**SOME FAMOUS GEOGRAPHERS**

**Ibn Battuta** – 14th Century; best known as an extensive traveler or explorer, whose account documents his travels and side-excursions over a period of almost thirty years, covering some 73,000 miles (117,000 km). This journeying covered almost the entirety of the known Islamic world, extending also to present-day India, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia and China, a distance readily surpassing that of his prior, near-contemporary and traveler Marco Polo.

**Edrisi (Idrisi)** - Arab geographer, a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, who in the 1100s collected all known geographical information and assembled at the time the most accurate representation of the world. His “inhabited earth” is divided into seven “climates.”

**Eratosthenes** – 276-194 BC; coined the name geography: *geo* meaning “the earth” and *graphein* meaning “to write.” He is noted for devising a system of latitude and longitude, and for being the first known to have calculated the circumference of the Earth within a remarkable 0.5 percent accuracy (he did this by measuring the sun’s angles on June 21st at two cities on the Nile, Alexandria & Syene) . He prepared one of the earliest maps of the known world.

**Hecataeus** - one of the most popular researchers and geographers who hailed from Greece. Born in 550 BC, this reputed cartographer was known for his map of the inhabited world. The cartographic contributions of Hecataeus include distinctly defining the positions of the three continents for the first time.

**Alexander von Humboldt** – 1769-1859; he is considered one of the founders of modern geography work on botanical geography was foundational to the field of biogeography; set about the task of collecting and analyzing data about the relationships between the spatial distribution of rocks, plants, and animals.

**Ellsworth Huntington** – 1876-1947; argued that climate was a major determinant of civilization; according to him climate of maritime northwestern Europe produced greater human efficiency as measured by better health conditions, lower death rates, and higher standards of living.

**Immanuel Kant** –German writing in the latter part of the eighteenth century, defined geography as the study of interrelated spatial patterns – the differences and similarities between one region and another; influential philosopher, and his belief in the intellectual importance of geography was an important element in establishing the subject as a formal discipline.

**Thomas Robert Malthus** - English economist and cleric was the most famous pioneer observer of population growth with the publishing in 1798 of “An Essay on the Principle of Population,” known as the “dismal essay.” He believed that the human ability to multiply far exceeds our ability to increase food production. He maintained that “a strong and constantly operating check on population” will necessarily act as a natural control on numbers. He regarded famine, disease, and war as the inevitable outcome of the human population’s outstripping the food supply.

**George Perkins Marsh** - in 1864 he wrote a treatise entitled *Man and Nature, or Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action*. As the first work to suggest that human beings are significant agents of environmental change, focusing heavily on human destruction of the environment; his message was basically conserve the earth or pay the consequences.

**Ptolemy** – 2nd century AD; 500 years after Eratosthenes recalculated circumference of the earth as 9,000 miles smaller (he was wrong, but it was taken as truth for hundreds of years); main work is his *Geographia*, a compilation of what was known about the world's geography in the Roman Empire during his time; developed a global grid system that was a forerunner to our system of latitude and longitude.

**Carl Ritter** – 1779-1859; he is considered one of the founders of modern geography; In his view, "geography was a kind of physiology and comparative anatomy of the earth: rivers, mountains, glaciers, etc., were so many distinct organs, each with its own appropriate functions; and, as his physical frame is the basis of the man, determinative to a large extent of his life, so the structure of each country is a leading element in the historic progress of the nation;" He and von Humboldt urged human geographers to adopt the methods of scientific inquiry used by natural scientists.

**Carl Sauer** – shaped field of human geography in the 20th century by arguing that cultural landscapes (products of interactions between humans and their environments) should be the main focus of geographic study; was one of the first to propose that the process of domestication was independently invented at many different times and locations. He believed that domestication did not develop in response to hunger because starving people must spend every waking hour searching for food and have no time to devote to the centuries of leisurely experimentation required to domesticate plants.

***Complete the organizer by taking notes on the famous geographers. Create an image or symbol to help you remember a major contribution.***

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| **Geographer** | **Important Contributions to Geography** | **Drawing/Symbol** |
| **Hecataeus**  |  |  |
| **Eratosthenes**  |  |  |
| **Ptolemy** |  |  |
| **Idrisi** |  |  |
| **Ibn Battuta** |  |  |
| **Immanuel Kant** |  |  |
| **Thomas Robert Malthus**  |  |  |
| **Ellsworth Huntington** |  |  |
| **George Perkins Marsh** |  |  |
| **Carl Ritter** |  |  |
| **Alexander von Humboldt** |  |  |
| **Carl Sauer** |  |  |