

# The Development of Geographic Thought

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## Geography in early societies

- Ancient Chinese practice of feng shui
- Aborigine songs about the landscape

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- Navajo Indians align their houses based on direction
- Polynesian navigation of the Pacific Ocean

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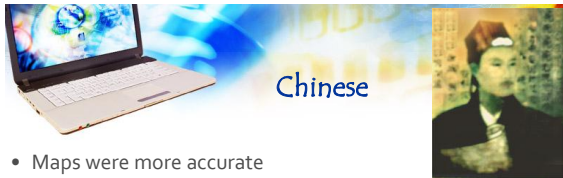
## Geography in early societies

- Navajo Indians align their houses based on direction
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## Ancient Greeks

- First to demonstrate the intellectual importance of geographical knowledge
- Places embody fundamental relationships between people and the natural environment
- **Geography** – earth writing/earth describing





## Chinese

- Maps were more accurate
  - Based on successful navigation of the Pacific and Indian Oceans by admirals from Imperial China
    - Africa – southward pointing triangle, not pointing eastward as is shown by European and Arabic maps
- **Zhu Siben** – (1273 – 1337) summarized body of language made by Chinese cartographers about China and adjacent parts of Asia



## Arabs

- Rise of Islamic power in the 7th and 8th centuries A.D.
- Texts in Greek and Roman were translated to Arabic
- Drew on Chinese geographical writing and cartography
- Pilgrimage to Mecca created a demand for travel guides



## Arabs

- Abu Uthman Amr ibn Bahr al-Kinani al-Fuqaimi al-Basri
- **Al Jahiz** (the goggle eyed) – early adherent of environmental determinism
  - On the Zanj – “The Zanj say that God did not make them black in order to disfigure them; rather it is their environment that made them so.”



## The Period of Exploration and Discovery

- **Portuguese Explorations**
  - Dom Henrique
  - Bartholomeu Dias
  - Vasco da Gama
  - Pedro Cabral
- **English Explorations**
  - John Cabot
  - Francis Drake
  - James Cook
- **Spanish Explorations**
  - Cristobal Colon
  - Fernando de Magalhaes



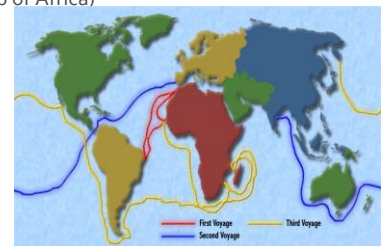
## Portuguese Explorations

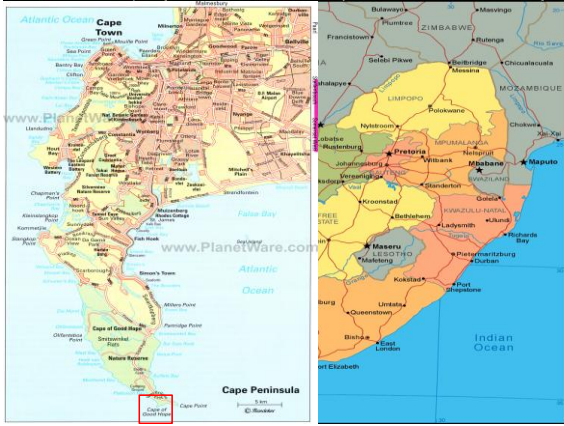
- **Dom Henrique** – Prince Henry the Navigator
  - Established navigation and cartography
  - Explored the coast of Africa



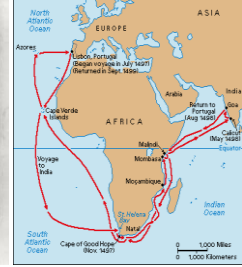
## Portuguese Explorations

- **Bartholomeu Dias** – reached the Cape of Good Hope in 1488 (southern tip of Africa)





- **Vasco da Gama** – reached India in 1498.



- **Pedro Cabral** – crossed the Atlantic from Portugal to Brazil in 1500



- **Cristobal Colon** – Christopher Columbus – Sailed to Hispaniola (Haiti and Dominican Republic) in 1492



- **Vasco Nuñez de Balboa** – first European to have reached the Pacific



- **Hernando Cortes** – led the expedition which caused the fall of the Aztec Empire



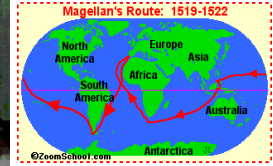
Spanish Explorations

- **Fernando de Magalhaes** – Ferdinand Magellan
  - First person to lead an expedition across the Pacific Ocean



Spanish Explorations

- **Juan Sebastian del Cano** – survivor of Magellan's fleet
  - Completed the first circumnavigation of the globe in 1522.



Spanish Explorations

- **Francisco Pizarro** – conquered the Incan empire, founded Lima in 1532.



English Explorations

- **John Cabot** – first to discover the mainland of North America in 1497.



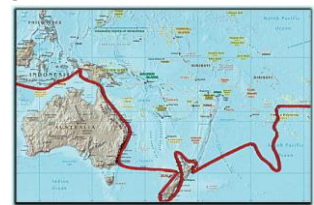
English Explorations

- **Francis Drake** – second man to complete a circumnavigation of the globe



English Explorations

- **James Cook** – first European contact with the eastern coast of Australia, circumnavigation of New Zealand

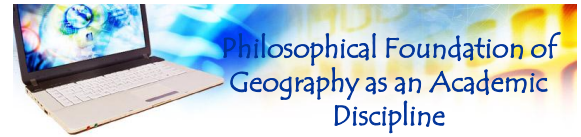




## Philosophical Foundation of Geography as an Academic Discipline



- **Alexander von Humboldt** – German geographer
  - Collected and analyzed data about the relationships among the spatial distribution of rocks, plants, and animals.
  - Mutual causality among and between species and their physical environment



## Philosophical Foundation of Geography as an Academic Discipline



- **Immanuel Kant** - German philosopher
  - Believed in the importance of many fields in geography
  - 2 general fields of knowledge:
    - Geography (accdg to space)
    - History (accdg to time)



## Philosophical Foundation of Geography as an Academic Discipline



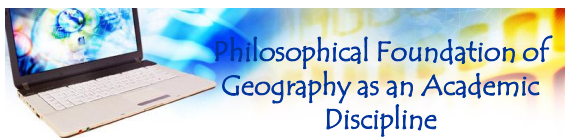
- **Karl Ritter** - German geographer
  - Founder of the tradition of regional geography
  - Integrative science
  - Divide the continents into broad physical units and subdivide these into coherent regions with distinctive attributes



## Philosophical Foundation of Geography as an Academic Discipline



- **Friedrich Ratzel** – German geographer
  - Strongly influenced by Charles Darwin's theory
  - Species' adaptation to environmental conditions and competition for living space (lebensraum)



## Philosophical Foundation of Geography as an Academic Discipline



- **Ellen Churchill Semple** – American geographer
  - Student of Ratzel
  - Had a prevailing interest with environmental determinism, a theory that the physical environment, rather than social conditions, determines culture



## Four reasons for being geographically informed:

- Existential reason
- Ethical reason
- Intellectual reason
- Practical reason



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