

Name _____

Date _____

Comparing Map Projections to the Globe Answer Key

Analyze the maps on the Map Projections handout and a globe to complete the charts below.

	Describe the lines of longitude.	What distortion do you see?	Why use a globe?
Globe	Lines of longitude are not parallel and meet at the poles.	Size and shape are not distorted and to scale.	This is best for representing size relationships for continents, countries, and oceans if you don't need a flat map.

Projection	Describe the lines of longitude.	What distortion do you see?	Why use this projection?
Mercator	Lines of longitude are parallel to one another and perpendicular to lines of latitude, making a grid.	Close to the poles the land masses are very large. This includes Greenland, Canada, Alaska, Northern Europe, Russia, and Antarctica. South America and Africa look very small in comparison.	The ocean distances and latitude/longitude lines are not distorted, so this was good for navigating ocean travel.
Mollweide	Lines of longitude are not parallel. They meet at the poles.	The shape of the land masses is distorted. North America, Asia, and Australia are flattened on the diagonal.	Sizes of land masses are more accurate, so this is good for representing all continents. The oceans look distorted.
Robinson	Lines of longitude are not parallel and do not meet at the poles.	Antarctica looks very large. Greenland looks flattened north to south.	Land masses are between the size of the Mercator and Mollweide, and the ocean sizes look more accurate than the Mollweide, so this is good for representing both land and water.