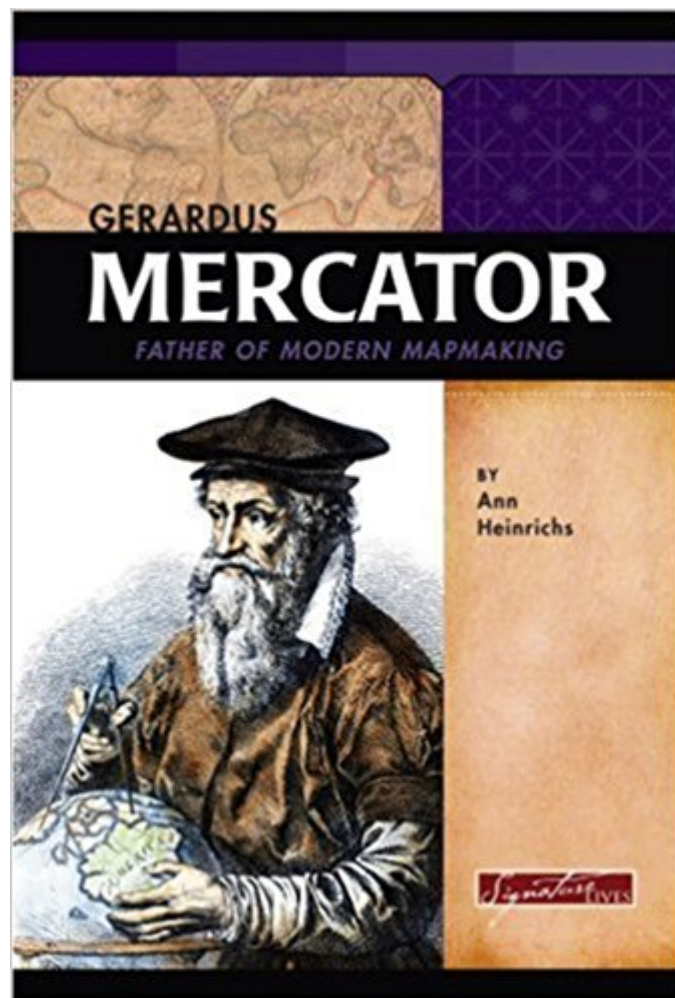




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Gerardus Mercator: Father Of Modern Mapmaking (Signature Lives: Scientific Revolution)



Synopsis

Sixteenth-century geographer Gerardus Mercator was born in 1512 in Rupelmonde, Flanders. He lived during a time of religious strife and for a time was imprisoned for heresy. Mercator began his career as a maker of mathematical instruments, but he won lasting renown with his world map of 1569, which introduced a new way of showing the spherical earth on a flat sheet of paper. This method, called the Mercator projection, is still used today. His 1585 book, titled *Atlas*, was the first to use that word to describe a collection of maps.

Book Information

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