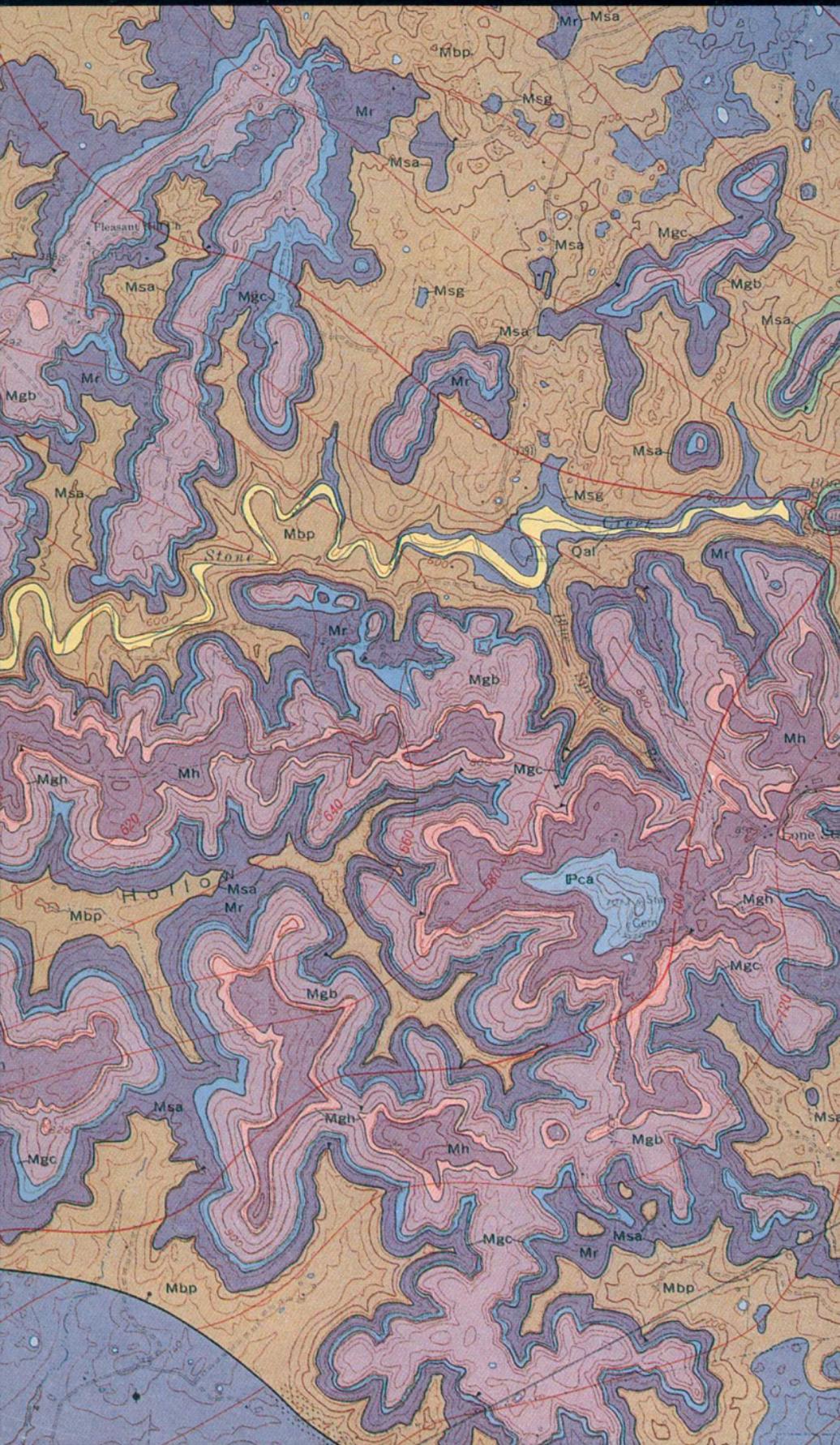


Visual Geography

An exhibition sponsored by the
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

