

## Choice of Map Projection

Q: Describe briefly how to choose a map projection.

Ans: The first step in choosing a map projection is to determine - -

- a. Location
- b. Size and
- c. Shape

These three things determine the area to be mapped. The traditional rules are—

- i. A country in the tropics ask for a cylindrical projection
- ii. A country in the temperate zone ask for a conical projection
- iii. A polar area prefers to an azimuthal projection

Points to note:-

- a) Cylindrical projections are true at the equator. Distortion increases towards pole
- b) Conical projections are true along some parallels between the equator and the pole. Distortion increases away from the standard parallel
- c) Azimuthal projections are true only at their centre point.

Often the choice of map projection depends on –

- i. The map purpose
- ii. Preserving spatial properties

The following list shows a range of choice for common maps:-

For world projection

Conformal	Mercator, Transverse
Equal area	Cylindrical, Sinusoidal, Mollweide
Equidistant	Azimuthal
Straight rumb lines	Mercator