

## Handout 1: Comparing Historical Maps

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions to discuss with your partner as you examine the maps and the descriptions that follow.

What do you see?

What does that make you wonder?

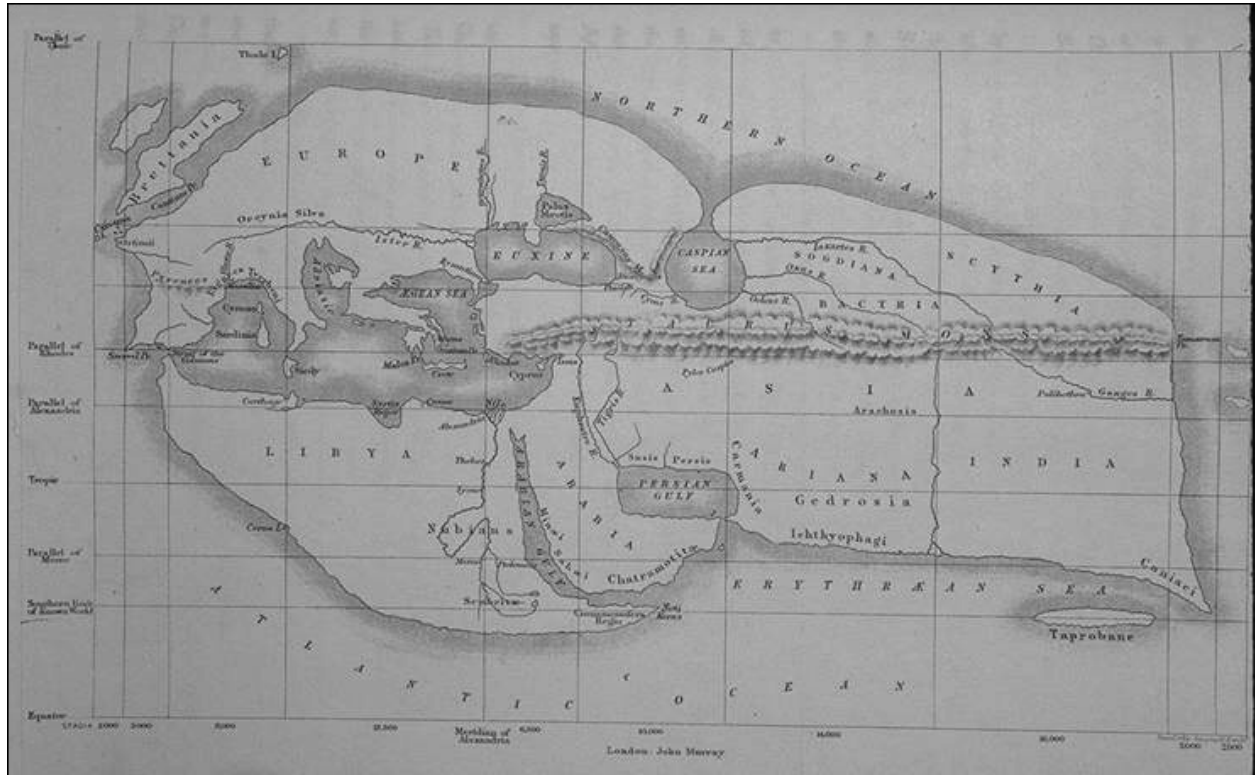
Do you see any similarities between the maps?

Do you see any differences?

