

Expanding Knowledge of the Globe

These maps demonstrate the European progression of geographical knowledge from the late 15th to the late 16th centuries.

Ptolemy Map of the World

1467



1467 Map of the World

1. How many years before Columbus sailed was this map made?
2. What continents are on this map?
3. What continents are missing from this map?
4. What other geographical inaccuracies are there on this map?

Martellus World Map

1489





Waldseemüller World Map 1507

Ortelius
World
Map

1570



1489, 1507, 1570 Maps of the World

1. In Martellus' map, southern Africa is added. What does that indicate about European's knowledge of the globe?
2. How might discovering Africa's southern tip affect trade between Europe and Asia?
3. In Waldseemuller's map, part of the Americas are on the map. Why isn't all of the Americas on the map?
4. In Ortelius' map, by 1570, Europe had a clearer picture of world geography. But when compared to a modern day map, what had they yet to learn about global geography?