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Homework 3 Readings

The introduction to cartography was interesting- it was a good reminder of the inexact science of mapping. I was hoping to find more information on why France thought the world was egg shaped. Although obvious, I never consider that containing in displaying information on maps could be boiled down into other shapes other than a circle. I don’t use coordinates often, but I feel comfortable with the idea that NE is positive, just like it would be on the x,y plane. It’s quite amazing to me, that even with our current technology, conveying a location can be off by a couple hundred meters based on different assumptions-whether it be the equator or using UTM and having two different geoid models. Rounding down numbers for the UTM grid coordinates to stay in the right grid is important lesson but goes against my mathematical comfort zone. I wonder if we will ever settle on a map that can be used universally. At the end of the UTM System page, it has a warning that grid references on maps over 10-15 years may not be able to be trusted.