



About This Map

Any flat map is only an approximation of the spherical earth. Cartographers choose special mathematical formulas called projections to render the earth's features on the page, and every projection has benefits and drawbacks. Many maps in the United States use the Mercator projection, which is useful for navigation but misrepresents the relative size of the continents, making Africa look the same size as Greenland. The maps in this book use the Robinson World projection instead, which renders the earth's equatorial regions more proportionately while compressing the polar regions. For this reason, the scale bar may be used to estimate long distances from east to west across continents, but is not as accurate for measuring north to south.

