

# Why All World Maps Are Wrong



In this unit, you'll learn about **map projections** and survey the **industries using GIS applications today**. You can skip the content below, but I recommend starting with some of it, or coming back to it, especially since the chapters can be a bit dry. If you can only watch one, [watch this one](https://youtu.be/kIID5FDi2JQ). ➞  
(<https://youtu.be/kIID5FDi2JQ>)

1. Check out this entertaining and informative video from Vox:  
[Why all world maps are wrong](https://youtu.be/kIID5FDi2JQ) ➞ (<https://youtu.be/kIID5FDi2JQ>)



(<https://youtu.be/kIID5FDi2JQ>)

2. By now, you should have some idea that Greenland is the wrong size on Mercator Projections. If you want to check out that clip from the West Wing, you can find it on YouTube:  
<https://youtu.be/LA0BLrLW0PE> ➞ (<https://youtu.be/LA0BLrLW0PE>)



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Like most map projections, while the Gall-Peters projection solves one problem, it has others.

3. I highly recommend taking a moment to head to <https://thetruesize.com/> ➞  
(<https://thetruesize.com/>) to experiment with moving the China, India, and the United States around the Mercator world map to see the distortion around the graticule.

4. So, what does Earth really look like? To answer this question, there is a great group on YouTube called Vsauce. Check it out: [What Does Earth Look Like? ↗ \(https://youtu.be/2IR7s1Y6Zig\)](https://youtu.be/2IR7s1Y6Zig)

5. Jason Davies' site "Map Projection Transitions" is mentioned in the Vsauce video. Here it is: [https://www.jasondavies.com/maps/transition/ ↗](https://www.jasondavies.com/maps/transition/)  
[\(https://www.jasondavies.com/maps/transition/\)](https://www.jasondavies.com/maps/transition/)

6. But don't stop there. Jason has a lot of cool stuff on his home page: [https://www.jasondavies.com ↗](https://www.jasondavies.com) [\\_\(https://www.jasondavies.com\)\\_](https://www.jasondavies.com)

For those of you who might want to go into GIS, consider building your own website (or at least a LinkedIn profile where you can upload project files) as you begin to create cool products and projects on your own, or as you pursue your education.

You will have an opportunity in this class to create maps on ArcGIS.com that can be easily added to any online profiles such as LinkedIn.