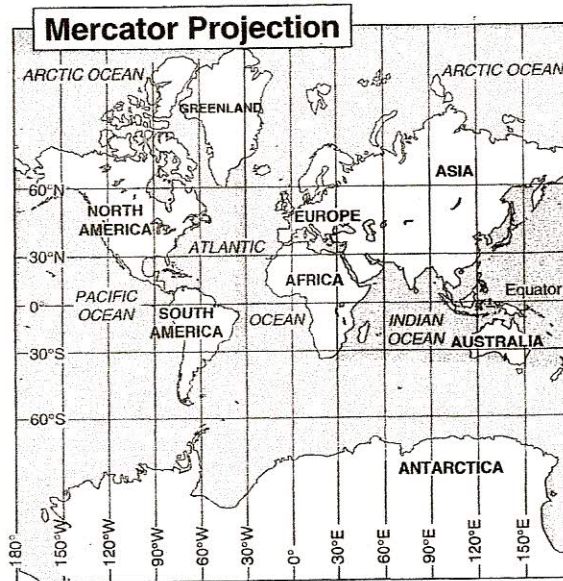




Maps With Accurate Shapes: Conformal Maps

Directions: Read the information about conformal maps, and study the map below. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Conformal maps are so named because the shapes of the landmasses conform to, or look like, the shapes that appear on the globe. Directions are also correct. However, distances and size are greatly distorted, especially in the polar regions. Lines of latitude and longitude cross at right angles. The lines of longitude that meet at the poles on a globe, however, are parallel on this map. The Mercator projection below is an example of a conformal map.



1. Use a globe to compare the size of Antarctica on this map with the size of that continent on the globe. What do you observe?

2. Look at the comparative sizes of Greenland and Africa on the map and on the globe. What do you observe?

3. Which aspects of this map are correct and which are distorted?

4. Why do you think this projection is often used for making navigational charts?

