

Why Every World Map Is Wrong

7th Grade

You cannot flatten a sphere without distorting something.

MERCATOR

- Shapes and angles are correct
- Sizes badly wrong near the poles
- Greenland looks as big as Africa
- Africa is actually 14 times larger
- Designed for navigation, not comparison

EQUAL-AREA

- Sizes are correct
- Shapes are squashed
- Africa appears at its true size
- Countries look stretched near the equator
- Designed for comparing area

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Every flat map trades one kind of accuracy for another. There is no correct world map, only a fit-for-purpose one.

Ask what a map was made for before trusting what it appears to show.