

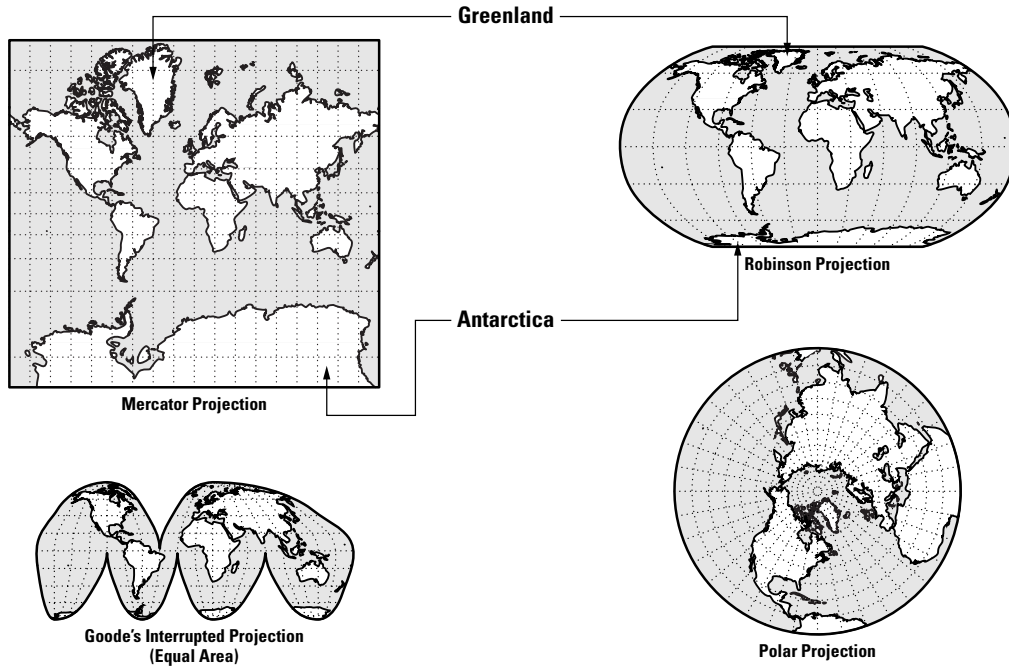


## GEOGRAPHY SKILLS 1 *Understanding Projections*

The earth is a sphere and is best shown as a globe. For books and posters, though, the earth has to be represented as a flat object. To do this, mapmakers create various plans called projections.

A projection turns every location on earth into a corresponding location on a map. However, all projections distort to some degree. Flat maps cannot show size, shape, and direction all at once with total accuracy. That is why the look and location of

Earth's features will not totally agree on maps of different projections. For example, areas such as Greenland and Antarctica, farthest from the Equator, are often stretched. Goode's Interrupted avoids stretching and is more accurate for land areas. Polar projections show the earth from above either the North Pole or South Pole. Below are four common projections.



1. Name the four projections. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Compare the sizes of Greenland and Antarctica on the Mercator projection with the Robinson projection. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. What would you consider the main drawback of Goode's Interrupted projection?  
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4. Why do you think that the Mercator projection is considered the best for plotting direction?  
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