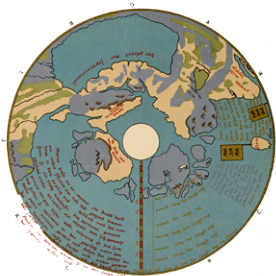


# The World Before Columbus



Original globe gores by Martin Behaim, 1492. Reproduced by Ernest George Ravenstein, 1908. OML Barcode: 36583



## DIRECTIONS

1. Cut out the Globe Gores above and the polar circles to the left.  
(Hint: make sure to leave a space around the equator uncut)
2. Line the equator up with the center seam on the ball.
3. Paste the Globe Gores around the ball.\*
4. Paste the polar circles to the top and bottom of the ball.

\*Circumference of ball = 10 inches

## Did people during the Middle Ages think the world was flat?

Nope.

The Greeks figured out that the world is round over 2,500 years ago! In fact, Eratosthenes, an ancient Greek scholar who worked at the library of Alexandria, used the position of the sun to figure out how big around the Earth is at the equator (in math, we call the measurement **around** the center of a sphere a *circumference*). He said that the earth had to be between 25,000 and 28,500 miles around. We know today that the circumference of the earth is 24,901 miles. That means that Eratosthenes was only 99 miles off!

By the time Christopher Columbus sailed, however, scholars had decided that the Earth was closer to 18,000 miles around instead of 25,000 miles. Columbus thought the Earth was much smaller than it was, so he did not expect to bump into two huge continents on his way to the Far East!

Source: Jochen Albrecht, Hunter College ([www.tinyurl.com/size-of-earth](http://www.tinyurl.com/size-of-earth))