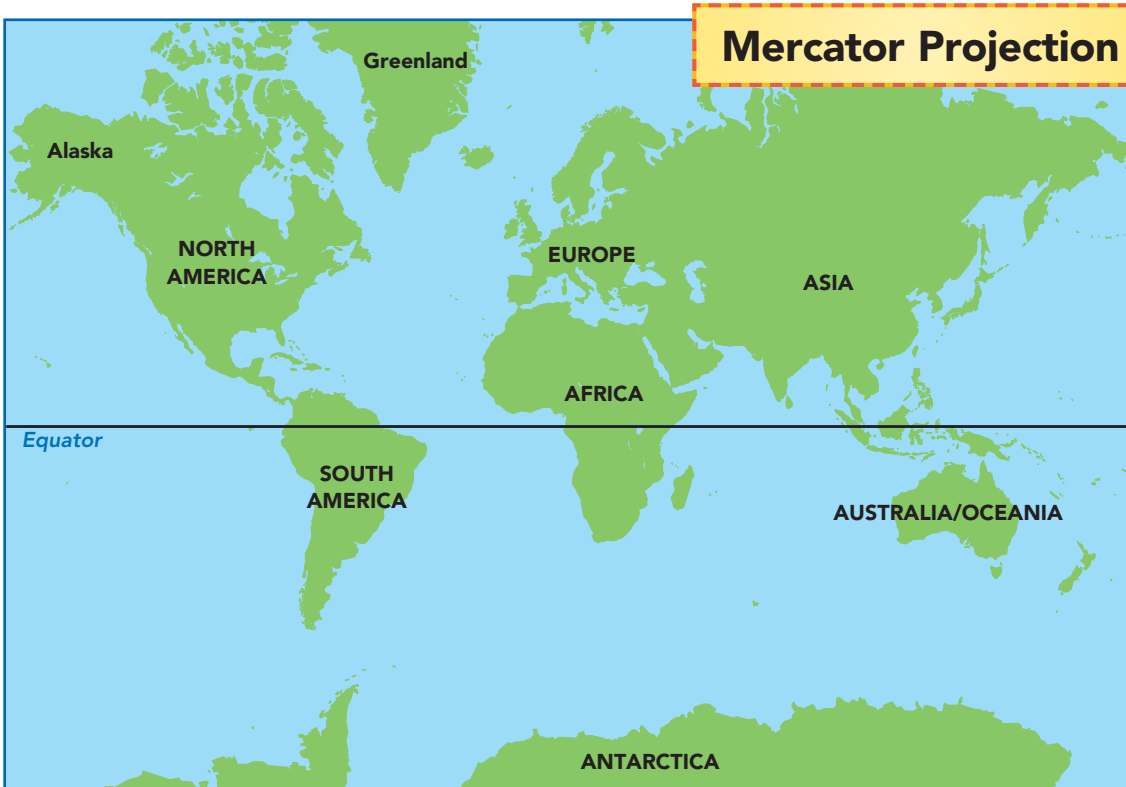




Map Projections

A globe is the best way to represent Earth, but globes are not easy to put in your pocket and carry around. Also, you cannot see all of a globe at one time. So mapmakers have developed flat maps that show all of Earth. The different ways of drawing the round Earth on flat maps are called **projections**. You can see two different projections on these pages.

No flat map can show Earth perfectly. Look at the Mercator projection. It was developed in 1569 by Gerardus Mercator. A Mercator map shows the true shapes of Earth's land, but it distorts sizes, especially near the poles. On a Mercator map, Greenland looks as big as South America. In fact, South America is eight times bigger than Greenland!

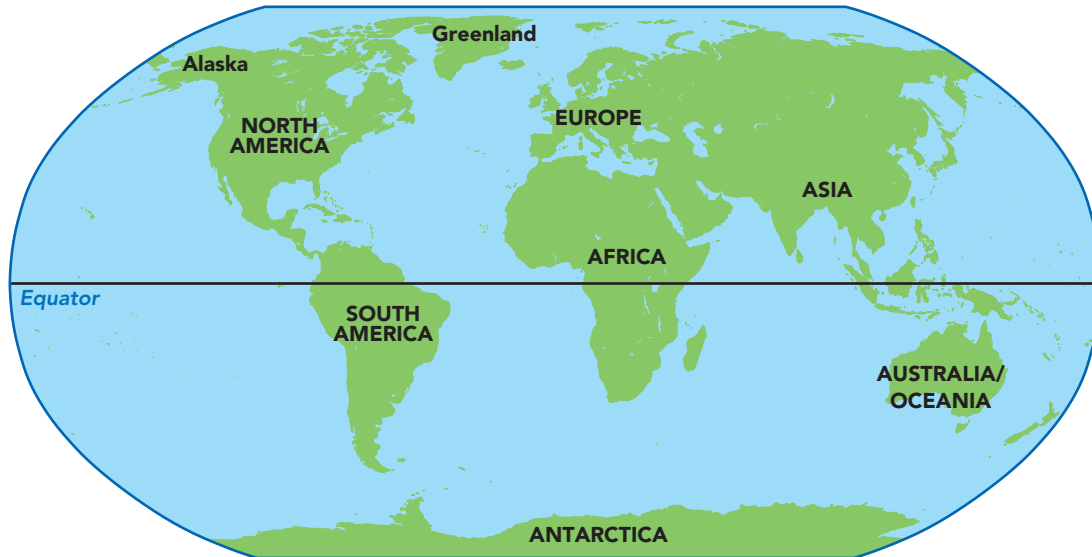


map
reader's **Tip**

Other types of projections on world maps include **Mollweide**, **Polar**, and **Interrupted** projections.



Robinson Projection



The map above shows the Robinson projection. It is used by many geographers today. The land sizes are more accurate on this map, but the shapes get distorted near the outer edges. Compare the shape of Alaska on the two maps. Use the maps to answer the questions.

1. How is a world map different from a globe? _____
 2. On which map does Antarctica look bigger? _____
 3. Which map is more like a globe? _____
 4. On which map does the distance from Greenland to Antarctica look greater? _____
 5. Which map looks more like a peeled orange? _____
- Why do you think this is so? _____

Word Scramble

There are five types of map projections named in this lesson. Can you unscramble them?

LAROP

RATROME C

PETDURNITRE

ILEMDEWLO

BOSNIRON