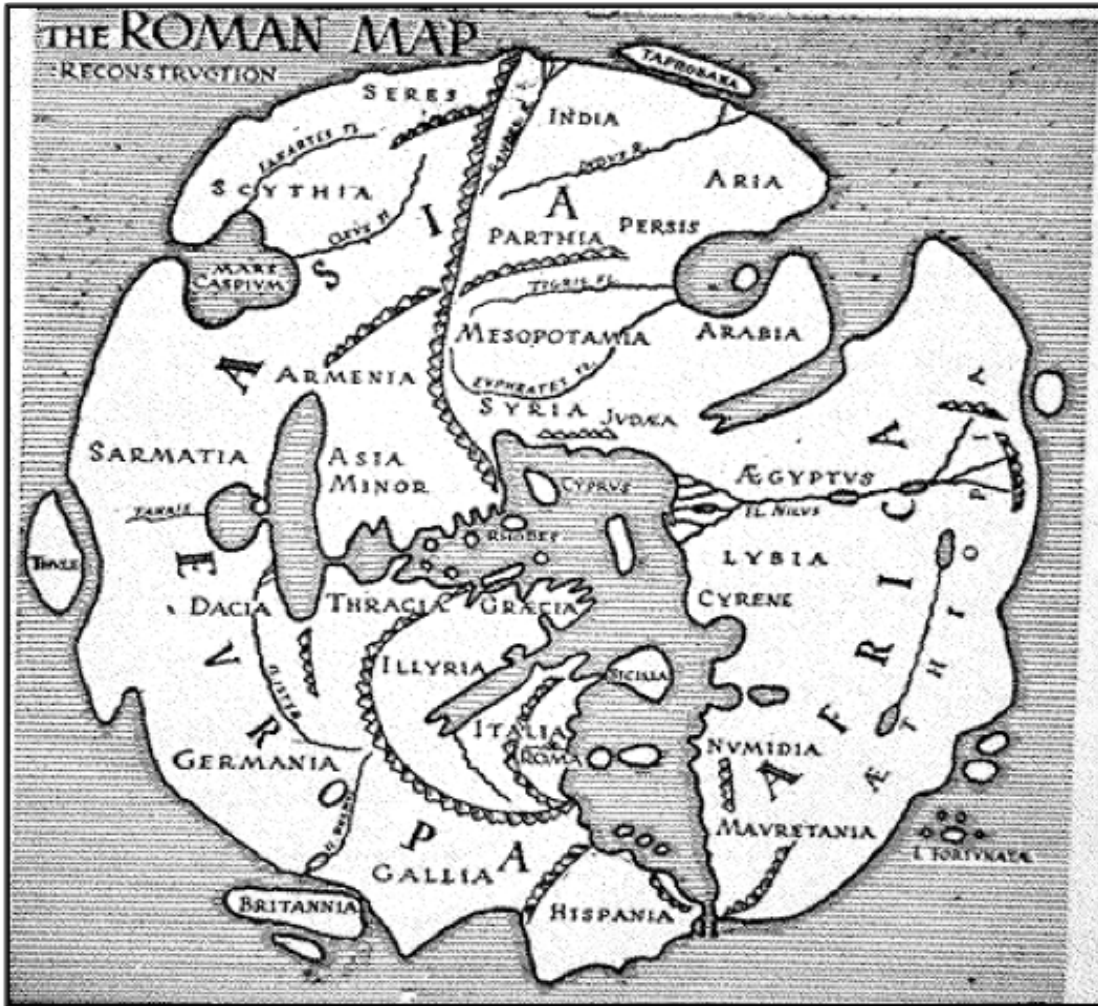
How do they compare to modern maps?

What might the maps tell us about the world view and experiences of those who made them?

Map A



Map B



Map C



Strabo was born in c. 64 B.C.E in present day Turkey. It said that he spent much of his life traveling to Ethiopia, Tuscany, Asia Minor, Egypt, Kush, and through other parts of the Mediterranean world and the Near East. In c. 44 B.C.E. he moved to Rome and where he used his travel experiences and additional research to write. He is most famous for his 17-volume work *Geographica*, which described the geography, culture, and history of people and places from different parts of the world in his time. It included information on Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa. Strabo's maps are reconstructions based on information in the *Geographica*.

**Map B**  
**Orbis Terrarum A.D. 20**  
**Reconstruction from Raisz**

**The Roman Map Reconstruction**  
**Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa**

Sources: [http://cartographic-images.net/Cartographic\\_Images/118\\_Agrippa.html](http://cartographic-images.net/Cartographic_Images/118_Agrippa.html)  
<http://www.myoldmaps.com/maps-from-antiquity-6200-bc/118-agrippas-orbis-terrarum/118-agrippa.pdf>

Agrippa was an architect, a general, and was involved in politics. Copies of this map that depicts the whole world as it was known at the time, were taken all over the Roman Empire, however, no copies survived. This map is a reconstruction based on later maps that had been based on earlier Roman maps and from descriptions found in the works of other classical geographers. This map shows three continents and was designed to emphasize Rome and the Roman Empire. India, China (Seres), and Russia (Scythia and Sarmatia) are included on the edges of the map, while the Roman Empire is in the center. Because the map was posted publicly in a portico, it is thought that it must have actually been a rectangle, not a circle.

**Map C**  
**"Complete Map of the Four Seas, China, and the Barbarians"**  
**1532**

*Sihai Huayi Zongtu*

This map is now located in the library at Harvard university. It depicts China, Korea, Siberia, Japan, Nepal, India, Persia, and Rome. The East China Sea and "Western Sea" are also shown. China's landscape is detailed and in India the Himalayas, Ganges and Indus are shown.