National Geographic Atlas of the World for Intermediate Students
A NOTE TO THE READER

An atlas is a collection of maps, charts, tables, and photographs that tell a story about Earth, its people, and the countries in which they live.

Sometimes it can be hard to keep all the facts and figures about Earth straight. Geographers have identified Six Essential Elements of Geography to help us organize information about Earth. Think about these Essential Elements, listed below, as you use this atlas. Use them to organize what you learn.

THE SIX ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF GEOGRAPHY

The World in Spatial Terms Geography studies the relationships between people, places, and environments by mapping and compiling information about them.

Places and Regions The identities and lives of people are rooted in particular places and regions.

Physical Systems Physical processes shape Earth's surface and interact with plant and animal life to create, sustain, and modify ecosystems.

Human Systems People are central to geography in that human activities help shape Earth's surface, human settlements and structures are part of Earth's surface, and humans compete for control of Earth's surface.

Environment and Society The physical environment is modified by human activities. Earth's physical features and processes also influence human activities.

The Uses of Geography Knowledge of geography enables people to understand the relationships between people, places, and environments over time.
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Earth's surface is divided between areas of land and water. The land areas, called continents, are made up of many different environments. Near the equator tropical forests are home to plants and animals that thrive in the warm, humid climate. Other environments include rugged mountains and dry deserts. Different kinds of plants and animals have adapted to these environments. Most people live on gently rolling plains.

Mountain chains and volcanic islands rise up from the ocean depths. Warm and cold currents flow through the oceans, creating habitats for many different types of sea life.
People have divided Earth’s land area into political units called countries. The lines that mark these political divisions are called boundaries. At the start of the 21st century, there were 191 independent countries. Some, such as Russia and Canada, cover large expanses of land. Others, such as Kuwait and Rwanda, are small in area.

People across continents and countries have a variety of different cultures. A country’s culture includes languages, religions, foods, sports, celebrations and many other ways of living. Find out more about one of the countries on the map. What is one way its culture is like the culture of the United States? What is one way that its culture is different?

Near the North and South Poles, Earth’s extremes do not have countries, boundaries, or permanent populations. The cold waters of the Arctic Ocean surround the North Pole. The frozen ice fields of Antarctica surround the South Pole.
Earth’s Land & Water

Earth is sometimes called the "water planet" because 71% of its surface is covered by water. Only 29% is covered by land.

Countries: Largest by Area

Countries that are large in land area do not always have a large population. Russia, the largest country, ranks only seventh in population. The second largest country, Canada, is not in the top ten at all.
Countries: Largest by Population

China and the United States are almost the same size in area, but China's population is nearly five times larger than that of the U.S.

Largest Urban Areas by Population

In 2000, there were 19 "mega-cities" in the world. Mega-cities have populations greater than ten million people. Most of the mega-cities are in developing countries.
North America is a continent of contrasts: tall snow-capped mountains, deep, winding canyons, steamy tropical forests. Canada is the second largest country in the world, but the United States has about ten times more people than Canada. The largest city is Mexico City, Mexico.

Many people live on farms that produce food that is traded around the world. Most North Americans, however, live in cities where they work in industries and services. Most people speak Spanish or English, but some speak French or native languages.

Immigration into the United States

People moving from other countries have increased the population of the United States. In the past most immigrants have come from Europe. Today most come from Asia and Latin America. This graph shows the ten largest groups coming to the U.S. in 1998.

Polar bears, with their thick layers of fur, have adapted to life on the frozen shores of the Arctic Ocean.
Over thousands of years the waters of the Colorado River have cut down through rock to create the Grand Canyon in Arizona. The rock layers visible in the canyon walls tell a story of Earth’s geologic past.

Religious festivals such as this one in Puebla often combine Spanish traditions and native legends.

Vancouver’s modern skyline rises up on Canada’s west coast. This city is a gateway for trade and immigration from the Pacific region.
Most of South America lies within the tropics, but this does not mean that all places there are the same. The Andes Mountains rise so high that snow and ice cover the mountain peaks, even on the Equator. Hot, steamy rain forests grow on either side of the great Amazon River.

Most people in South America speak Spanish. In Brazil, however, people speak Portuguese, and high in the Andes descendants of the Inca Indians of Peru still speak native languages. More than half of South America’s people live in large cities such as Rio de Janeiro.