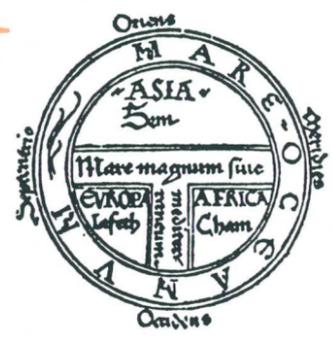
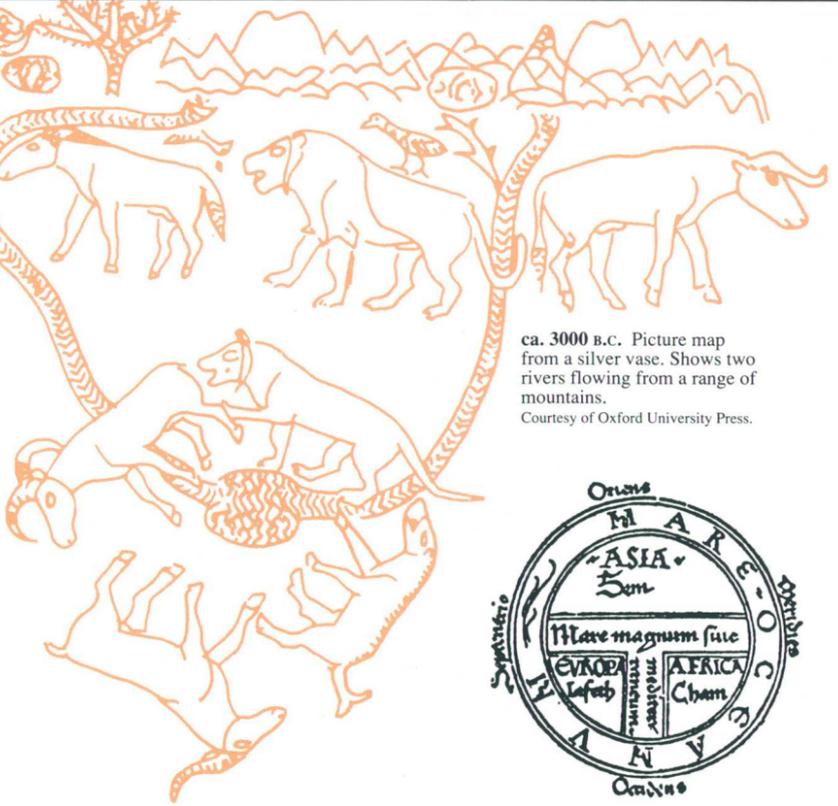
and the
National Geographic Society



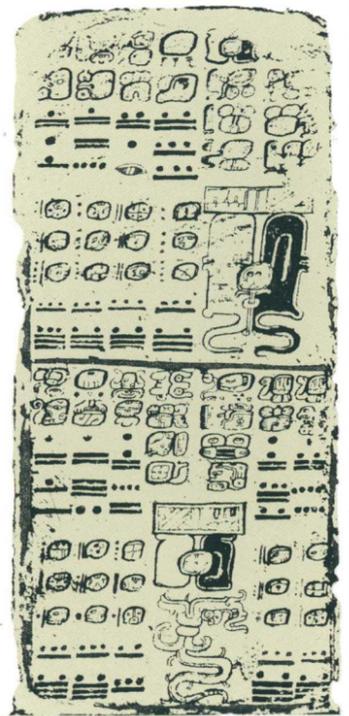
ca. 900 B.C. Babylonian world map with a description in cuneiform, on clay tablet. By permission of the British Library.



ca. 3000 B.C. Picture map from a silver vase. Shows two rivers flowing from a range of mountains. Courtesy of Oxford University Press.

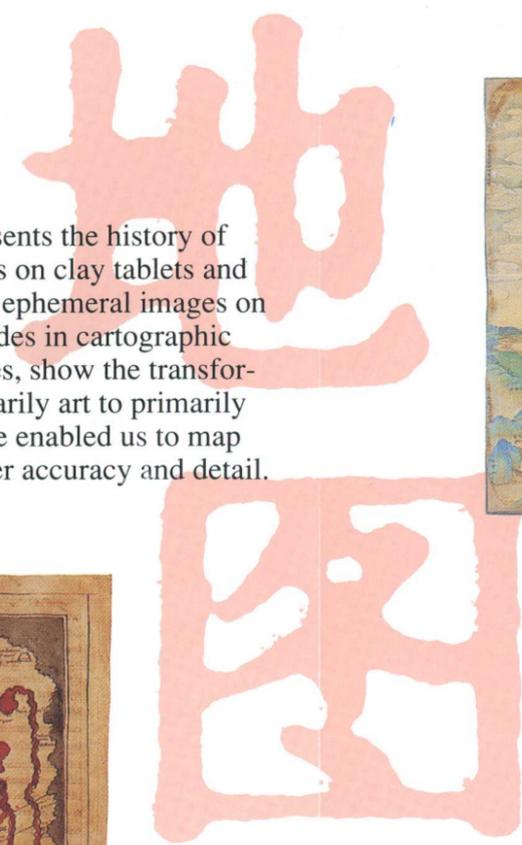


Sixth century Isidore of Seville. World map. Ninth-century version of the T-O map adopted by Isidore in his *Etymologies*. From John Noble Wilford, *The Mapmakers* (1981). Courtesy of Alfred A. Knopf.



