Basics of Cartography
Cartography Defined

• Cartography is the making of, and study of, maps
Notable Cartographers

• Aristotle (384 B.C.E – 322 B.C.E)
  – Came up with the theory the earth was spherical
• Eratosthenes (3rd Century BCE)
  – Calculated the circumference of the earth
  – First to use the word Geography
Notable Geographers

• Claudius Ptolemy (CE 90 – CE 168)
  – Wrote book called *Geography* and came up with idea of latitude and longitude

• Muhammad al-Idrisi (1099-1165)
  – Worked for the king of Sicily to make an accurate description of the Earth
Al-Idrisi’s Map of the Known World
Notable Modern Geographers

• George Perkins Marsh (1801-1882)
  – Described how natural systems are impacted by human actions.
    • Considered to be the first modern environmentalist
• Carl Sauer (1889-1975)
  – Argued that cultural landscapes, the interactions between people and their environment, should be the focus of geographic study.
Qualities of a “Good” Map

T - Title
O – Orientation
D – Date
A – Author
L – Legend
S – Scale
I – Index
G – Grid
S – Source
Title

• Explains what information the map is displaying
  – Helps reader understand what they are looking at
Orientation

• A way of figuring out how to orient the map
  – Typically a compass rose that shows north, south, east, west
  – Helps reader quickly understand directions
Date

• This tells you when the map was made
  – Helps the reader get a frame of reference to the information being shown
  • Ex. Maps before 1991 have the Soviet Union

![Image of a map with a date of January 1965]
Author

• The person and/or organization who made the map
  – To help prove the authenticity/accuracy of the map
Legend

• This tells you what the symbols used on the map mean
  – Sometimes called a Key
Scale

- This tells you the distance a unit of measure represents in the area shown on the map.
Index

• A collection of major sites and their location on the map
  – Can help the reader quickly find locations
  – Ex. Saigon (F3)
Grid

• This is the series of lines on a map that match the index. Sometimes these are line of latitude and longitude.
Source

- Explains where the author got the information to make the map
  - Helps establish credibility of map

Adapted from Muir's Historical Atlas: Medieval and Modern, (London: 1911)