



# the History of GIS

1962

Roger Tomlinson, a 28-year-old geographer, flew from Ottawa to Toronto, Canada. Seated next to him on this flight was Lee Pratt, head of the Canada Land Inventory (CLI). During this fateful 1-hour flight, the two discussed plans to collect data from thousands of maps in order to document Canada's productive resources. Their work together for CLI became known as the beginning of GIS.

1965

Term 'GIS' published for the first time in report by Michael Dacey and Duane Marble from Dept. of Geography at the University of Illinois, Evanston.

1967

Roger Tomlinson makes video, "Data for Decisions", which provided an overview of CLI and how GIS was used in the 1960s.

1981

First Esri User Conference held with 16 attendees. Now, the Esri UC is the largest annual GIS conference, with over 15,000 attendees.

1972

First Landsat Satellite launches on July 23, 1972, marking the beginning of 40+ years of continuous Earth monitoring.

1969

Esri founded by Jack and Laura Dangermond as a land-use planning research group.

1982

ARC/INFO, Esri's first commercial software package, is released to the public.

1986

MapInfo, an inexpensive mapping tool for PC, is created by students at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

2004

OpenStreetMap (OSM), a collaborative project that creates a free, editable map of the world, launches.

1999

First GIS Day celebrated on November 19, 1999. Now celebrated each year on the Wednesday of Geography Awareness Week.

1993

First web-based interactive map, the Xerox PARC Map Viewer, launches. Originally developed by Steve Putz.

2005

Google launched Google Maps in February and Google Earth in June.

2013

The first GIS MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), entitled Maps and the Geospatial Revolution, held by Dr. Anthony Robinson of Penn State University. Over 29,000 students attended.

## What's next for GIS?

Since 1962, the GIS industry has consistently reinvented the way we view data. As organizations continue to demand the most up-to-date and accurate data, GIS products will continue this evolution in order to meet the needs of multiple industries across the globe. **How will GIS help you?**