300–900 *Dresden Codex*, a Classic Period Mayan manuscript. Its hieroglyphs and illustrations depict astrological predictions related to the helical rising of Venus. Courtesy of Sachsische Landesbibliothek, Dresden.

Moments in Mapping presents the history of maps—from etched lines on clay tablets and ancient Chinese grids to ephemeral images on computer screens. Selected episodes in cartographic history, spanning several centuries, show the transformation of mapmaking from primarily art to primarily science, as new technologies have enabled us to map our surroundings with ever greater accuracy and detail.



18th century Topographic map of Kiangsi Province in southeast China. By permission of the British Library.



ca. 900 "Cottonian" world map. Named after the collection in which it is contained, this map is one of a number of Anglo-Saxon world maps. By permission of the British Library.

Maps are, among other things, a way of making geography visual. They are world views, ways of thinking, and ways of communicating. They depict our world and guide us through it.

Visual Geography probes the essence of maps and mapmaking. It follows the story of cartography through the millennia, across the globe, and beyond the solar system. It includes some of the world's most beautiful and enduring maps, some of its most historic—a map in Columbus' hand, the map that was carried to the Moon, the first map to show America—and it examines the urge to map, to measure our world, and to record it graphically.

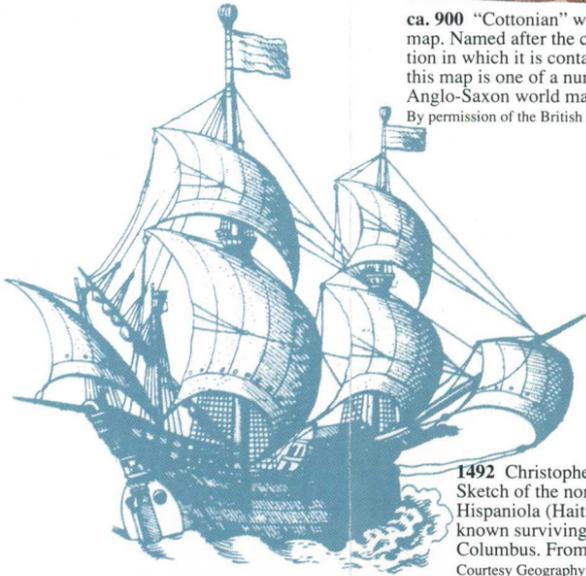
Charting the Heavens begins with the idea that for thousands of years, we looked to the heavens as a way to understand the Earth. We now view the Earth from the heavens, plotting its size and shape, and our place in the universe from remote satellite data beamed back to Earth.



