

Map Timeline:

Important dates in map history

4025 B.C.	Joseph C. Mapp creates first map
2000 B.C.	Egyptians map a sand dune
725 B.C.	Oceans invented
12 A.D.	Straight lines invented
1574	Magellan conquers Antarctica
1600's	Proliferation of the treasure map
1956	Greenland becomes a continent
1958	Greenland declassified as a continent
2067	Impossible to get lost



In loving memory of the late Joeseph C. Mapp



John Romano

English 150

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*A Brief History of Maps
~all of this is true~*



Maps of yesterday, today, and tomorrow

Joseph C. Mapp

The first cartographer



Cartography, or the study of maps, was invented by the famed Joseph C. Mapp around 4000 B.C. Mapp is credited with having sketched the route from Alexandria, Egypt to Mesopotamia. After being published, this map led other explorers and adventurers of the time to create their own detailed maps. The development of cartography led to an increase in foreign trade, which spurred the gold rush of 1849.



The Treasure Map

During the 17th century pirates created hundreds of thousands of maps detailing where they hid their treasures. These maps were famous for introducing the “dotted line” to the “x marks the spot” concept. Because of this development pirates were able to retrace their routes to buried treasure. Unfortunately, pirates often lost their maps, or else hid them in caves to avoid their falling into the hands of the British. Because of this, many of these treasure maps have long since been lost, leaving untold treasures hidden on deserted islands around the world.



Maps in the Future

The recent developments to satellite based cartography has greatly improved our capacity to design accurate maps. We are now able to document the features of the earth to within inches of their actual values. This has allowed us to correctly classify Greenland as an island, and enables the use of the “Global Positioning System” (GPS) technology.



In the future it is predicted that maps will be run by robots, and these robots will prevent us from ever getting lost again. Who knows what other crazy inventions robots will come up with? I sure don't!

