

Development of Mapping & Knowledge about the World Regional Geo. in the age of Explorations

As people travel, they encounter different environments and people. That knowledge became known as geography, a term first used as the title of Eratostrhenis. Stores of knowledge were built up about such ~~as~~ new & exotic places, as demonstrated by the Greek philosopher & world traveller Herodotus. That knowledge became known as Geography.

Such was the volume of knowledge compiled thereafter that Strabo's geography. It contained description of particular parts of what was then the known world.

Soon thereafter Ptolemy collected a large amount of information about the latitude & longitude of places of the world, in his seminal work.

The Greeks & Romans accumulated a great body of knowledge about the Earth & developed the sciences of astronomy & map making.

The study of geography, preferably cartography, was nurtured in the Arab world. The Europeans started to rediscover the ancient Greek & Roman work and stressing misinformation like, Ptolemy's inaccurate maps.

However, a ~~long~~ key feature of geographical information is that, it is localized, relating to individual parts of Earth's surface.

For centuries, the location of places were inexactly known, rather, plotting of information on maps, were debated. Drawing & demarcating boundaries around the territories was not accurate & standardized cartographic practices.

Meanwhile, collection of maps were assembled & published in atlases, during 16th century, by Gerardus Mercator, in N. Europe.

The Belgian cartographer - Abraham Ortelius (1570) was famous for his collection of maps in "Epitome of the Theatre of the World". At that time, the science of surveying

was employed to make detailed large-scale maps of the land surface. The work of the Cassini family of France, was the basis for the world's first national atlas (1791).

Thus, the evolving ~~practice~~ practice of geography involved mapping the world, drawing outlines, and filling them in with details about their physical environments and the people inhabiting them.

Such geographical improvements ^{were} depended on astronomy. Methods for determining latitudes & longitudes and measuring elevations and distances were refined and were of great value to navigators & ~~explorers~~ explorers.

James Cook, 2nd half of the 18th century, conducted scientific experiments, that enabled advances in navigation & cartography and collected samples of flora & fauna, that were used to classify knowledge about the natural world, like French naturalist Georges Louis-Leclerc.

As information accumulated, a new branch of geography was established by the late Middle Ages, called chorography (or chorology), increasingly, governments became direct sponsors of major expeditions to the country's expanding frontier and establishment of national mapping agencies around the world.

In France, the discipline had roots in history & mapping, by ~~Rast~~ Paul Vidal de la Blache. Exploration means to travel for the purpose of discovery.

Regional geography is a branch of geography, that studies the world's regions. A region itself is defined as a part of the Earth's surface with one or many characteristics that make it unique from other areas.

Generally maps are drawn to ensure the boundaries of continents, countries, territories, states & provinces. A region is an area of land that has common features. A region can be defined by natural or artificial features.

Regional Geography on the basis of mapping system

In the world, the Relative location refers to the location of a place relative to other places, and we commonly use relative location when giving directions to people. Another way to describe a place is by referring to its absolute location, which references an exact point on Earth & commonly uses specific coordinates like latitude & longitude.

Historically, most maps ~~were~~ were hand-drawn, but with the advent of computer technology came more advanced maps, created with the aid of satellite technology.

GIS, Geographical Information System (science), uses computers, satellite imageries, to capture, store, manipulate, analyse, manage, & present spatial data.

One difficulty with map-making, even when using advanced technology, is that, the earth is roughly a sphere while maps are generally flat. When converting the spherical Earth to a flat map, some distortions always occur. However, the representation of Earth's surface on a flat plane, distorts at least one of these properties — area, shape, distance & direction.