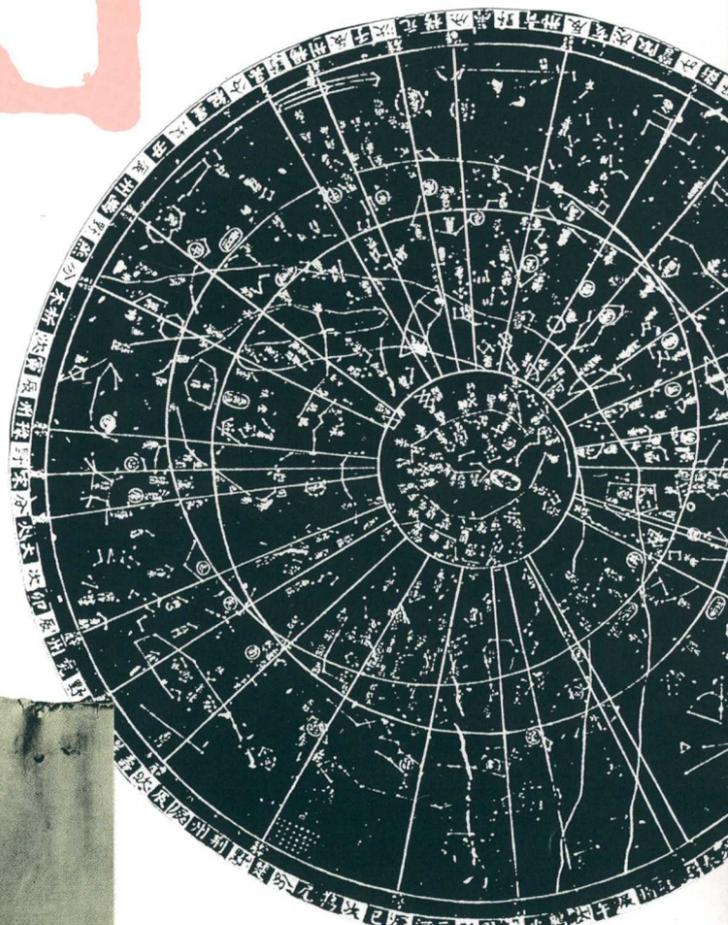
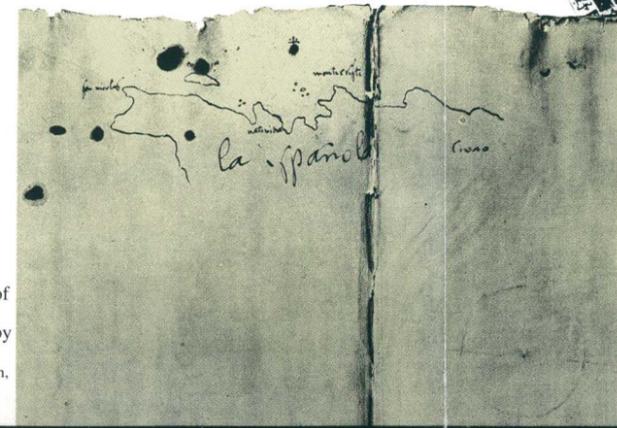
ca. 1550 A sailor taking the altitude by observing a star with a cross-staff. By permission of the British Library.



13th century Ibn Sa'id. World map. Arabic world map, one of three known versions of a European world map by Ibn Sa'id. Courtesy of the Bodlian Library, Oxford.

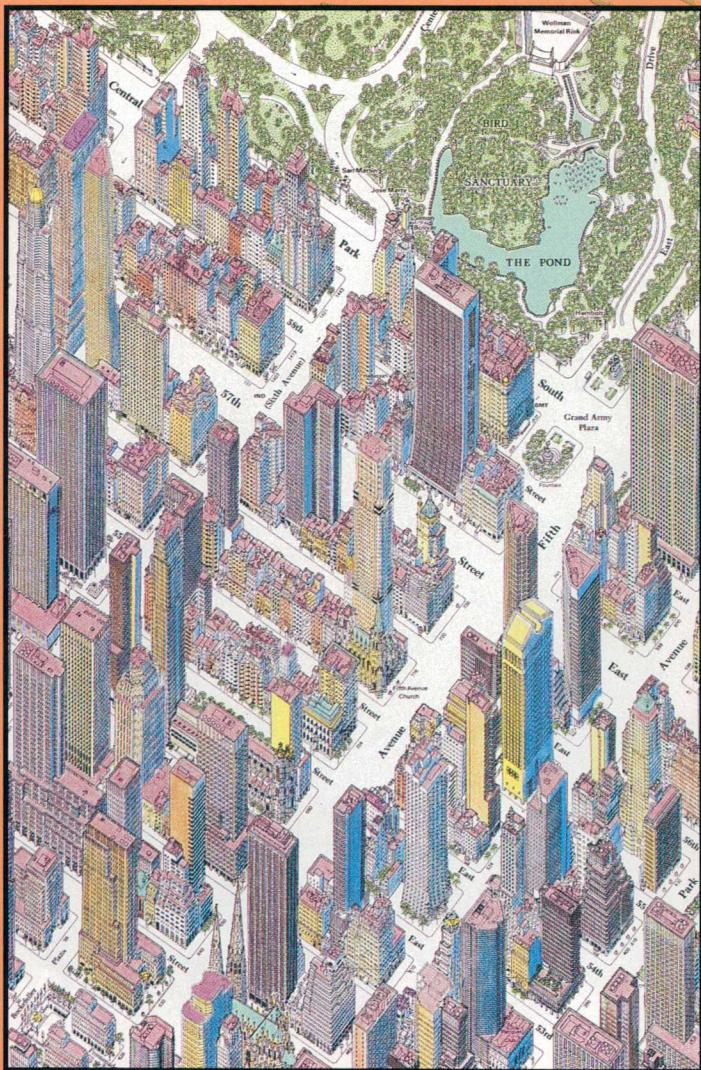


1492 Christopher Columbus. Sketch of the northwest coast of Hispaniola (Haiti). The only known surviving chart drawn by Columbus. From facsimile. Courtesy Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.