Tropical Rain Forests Around the World

Tropical rain forests are one of Earth’s most important environments. They are the source of many valuable plants and home to many rare animals. The world’s largest is in the Amazon Basin in Brazil.
Sugar Loaf Mountain towers above the harbor of Rio de Janeiro. This city is famous for its colorful Carnival celebrations.

The Andes Mountains form a rocky spine along the western length of South America. Snow and ice cover many of the peaks.

South America’s tropical forests are home to many rare animals, such as this gold lion tamarin, which is native to the Amazon Basin.

This girl’s bright shawl and felt hat reflect the lasting influence of Peru’s cultures.
Africa is a continent of diverse environments and people. In the deserts of northern and southern Africa people move from place to place in search of water. Near the equator, in the rain forests of the Congo River Basin, water is abundant. The grasslands of East Africa, called savannas, are home to herds of wild animals, including elephants, lions, zebras, and wildebeests.

Most people in Africa farm lands in the river valleys and along the coastal plains where there is access to markets for trading. Many African cities are growing, as people move from farm areas to find jobs.

Sources of the World’s Diamonds

Diamonds are desired because of their beauty and hardness. Half of all diamonds in the world come from Africa, especially central and southern Africa.

An elephant walks through the dry lands of southern Kenya. In the distance is the snow-covered summit of Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania.

In this busy market in North Africa, people dressed in turbans and long robes show the influence of Arab culture.
Training to become a diamond expert, a student closely examines uncut, unpolished diamonds from mines in Central African Republic.

Colorful jewelry adorns these young Masai women. People of East Africa’s Masai tribe mainly herd cattle for a living.
From the sunny beaches of the Mediterranean Sea to the icy shores of the Arctic Ocean, Europe is a continent of great diversity. Historically, Europe has been home to great empires such as the Roman and the Greek. Countries like Germany have been divided by wars and reunited in peace. People of Europe speak different languages, celebrate different holidays, enjoy different foods, live in more than 40 countries— all in an area just a little larger than the United States.

Growth of the European Union
The European Union (EU) has united the economies of 15 countries. In the near future 13 more countries are expected to join.

![Chart showing growth of the European Union from 1950 to 2000 with new members and existing members.]

- Sweden
- Finland
- Austria
- Portugal
- Spain
- Greece
- United Kingdom
- Ireland
- Denmark
- Netherlands
- Luxembourg
- Italy
- France
- Germany
- Belgium

Note: "New members" and "Existing members" are differentiated in the chart.

△ Long, warm days of the Mediterranean summer help sunflowers grow in Italy.

Croatia
St. Basil’s Cathedral is a famous Russian landmark. Located in the city of Moscow, it is a symbol of the Russian Orthodox Church.

In towns and cities across Europe, people often shop in open markets—like this one in Croatia.

The changing of the guard at London’s Buckingham Palace is a popular tourist attraction.
Asia

Asia is Earth’s largest continent and home to more than 60 percent of the world’s people. It is a continent of extremes. Mount Everest, in Nepal, is the highest mountain on Earth. The shore of the Dead Sea, in Israel, is the lowest place on land. The Arabian Peninsula is a vast, dry desert, but Indonesia has steamy rainforests. With over one billion people, China has the world’s largest population.

Religions of the World

Many of the world’s major religions began in Asia. From there, they spread across the world. This graph shows the percent of the world’s population that identifies with each of these major religions.

- Buddhism: 6%
- Christianity: 33%
- Islam: 20%
- Hinduism: 14%
- Confucianism/Chinese traditional religions: 7%
- Belief not originating in Asia: 19%
- Other*: 1%

* Includes Judaism, Sikhism, Bahai, and religions less than 0.1%
The city of Hong Kong is one of the busiest trading centers in the world.

Climbers seem tiny below towering peaks and jagged glaciers of the Karakoram Mountains.

This elephant in northwest India is draped in colorful blankets. Indian elephants can be trained to work and carry heavy loads.
Sometimes called the “land down under,” Australia dominates the southwestern Pacific Ocean, but it is not alone. Many islands are sprinkled across the deep waters of the Pacific. New Zealand and New Guinea are large compared with tiny island nations such as Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Islands of Oceania, as the Pacific region is sometimes called, range from forest-covered mountains to ring-shaped coral islands called atolls. The middle of Australia is very dry, so most people live in cities near the coast.

