

History of Cartography, the art and science of making maps

Oldest known maps are Babylonian clay tablets.



~2300 BC

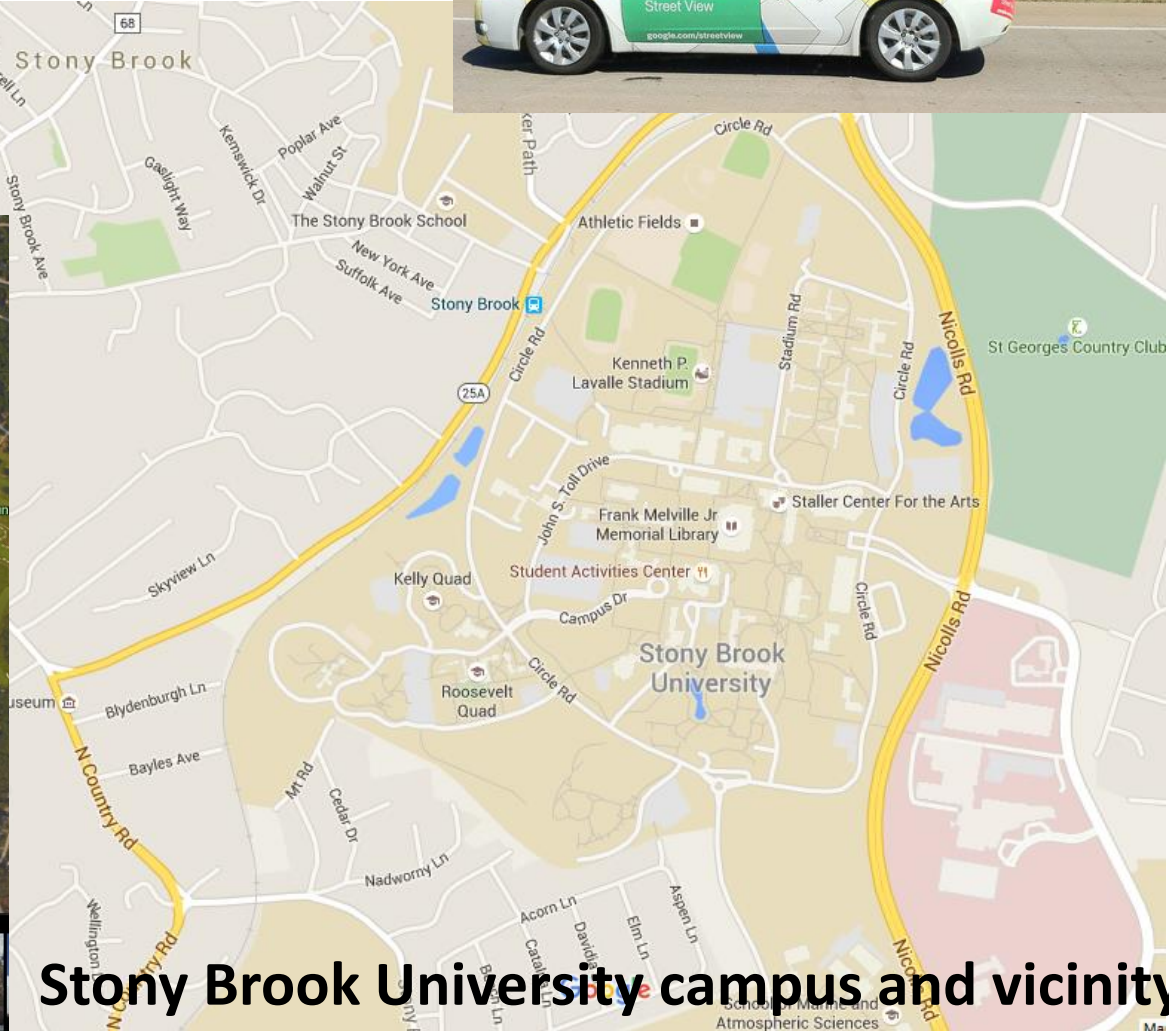
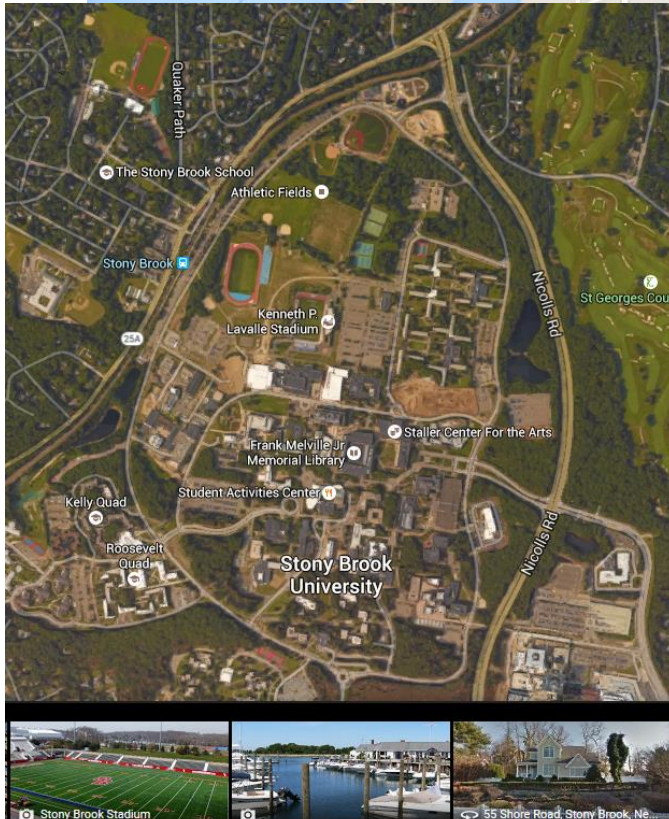


