

令和3年度 奈良県立大学 地域創造学部 一般選抜（前期日程）小論文問題（その1）

第1問 北米に住む筆者による次の英文を読み、以下の問1と問2に答えなさい。

Most of us have a rough map of the world in our minds that we use any time we think about places. But these mental maps aren't necessarily reliable. In fact, many of the maps in our heads share the same errors, some of which are quite large—and surprisingly resistant to correction<sup>1)</sup>.

For instance, we all know that South America is south of North America, of course. But you may be surprised by the fact that virtually the entire South American continent is *east* of Florida<sup>2)</sup>. There are lots of possible reasons for geographical misconceptions<sup>3)</sup> like this one, says cartographer<sup>4)</sup> John Nelson. Mental maps are necessarily simplifications, and Nelson suspects the misplaced<sup>5)</sup> Americas may be partly a result of their names. After all, it's not called *Southeast* America.

Nelson's father, who was a geography professor at Central Michigan University, wrote a paper about geographical misconceptions in 1992 with some of his colleagues and input from Nelson's mother, a high-school geography teacher.

（中略）

Europe is also often placed much farther south on mental maps than it really is, appearing directly across the Atlantic from the contiguous United States<sup>6)</sup>. But it actually lines up better with Canada: Paris is further north than Montreal, Barcelona is at a similar latitude<sup>7)</sup> as Chicago, and Venice lines up with Portland, Oregon.

Nelson suspects that climate might play a role in this misconception. Western Europe is relatively warm for its latitude thanks to the Gulf Stream<sup>8)</sup>, which brings warmer water from the Gulf of Mexico across the Atlantic and gives Europe its so-called Mediterranean<sup>9)</sup> climate. The warmer temperatures are more similar to the climate of the lower 48 states than Canada's.

People also tend to keep their mental maps simple by aligning<sup>10)</sup> them with the four cardinal directions<sup>11)</sup>, according to the paper's authors. So it's easier for North Americans to think of Europe as due east and South America as due south.

(Betsy Mason, "Why your mental map of the world is (probably) wrong", NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (online edition), NOVEMBER 16, 2018)

1)correction : 修正 2)Florida : フロリダ・米国南東端の州

3)misconceptions : 思い違い 4)cartographer : 地図製作者 5)misplaced : 間違った

6)the contiguous United States : 米国本土 7)latitude : 緯度

8)the Gulf Stream : メキシコ湾流 9)Mediterranean : 地中海の

10) aligning : 整列させる 11) the four cardinal directions : 東西南北

問1 北米人の頭の中の地図での共通した思い違いの例として、本文で紹介されている2つの例を説明せよ。

問2 頭の中の地図での思い違いが生じる理由として、本文で説明している3つの点をあげよ。