Sheep population in millions, 2002

Australia 136
New Zealand 45
Russia/Baltic States 61
China 136
Uruguay 20
Argentina 19
South Africa 31
UK 29
USA 9

Sheep Farming Nations
Australia and New Zealand have almost 24 million people. But humans are not the largest population in these two countries. There are over seven times more sheep than people!

▲ Sydney Opera House, perched on the edge of the city’s harbor, is a symbol of modern Australia.

▶ Young men perform a traditional victory dance wearing costumes made of palm leaves, grass, and flowers.
The warm waters of the equatorial Pacific Ocean are rich in marine life, such as this large sea turtle.

Isolation has resulted in unique wildlife in Australia. This red kangaroo carries her baby—called a “joey”—in a pouch on her stomach.
Most of Antarctica lies below layers of snow and ice, often over three miles thick. In addition to being the coldest of all the continents, Antarctica is different in many ways. It has no permanent population and no cities. Scientists live and work in research stations in this remote place for a few months at a time. Only a few species of animals, such as penguins and seals, have adapted to the bitter cold.

The Size of an Iceberg

Most icebergs—blocks of ice floating in the ocean—form along the coasts of Alaska, Greenland, and Antarctica. Icebergs may look small, but actually as much as 90% of an iceberg’s mass may be below the surface of the water.

- Sunlight turns the snow and ice of the Antarctic Peninsula shades of gold and rose.

- Scientists live in shelters at the South Pole. The United States and 23 other countries use Antarctica as a giant laboratory to study Earth.
Elephant seals are one of the few mammals able to live in Antarctica's frigid environment.

Ross Ice Shelf

Penguins catch fish in the icy waters that surround Antarctica.
Country Flags & Facts

At the beginning of the 21st century there were 191 independent countries in the world. Each country is unique in terms of size, organization, and culture. The flag of each country is a special symbol of national pride. The colors and symbols on the flag often represent important elements of a country's history.

**Antigua and Barbuda**
- **Area:** 170 sq mi (440 sq km)
- **Population:** 100,000
- **Capital:** St. John’s
- **Languages:** English, local dialects
- **Major Export:** Sugar
- **Major Import:** Machinery

**Belize**
- **Area:** 8,865 sq mi (22,960 sq km)
- **Population:** 300,000
- **Capital:** Belmopan
- **Language:** English
- **Major Export:** Sugar
- **Major Import:** Petroleum Products

**Canada**
- **Area:** 3,849,670 sq mi (9,970,610 sq km)
- **Population:** 31,000,000
- **Capital:** Ottawa
- **Languages:** English, French (both official)
- **Major Export:** Newsprint
- **Major Import:** Crude Oil

**Dominican Republic**
- **Area:** 18,815 sq mi (48,731 sq km)
- **Population:** 8,600,000
- **Capital:** Santo Domingo
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Major Export:** Ferronickel
- **Major Import:** Foods

**Costa Rica**
- **Area:** 19,730 sq mi (51,100 sq km)
- **Population:** 3,700,000
- **Capital:** San José
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Major Export:** Coffee
- **Major Import:** Raw Materials

**El Salvador**
- **Area:** 8,124 sq mi (21,041 sq km)
- **Population:** 6,400,000
- **Capital:** San Salvador
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Major Export:** Coffee
- **Major Import:** Raw Materials

**Grenada**
- **Area:** 131 sq mi (339 sq km)
- **Population:** 100,000
- **Capital:** St. George’s
- **Languages:** English, French patois
- **Major Export:** Bananas
- **Major Import:** Petroleum

**Guatemala**
- **Area:** 42,042 sq mi (108,889 sq km)
- **Population:** 13,000,000
- **Capital:** Guatemala City
- **Language:** Spanish, Mayan dialects
- **Major Export:** Coffee
- **Major Import:** Petroleum

**Haiti**
- **Area:** 10,714 sq mi (27,750 sq km)
- **Population:** 7,000,000
- **Capital:** Port-au-Prince
- **Language:** French, Creole
- **Major Export:** Manufactured Goods
- **Major Import:** Machinery

**Nicaragua**
- **Area:** 50,193 sq mi (129,999 sq km)
- **Population:** 5,200,000
- **Capital:** Managua
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Major Export:** Coffee
- **Major Import:** Manufactured Goods

