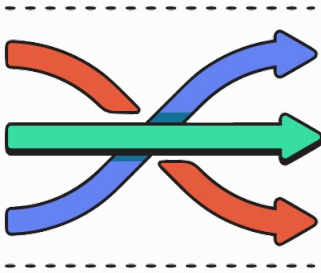


Formative Assessment:

Continuity and Change over Time



Thinking historically means identifying and exploring the reasons behind both what has changed and what has stayed the same within a given time period or around a specific historical event.

Directions: Read the following source(s). Then, answer the questions on continuity and change over time that follow. The multiple choice questions for this formative assessment are Weighted Multiple Choice (WMC) Questions. This means that there is only one *incorrect* answer, but the other 3 choices are weighted. The *best* answer is 3 points, the *second-best* answer is 2 points, and the *third-best* answer is 1 point. The *incorrect* answer is 0 points.

Formative Assessment: Continuity and Change Over Time

Source: Martin Waldseemüller, *Universalis cosmographia secundum Ptholomaei traditionem et Americi Vespucii aliorumque lustrationes*, 1507. [Library of Congress](#).

[Text from Library of Congress]: Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 world map was the first map to depict a separate Western hemisphere with the Pacific as a separate ocean. The map grew out of an ambitious project in Saint-Dié, Lorraine (in present-day France), during the early 1500s, to document and update new geographic knowledge derived from the Portuguese and Spanish explorations of the late 15th and early 16th centuries. Waldseemüller's map was the most exciting product of that research effort. It drew upon data gathered during Amerigo Vespucci's 1501-02 voyages to the New World. In recognition of Vespucci's understanding that a new continent had been discovered, Waldseemüller christened the new lands "America." This is the only known surviving copy of the first edition of the map, of which it is believed 1,000 copies were printed. By showing the newly-found American land mass, the map represented a huge leap forward in knowledge - one that forever changed the European understanding of a world previously divided into just three parts: Europe, Asia, and Africa.



Formative Assessment: Continuity and Change Over Time

1. Which observation about the two maps is the best example of a **continuity** in European geographic knowledge during the Age of Exploration?
 - A. Both maps depict Europe's coastlines and borders with greater accuracy than other regions, reflecting the limits of firsthand geographic knowledge.
 - B. Both maps show the Americas' interior as largely undefined, indicating that European geographic knowledge of the New World remained limited despite ongoing exploration.
 - C. Both maps show the Atlantic Ocean as the primary body of water connecting Europe to the Americas, reflecting its centrality to exploration.
 - D. Both maps show the Americas with similarly detailed and accurate coastlines, suggesting European geographic knowledge of the New World changed little by 1581.

2. Justify your answer in the space below.

3. Which observation about the two maps is the best example of a **change** in European geographic knowledge during the Age of Exploration?

- A. By 1581, Southeast Asia is depicted more accurately than in 1507, reflecting growing European geographic knowledge of the region through trade route exploration.
- B. By 1581, the Americas' coastlines are significantly more defined than in 1507, reflecting the expansion of European geographic knowledge through decades of exploration.
- C. The 1581 map's illustrations center on Drake's voyage, suggesting European geographic knowledge of the wider world had not meaningfully changed since 1507.
- D. The 1581 map uses a different projection than the 1507 map, reflecting shifts in cartographic methods rather than geographic knowledge itself.

4. Justify your answer in the space below.



Formative Assessment: Continuity and Change Over Time

1. Which observation about the two maps is the best example of a **continuity** in European geographic knowledge during the Age of Exploration?
 - A. Both maps depict Europe's coastlines and borders with greater accuracy than other regions, reflecting the limits of firsthand geographic knowledge. **(2 points)**
 - B. Both maps show the Americas' interior as largely undefined, indicating that European geographic knowledge of the New World remained limited despite ongoing exploration. **(3 points)**
 - C. Both maps show the Atlantic Ocean as the primary body of water connecting Europe to the Americas, reflecting its centrality to exploration. **(1 point)**
 - D. Both maps show the Americas with similarly detailed and accurate coastlines, suggesting European geographic knowledge of the New World changed little by 1581. **(0 points)**

2. Justify your answer in the space below.

Both maps clearly show the Americas' interior as undefined, making Choice A worth 3 points. Choice B is supported by both maps but is a less precise observation, worth 2 points. Choice C is accurate but reflects a cartographic detail rather than geographic knowledge, worth 1 point. Choice D is incorrect, as the Americas' coastlines are noticeably more defined by 1581, worth 0 points.

3. Which observation about the two maps is the best example of a **change** in European geographic knowledge during the Age of Exploration?
 - A. By 1581, Southeast Asia is depicted more accurately than in 1507, reflecting growing European geographic knowledge of the region through trade route exploration. **(2 points)**
 - B. By 1581, the Americas' coastlines are significantly more defined than in 1507, reflecting the expansion of European geographic knowledge through decades of exploration. **(3 points)**
 - C. The 1581 map's illustrations center on Drake's voyage, suggesting European geographic knowledge of the wider world had not meaningfully changed since 1507. **(0 points)**
 - D. The 1581 map uses a different projection than the 1507 map, reflecting shifts in cartographic methods rather than geographic knowledge itself. **(1 point)**

4. Justify your answer in the space below.

Both maps clearly show the Americas' coastlines becoming more defined, making Choice A worth 3 points. Choice B is supported by both maps but the improvement is less dramatic than the Americas, worth 2 points. Choice C reflects a shift in cartographic method rather than geographic knowledge, worth 1 point. Choice D misreads Drake's illustration as evidence of unchanged knowledge, worth 0 points.



1. Weighted Multiple Choice – Continuity

3 points (Choice B)	2 points (Choice A)	1 point (Choice C)	0 points (Choice D)
Subtotal: _____ / 3			

2. Short Answer: Justify Your Answer

3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Student thoroughly justifies their choice of the <i>best</i> example of a continuity—which is worth three points as shown on the teacher key.	Student thoroughly justifies their choice of either the 1 or 2 point option from the WMC question. OR Student's justification of the 3 point option needs deeper analysis.	Student's justification of their choice (either the 1 or 2 point option) lacks deep analysis.	Student either makes no attempt to justify their choice OR try to justify the 0 point option.
Subtotal: _____ / 3			

3. Weighted Multiple Choice – Change

3 points (Choice B)	2 points (Choice A)	1 point (Choice D)	0 points (Choice C)
Subtotal: _____ / 3			

4. Short Answer: Justify Your Answer

3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Student thoroughly justifies their choice of the <i>best</i> example of a change—which is worth three points as shown on the teacher key.	Student thoroughly justifies their choice of either the 1 or 2 point option from the WMC question. OR Student's justification of the 3 point option needs deeper analysis.	Student's justification of their choice (either the 1 or 2 point option) lacks deep analysis.	Student either makes no attempt to justify their choice OR try to justify the 0 point option.
Subtotal: _____ / 3			

Total: _____ / 12

