



Learning Activity 1.6

Name: _____

Map Projections and Perceptions



1. Refer to the Robinson Projection World Map and the Mercator Projection World Map that follow.
 - a) On each map, observe the following pairs of countries and continents. For each pair, determine which one appears to be larger. Record your findings in the following table.
 - i) Greenland and South America
 - ii) China and Canada
 - iii) North America and Africa

	Mercator Projection World Map			Robinson Projection World Map		
	Greenland or South America	China or Canada	North America or Africa	Greenland or South America	China or Canada	North America or Africa
Appears Larger						

- b) Using either your atlas or the Internet, search the total land area for each of the following countries and continents. For each pair, determine the country or continent that has the larger total land area. Record your findings in the following table.
 - i) Greenland and South America
 - ii) China and Canada
 - iii) North America and Africa



Note: Be aware of the units of measurement used when researching the total land area. You may need to convert some numbers so that they all have the same unit of measurement.

	Greenland or South America	China or Canada	North America or Africa
Larger by Total Land Area			

continued

Learning Activity 1.6: Map Projections and Perceptions (continued)

- c) For each country or continent pair, determine which country or continent is closer to the equator. Based on the Mercator Projection World Map and actual total land area, do the countries or continents closest to the equator only appear to be smaller, or are they in fact smaller? Record your findings in the following table.

i) Greenland and South America

ii) China and Canada

iii) North America and Africa

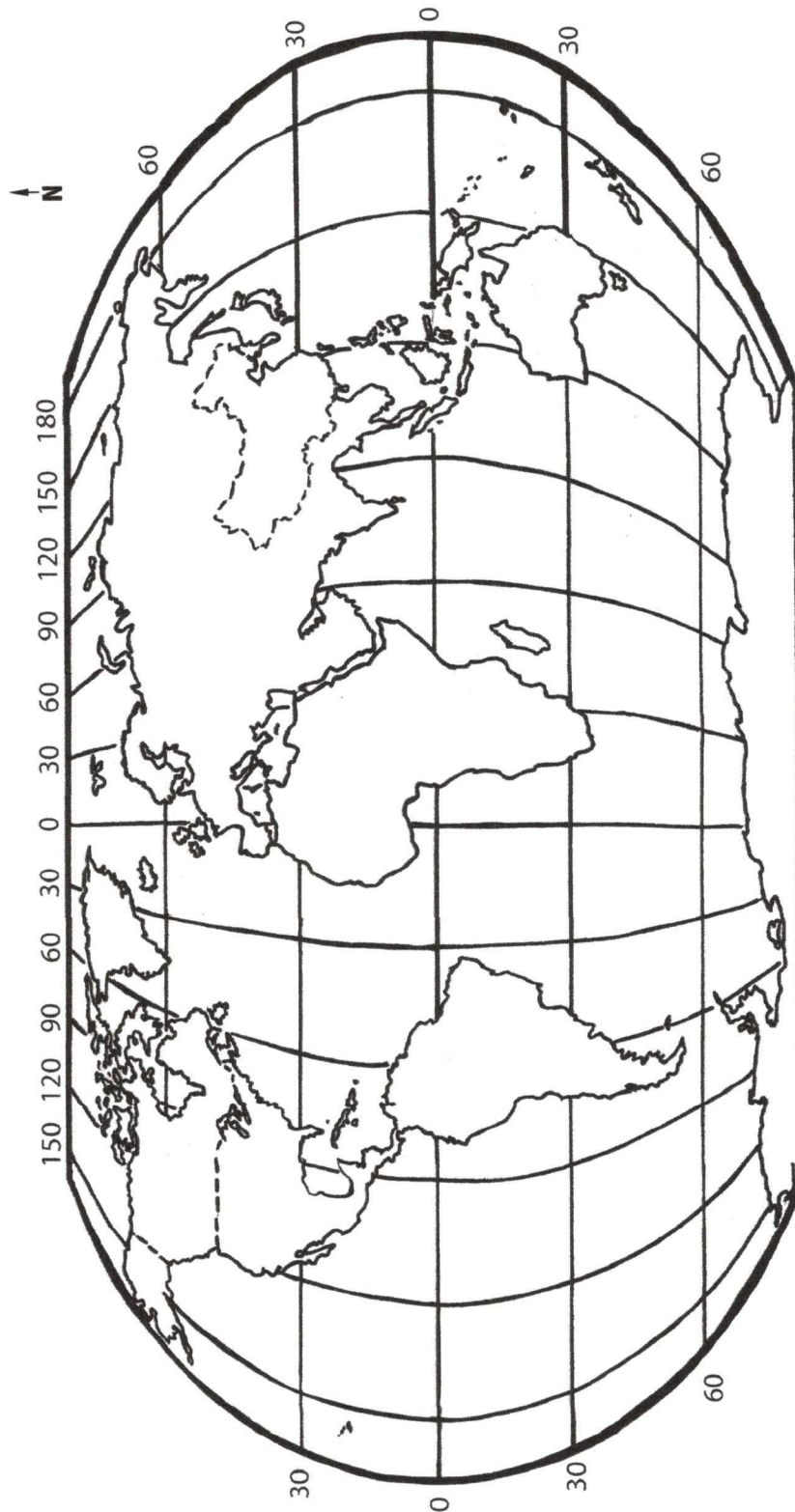
Greenland or South America		China or Canada		North America or Africa	
Country/Continent Closer to the Equator	Appears Smaller or Is Smaller	Country/Continent Closer to the Equator	Appears Smaller or Is Smaller	Country/Continent Closer to the Equator	Appears Smaller or Is Smaller

Reviewing Latitude and Longitude

	Lines of Latitude (Parallels)	Lines of Longitude (Meridians)
Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lines going across a map from side to side (east to west) They are parallel to each other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lines going up and down a map from top to bottom (north to south) They converge at the poles
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To measure distances north and south of the Equator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To measure distances east and west of the Prime Meridian
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latitude lines are all different lengths The longest is the Equator The shortest are the North and South Poles, which are both points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longitude lines are all the same length
Numbering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 0° (the Equator) to 90°N (the North Pole) and from 0° to 90°S (the South Pole) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 0° (the Prime Meridian) to 180°W and from 0° to 180°E The two 180° lines are the same line—also designated as the International Date Line

Learning Activity 1.6: Map Projections and Perceptions (continued)

Robinson Projection World Map



Learning Activity 1.6: Map Projections and Perceptions (continued)

Mercator Projection World Map