**Panama**
- **Area:** 29,158 sq mi (75,519 sq km)
- **Population:** 2,900,000
- **Capital:** Panama City
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Major Export:** Bananas
- **Major Import:** Machinery
St. Kitts and Nevis
Area: 139 sq mi (360 sq km)
Population: 40,000
Capital: Basseterre
Language: English
Major Export: Machinery
Major Import: Electronic Goods

United States
Area: 3,717,796 sq mi
(9,629,091 sq km)
Population: 284,500,000
Capital: Washington, D.C.
Language: English
Major Export: Machinery
Major Import: Crude Oil

Chile
Area: 292,135 sq mi
(756,626 sq km)
Population: 15,400,000
Capital: Santiago
Language: Spanish
Major Export: Copper
Major Import: Machinery

Paraguay
Area: 157,046 sq mi
(406,749 sq km)
Population: 5,700,000
Capital: Asunción
Languages: Spanish, Guaraní
Major Export: Cotton
Major Import: Machinery

Venezuela
Area: 352,143 sq mi
(912,050 sq km)
Population: 24,600,000
Capital: Caracas
Language: Spanish
Major Export: Petroleum
Major Import: Raw Materials

St. Lucia
Area: 239 sq mi
(619 sq km)
Population: 200,000
Capital: Castries
Languages: English, French patois
Major Export: Bananas
Major Import: Foods

SOUTH AMERICA

St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Area: 151 sq mi
(391 sq km)
Population: 100,000
Capital: Kingstown
Languages: English, French
Major Export: Bananas
Major Import: Foods

Argentina
Area: 1,073,514 sq mi
(2,780,401 sq km)
Population: 37,500,000
Capital: Buenos Aires
Language: Spanish
Major Export: Meat
Major Import: Machinery

Colombia
Area: 439,734 sq mi
(1,138,511 sq km)
Population: 43,100,000
Capital: Bogotá
Language: Spanish
Major Export: Petroleum
Major Import: Machinery

Peru
Area: 496,224 sq mi
(1,282,220 sq km)
Population: 26,100,000
Capital: Lima
Languages: Spanish, Quechua (both official), Aymara
Major Export: Copper
Major Import: Machinery

St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Area: 151 sq mi
(391 sq km)
Population: 100,000
Capital: Kingstown
Languages: English, French
Major Export: Bananas
Major Import: Foods

Trinidad and Tobago
Area: 1,981 sq mi
(5,131 sq km)
Population: 1,300,000
Capital: Port-of-Spain
Language: English
Major Export: Petroleum
Major Import: Machinery

Ecuador
Area: 109,483 sq mi
(283,561 sq km)
Population: 12,900,000
Capital: Quito
Languages: Spanish, Quechua
Major Export: Petroleum
Major Import: Transport Equipment

Suriname
Area: 63,099 sq mi
(163,271 sq km)
Population: 400,000
Capital: Paramaribo
Languages: Dutch
Major Export: Bauxite
Major Import: Machinery

Angola
Area: 481,351 sq mi
(1,246,699 sq km)
Population: 12,300,000
Capital: Luanda
Languages: Portuguese, local languages
Major Export: Crude Oil
Major Import: Machinery

Bolivia
Area: 424,162 sq mi
(1,098,580 sq km)
Population: 8,500,000
Capitals: La Paz, Sucre
Languages: Spanish, Quechua, Aymara (all official)
Major Export: Metals
Major Import: Machinery

Guyana
Area: 83,000 sq mi
(214,969 sq km)
Population: 700,000
Capital: Georgetown
Language: English
Major Export: Sugar
Major Import: Manufactured Goods

Uruguay
Area: 68,498 sq mi
(177,410 sq km)
Population: 3,400,000
Capital: Montevideo
Languages: Spanish
Major Export: Wool
Major Import: Machinery

Brazil
Area: 3,300,154 sq mi
(8,547,399 sq km)
Population: 171,800,000
Capital: Brasilia
Language: Portuguese
Major Export: Iron Ore
Major Import: Crude Oil

Benin
Area: 14,338 sq mi
(37,090 sq km)
Population: 6,900,000
Capital: Porto-Novo
Languages: French, Fon, Yoruba
Major Export: Cotton
Major Import: Foods

AFRICA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Major Export</th>
<th>Major Import</th>
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<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>17,413 sq mi</td>
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<td>Estonian</td>
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<td>Machinery</td>
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<td>50,950 sq mi</td>
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<td>116,320 sq mi</td>
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<td>Luxembourg</td>
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<td>Minerals</td>
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<td>130,560 sq mi</td>
<td>Helsinki</td>
<td>Finnish, Swedish</td>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>Machinery, Foods</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
<td>35,919 sq mi</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>Hungarian</td>
<td>Machinery, Crude Oil</td>
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<td>Latvia</td>
<td>24,942 sq mi</td>
<td>Riga</td>
<td>Latvian, Russian</td>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>Fuels</td>
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<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>9,927 sq mi</td>
<td>Skopje</td>
<td>Macedonian, Albanian</td>
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<td>Raw Materials</td>
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<td>15,768 sq mi</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>125,050 sq mi</td>
<td>Oslo</td>
<td>Norwegian</td>
<td>Petroleum</td>
<td>Machinery</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>124,807 sq mi</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>Manufactured Goods</td>
<td>Machinery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cambodia
Area: 69,900 sq mi
(181,041 sq km)
Population: 13,100,000
Capital: Phnom Penh
Languages: Khmer, French
Major Export: Timber
Major Import: Construction Materials

India
Area: 1,269,340 sq mi
(3,287,606 sq km)
Population: 1,033,000,000
Capital: New Delhi
Languages: Hindi, English, Local Languages
Major Export: Gems and Jewelry
Major Import: Crude Oil

Israel
Area: 8,131 sq mi
(21,059 sq km)
Population: 6,400,000
Capital: Jerusalem
Languages: Hebrew, Arabic
Major Export: Polished Diamonds
Major Import: Chemicals

Korea, North
Area: 46,541 sq mi
(120,538 sq km)
Population: 22,000,000
Capital: Pyongyang
Language: Korean
Major Export: Minerals
Major Import: Petroleum

Korea, South
Area: 38,324 sq mi
(99,259 sq km)
Population: 48,800,000
Capital: Seoul
Language: Korean
Major Export: Electronic Equipment
Major Import: Machinery

Kuwait
Area: 6,880 sq mi
(17,818 sq km)
Population: 2,300,000
Capital: Kuwait
Language: Arabic
Major Export: Petroleum
Major Import: Foods

Kyrgyzstan
Area: 1,049,039 sq mi
(2,716,998 sq km)
Population: 5,000,000
Capital: Bishkek
Languages: Kirghiz, Russian (both official)
Major Export: Cotton
Major Import: Grain

Laos
Area: 91,429 sq mi
(236,800 sq km)
Population: 5,400,000
Capital: Vientiane
Languages: Lao, French
Major Export: Wood Products
Major Import: Machinery

Lebanon
Area: 4,015 sq mi
(10,399 sq km)
Population: 4,300,000
Capital: Beirut
Languages: Arabic, French
Major Export: Paper
Major Import: Machinery

Malaysia
Area: 127,317 sq mi
(329,749 sq km)
Population: 22,700,000
Capital: Kuala Lumpur
Languages: Malay, English, Chinese
Major Export: Electronic Equipment
Major Import: Machinery