~600 BC

Inscriptions depict **small areas** like a village or a city.

Modern Resources

~2000 AD



Stony Brook University campus and vicinity

History: Greek and Roman Maps

Ptolemy's
(AD 85-165)
"world map"
shows
the Old World
from about
60°N
to 30°S
latitudes.



Note the *pretty accurate* depiction of Mediterranean, Arabian Peninsula and North Africa regions.

History: Medieval Maps

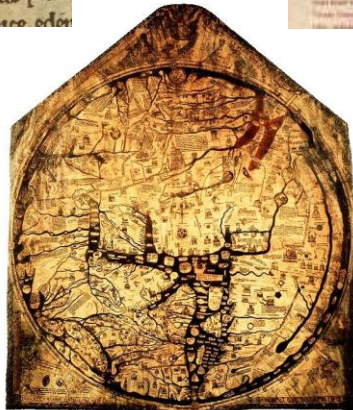
- Before 15th century, maps were hand drawn which made their distribution extremely limited.



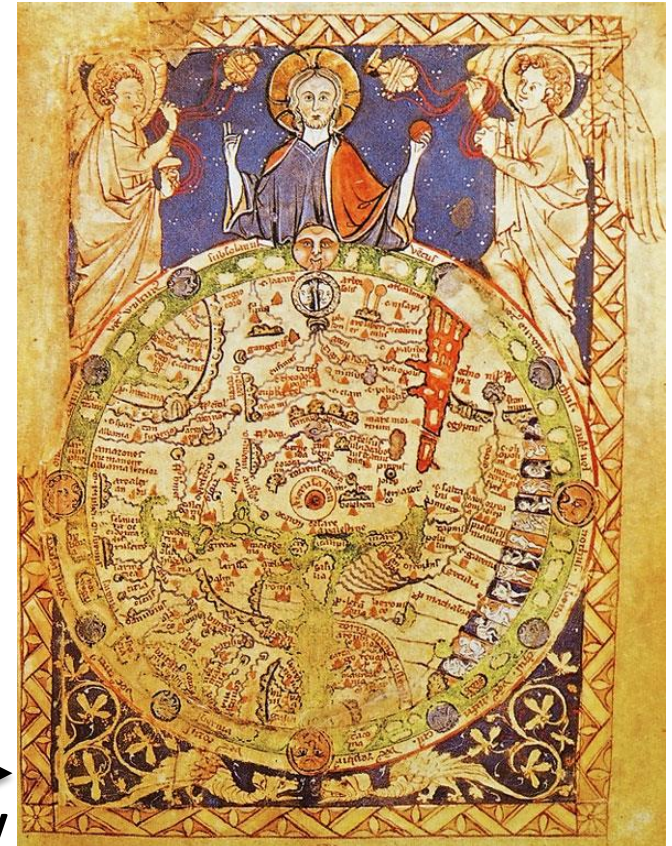
12th century



Isidore ↑
11th century



Hereford
~1280 →



Psalter →
13th century

- “**T-O maps**” appeared in religious books and were dominated by religious views, most maps centered at *Jerusalem*.

History: Renaissance Maps

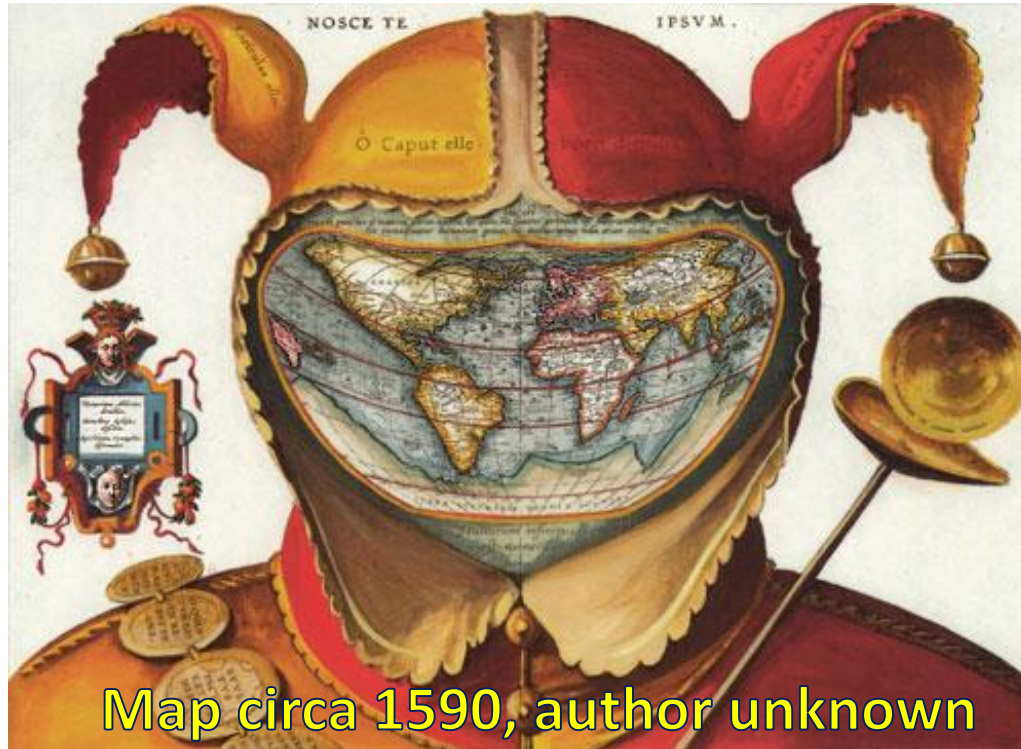
Beginning in the 15th century, the invention of printing made maps much more widely available.



First map to use the name “America” to label the New World, ~1507

The Fool's Cap World Map

Are maps realistic representations of the actual world?



**Not
really!**

Map circa 1590, author unknown

A map can display **only** a *few selected features*, usually in *highly symbolic styles* (even the most modern ones!).

All maps are **estimations**, **generalizations**, and **interpretations** of true geographic conditions, made according to certain basic **assumptions** which are not always true or verifiable.

History: World Maps

First **whole-world maps** began to appear in the early 16th century following voyages by Columbus and others to the *New World*.



*Terrarum
Orbis*

by
Henricus
Hondius,
1633

**Which
two
continents
are
still
missing?**

1679 Mercator Map of the World