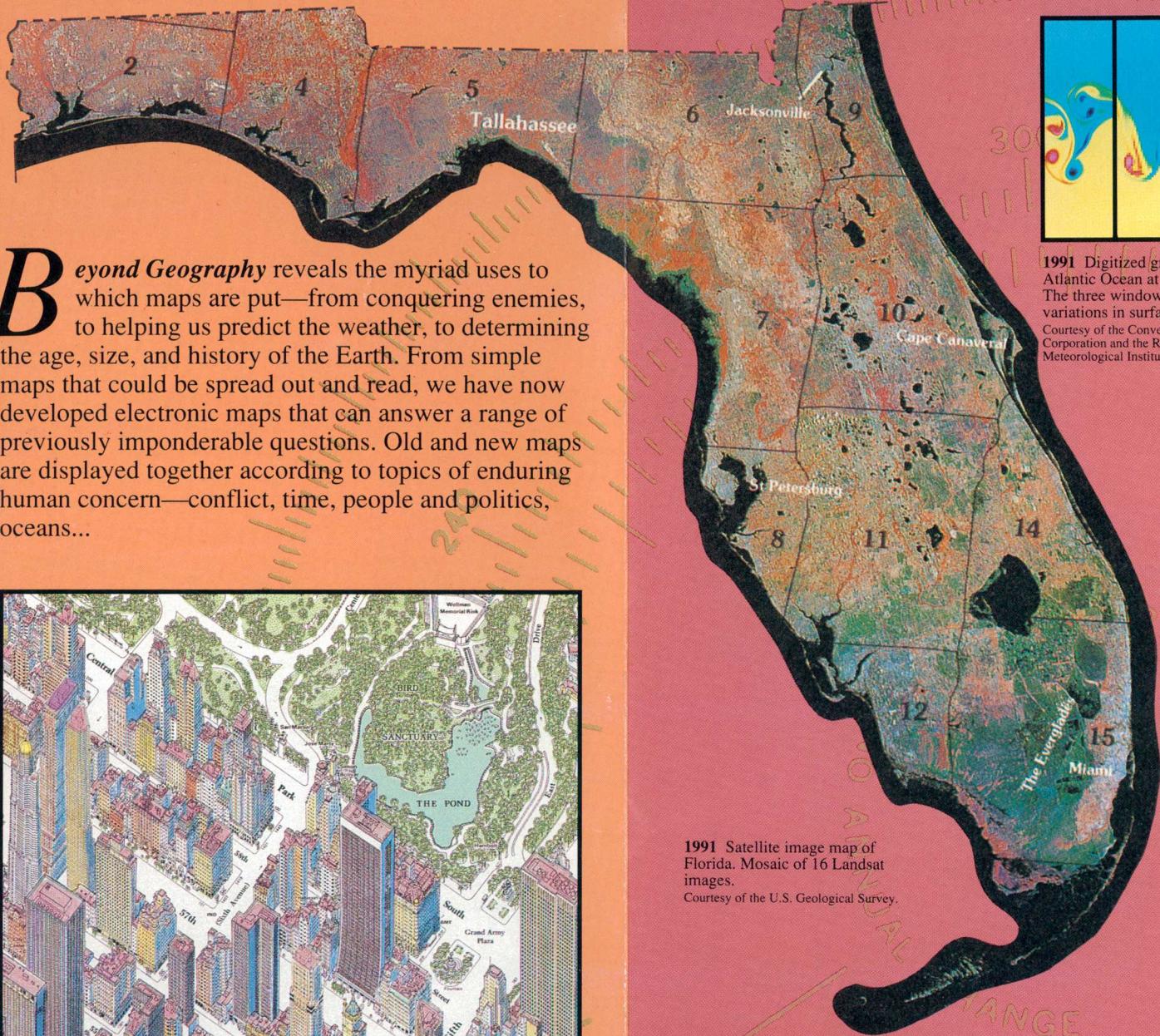


1193 The Suchow planisphere, Chinese star chart. Prepared by Huang Shang, and committed to stone by Wang Chih-Yuan in 1247. Courtesy of The Needham Research Institute, Cambridge University.

