

Use the map scale on a political map of the world to answer each question.

Around the World

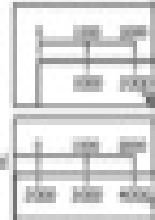
On a map scale, every inch for 10 kilometers, shows in a map, for example, a scale might show that one inch on a map equals 100 miles in the ground.

1. If you measure Australia at its widest from west to east, about how many kilometers wide is this continent?
2. About how many miles are there between Cuba and the tip of Florida?
3. About how many miles from the coast of California is Hawaii?
4. If you measure Africa at its widest, about how many kilometers wide is this continent?
5. If you measure South America at its longest, about how many kilometers long is this continent?
6. At its closest, how many kilometers separates the island of Madagascar from Africa?
7. What is the distance in miles from the northern to southern coasts of the United Kingdom?
8. About how far is Alaska from the Equator (in miles)?
9. About how many miles away from France is Iceland?
10. About how many kilometers across is the Gulf of Mexico?

Make a Map-Scale Ruler

Step 1: Use up the corner of a piece of paper with the one side a map scale. Mark and label each measurement from the scale on your paper.

Step 2: Slide your paper to the left along the scale so the left mark you made is lined up with one more additional marking on your paper for measuring longer distances.



11. Which country do you think is larger, the United States or China? Use map scale measurements to support your opinion.
12. Name three countries that are about the same size. Use map scale measurements to support your choices.
13. Which ocean do you think is largest? Use map scale measurements to support your opinion.
14. Why shouldn't you use the map scale to measure distances on a world map? Explain.

Bonus: What is the easiest part of using a map's scale to find distance? What is the hardest part of using a map's scale to find distance? Explain.