Maldives
Area: 116 sq mi
(300 sq km)
Population: 300,000
Capital: Male
Languages: Maldivian, Divehi, English
Major Export: Fish
Major Import: Machinery
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Language(s)</th>
<th>Major Export(s)</th>
<th>Major Import(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>604,826 sq mi (1,566,499 sq km)</td>
<td>2,400,000</td>
<td>Ulaanbaatar</td>
<td>Khalkha</td>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>Fuels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>261,228 sq mi (676,581 sq km)</td>
<td>47,800,000</td>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>Burmese, local languages</td>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>Machinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>315,830 sq mi (819,336 sq km)</td>
<td>77,200,000</td>
<td>Manila</td>
<td>Tagalog, English (both official)</td>
<td>Electronic Equipment</td>
<td>Raw Materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>56,265 sq mi (147,179 sq km)</td>
<td>23,500,000</td>
<td>Kathmandu</td>
<td>Nepali</td>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>Petroleum Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>4,427 sq km (11,000 sq km)</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>Doha</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Petroleum</td>
<td>Machinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>829,996 sq mi (2,149,690 sq km)</td>
<td>21,100,000</td>
<td>Riyadh</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Petroleum</td>
<td>Machinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>198,116 sq mi (513,120 sq km)</td>
<td>62,400,000</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
<td>Thai, local languages</td>
<td>Manufactured Goods</td>
<td>Machinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>259,158 sq mi (658,158 sq km)</td>
<td>77,400,000</td>
<td>Ankara</td>
<td>Turkish, Kurdish</td>
<td>Foods and Livestock</td>
<td>Machinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>188,456 sq mi (488,101 sq km)</td>
<td>5,300,000</td>
<td>Ashgabat</td>
<td>Turkmen, Russian, Uzbek</td>
<td>Natural Gas</td>
<td>Machinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>203,769 sq mi (527,969 sq km)</td>
<td>18,000,000</td>
<td>Sanaa</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>32,278 sq mi (83,600 sq km)</td>
<td>3,300,000</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi</td>
<td>Arabic, Persian</td>
<td>Manufactured Goods</td>
<td>Petroleum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>128,066 sq mi (331,691 sq km)</td>
<td>78,700,000</td>
<td>Hanoi</td>
<td>Vietnamese, local languages</td>
<td>Crude Oil</td>
<td>Machinery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** A few areas are not fully defined in the table. The information provided is based on the visible text in the image.
# World Facts & Figures

## The Earth

**Area:** 196,951,900 sq mi (510,066,000 sq km)

**Land:** 57,313,000 sq mi (148,647,000 sq km)—29.1%

**Water:** 139,638,900 sq mi (361,419,000 sq km)—70.9%

**Population:** 6,067,000,000 people

## The Continents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Area (sq mi)</th>
<th>Area (sq km)</th>
<th>Percent of Earth's Land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>17,213,300</td>
<td>44,579,000</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>11,690,000</td>
<td>30,065,000</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>9,449,500</td>
<td>24,474,000</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>6,880,500</td>
<td>17,819,000</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antarctica</td>
<td>5,100,400</td>
<td>13,209,000</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>3,837,400</td>
<td>9,938,000</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2,968,200</td>
<td>7,687,000</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Highest Point On Each Continent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Feet</th>
<th>Meters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everest, Asia</td>
<td>29,035</td>
<td>8,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aconcagua, South America</td>
<td>22,834</td>
<td>6,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKinley (Denali), N. America</td>
<td>20,320</td>
<td>6,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilimanjaro, Africa</td>
<td>19,340</td>
<td>5,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elbrus, Europe</td>
<td>18,510</td>
<td>5,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinson Massif, Antarctica</td>
<td>16,067</td>
<td>4,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosciuszko, Australia</td>
<td>7,310</td>
<td>2,228</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Lowest Point On Each Continent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Feet</th>
<th>Meters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dead Sea, Asia</td>
<td>-1,349</td>
<td>-411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Assal, Africa</td>
<td>-512</td>
<td>-156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Valley, N. America</td>
<td>-282</td>
<td>-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valdés Peninsula, S. America</td>
<td>-131</td>
<td>-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caspian Sea, Europe</td>
<td>-92</td>
<td>-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Eyre, Australia</td>
<td>-52</td>
<td>-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antarcica (Ice covered)</td>
<td>-8,366</td>
<td>-2,550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Ten Longest Rivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>River</th>
<th>Length (miles)</th>
<th>Length (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nile, Africa</td>
<td>4,241</td>
<td>6,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazon, South America</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>6,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yangtze (Chang), Asia</td>
<td>3,964</td>
<td>6,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississipi-Missouri, N. America</td>
<td>3,710</td>
<td>5,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yenisey-Angara, Asia</td>
<td>3,440</td>
<td>5,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow (Huang), Asia</td>
<td>3,395</td>
<td>5,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ob-Irtysh, Asia</td>
<td>3,361</td>
<td>5,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amur, Asia</td>
<td>2,744</td>
<td>4,416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lena, Asia</td>
<td>2,734</td>
<td>4,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo, Africa</td>
<td>2,715</td>
<td>4,370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Ten Largest Lakes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake</th>
<th>Area (Sq km)</th>
<th>Greatest Depth (meters)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caspian Sea, Europe-Asia</td>
<td>143,254</td>
<td>3,363,1,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior, N. America</td>
<td>31,701</td>
<td>751,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria, Africa</td>
<td>26,836</td>
<td>269,82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huron, N. America</td>
<td>23,013</td>
<td>922,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan, N. America</td>
<td>22,318</td>
<td>6,624,1,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanganyika, Africa</td>
<td>12,587</td>
<td>2,876,1,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baikal, Asia</td>
<td>12,163</td>
<td>5,371,1,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Bear, N. America</td>
<td>12,086</td>
<td>1,463,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aral Sea, Asia</td>
<td>11,854</td>
<td>167,51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi, Africa</td>
<td>11,159</td>
<td>2,280,695</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Ten Largest Islands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Island</th>
<th>Area (Sq mi)</th>
<th>Area (Sq km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greenland</td>
<td>840,065</td>
<td>2,175,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Guinea</td>
<td>306,008</td>
<td>792,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnco</td>
<td>280,137</td>
<td>725,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>226,658</td>
<td>587,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baffin</td>
<td>195,961</td>
<td>507,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumatra</td>
<td>164,993</td>
<td>427,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honshu</td>
<td>87,806</td>
<td>227,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>84,215</td>
<td>218,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>83,906</td>
<td>217,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellesmere</td>
<td>75,759</td>
<td>196,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## The Oceans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ocean</th>
<th>Area (Sq mi)</th>
<th>Area (Sq km)</th>
<th>Percent of Earth's Water Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>64,190,671</td>
<td>166,241,000</td>
<td>46.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>33,422,271</td>
<td>86,557,000</td>
<td>23.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>28,352,382</td>
<td>73,427,000</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic</td>
<td>3,662,445</td>
<td>9,485,000</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Deepest Point In Each Ocean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ocean</th>
<th>Depth (feet)</th>
<th>Depth (meters)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenger Deep, Pacific</td>
<td>35,827</td>
<td>10,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariana Trench, Pacific</td>
<td>35,827</td>
<td>10,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico Trench, Atlantic</td>
<td>28,232</td>
<td>8,605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Java Trench, Indian</td>
<td>23,376</td>
<td>7,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molloy Deep, Arctic</td>
<td>18,399</td>
<td>5,608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Ten Largest Seas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sea</th>
<th>Area (Sq km)</th>
<th>Average Depth (feet)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South China</td>
<td>1,148,583</td>
<td>4,803,1,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>971,465</td>
<td>8,448,2,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
<td>969,187</td>
<td>4,924,1,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bering</td>
<td>873,079</td>
<td>4,892,1,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf of Mexico</td>
<td>582,130</td>
<td>5,298,1,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea of Okhotsk</td>
<td>537,532</td>
<td>3,192,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea of Japan</td>
<td>391,111</td>
<td>5,469,1,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson Bay</td>
<td>281,912</td>
<td>3,100,93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East China</td>
<td>256,622</td>
<td>620,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andaman</td>
<td>218,125</td>
<td>3,668,1,118</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Earth's Extremes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extremes</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hottest Place</td>
<td>Dalol, Danakil Depression, Ethiopia; average annual temperature—93°F (34°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coldest Place</td>
<td>Plateau Station, Antarctica; average annual temperature—-134°F (-56.7°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wettest Place</td>
<td>Mawsynram, Assam, India; annual average rainfall—467 in (1,187.3 cm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driest Place</td>
<td>Atacama Desert, Chile; rainfall barely measurable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Waterfall</td>
<td>Angel, Venezuela—3,212 ft (979 m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Desert</td>
<td>Sahara, Africa—3,475,000 sq mi (9,000,000 sq km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Canyon</td>
<td>Grand Canyon, Colorado River, Arizona; 217 mi (446 km) long along river: 1,801 ft (549 m) to 18 mi (29 km) wide, about 1 mi (1.6 km) deep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longest Reef</td>
<td>Great Barrier Reef, Australia—1,250 mi (2,012 km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greatest Tides</td>
<td>Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia—52 ft (16 m)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Mountains: Bill Hatcher, National Geographic
Masai Women: George F. Mobley, National Geographic
Peruvian Girl: Pablo Corral Vega, National Geographic
Polar Bears: Norbert Rosing, National Geographic
Italian Sunflowers: Richard Nowitz, National Geographic
Globe: Chad Baker, gettyimages

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