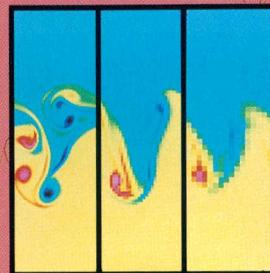
Beyond Geography reveals the myriad uses to which maps are put—from conquering enemies, to helping us predict the weather, to determining the age, size, and history of the Earth. From simple maps that could be spread out and read, we have now developed electronic maps that can answer a range of previously imponderable questions. Old and new maps are displayed together according to topics of enduring human concern—conflict, time, people and politics, oceans...



1991 Constantine Anderson and others. *New York City: Midtown Manhattan* (detail). Courtesy of the Manhattan Map Co., New York, N.Y.



1991 Satellite image map of Florida. Mosaic of 16 Landsat images. Courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey.

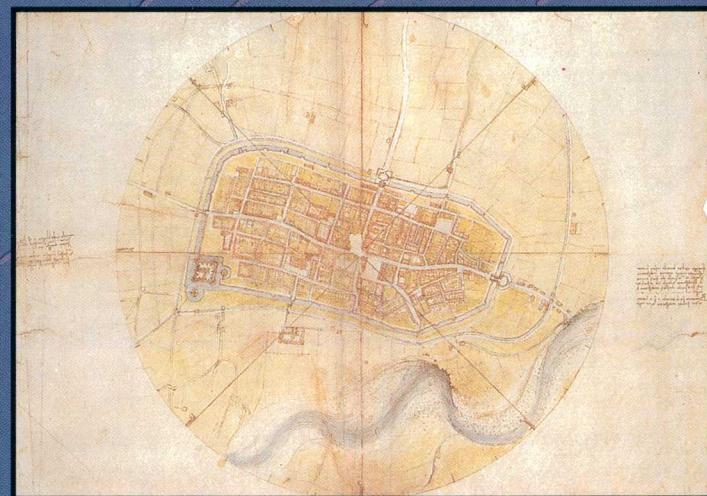


1991 Digitized graphic of the Atlantic Ocean at Cape Hatteras. The three windows show extreme variations in surface temperature. Courtesy of the Convex Computer Corporation and the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute.

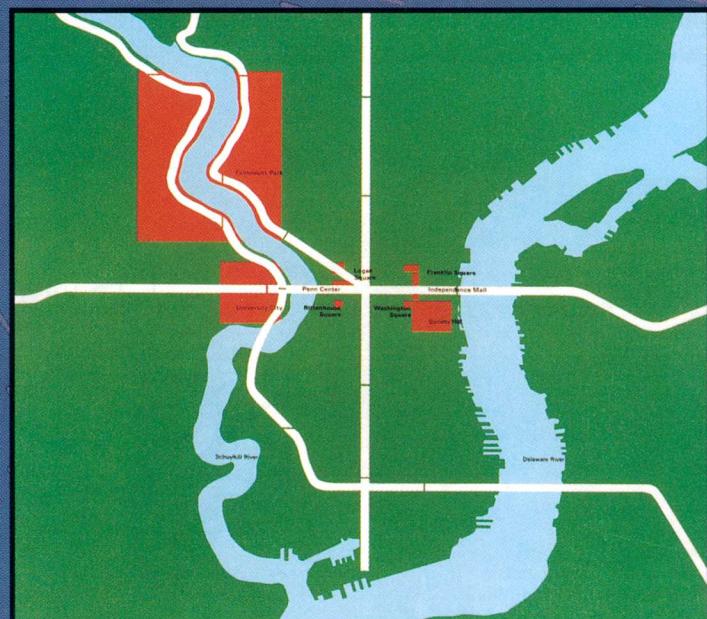


1988 Copper Basin, Arizona. Modeled surface of proposed strip mine. Courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Forest Service.

The *Epilogue* is a statement about the power of maps in capturing the human imagination and a visual feast of maps—from Leonardo's view of Imola, to Wurman's map of Philadelphia.



Early 16th century Leonardo da Vinci. Plan of Imola. Possibly the earliest Italian city mapped to scale. Reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, copyright reserved.



1972 Map of Philadelphia. Courtesy Richard Saul Wurman/Howard Brunner.

Front Panel: 1972 Frank B. Moore. *Geologic Map of the Upton Quadrangle, Central Kentucky*. Courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey.