



THE SEVEN CONTINENTS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



World Map and Overview

-The surface of the planet is about 29% land. There are seven continents: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America.



-A continent is a massive area of land that is separated from other areas of land by water or natural features.

-Five of the continents are connected to at least one other continent by land, whilst Antarctica and Australia are cut off from others by the oceans.

-Each continent has a wide range of land types, climates and animal life.

The Five Oceans



Asia

-Asia is the largest continent in the world.
-It is mainly located in the Eastern and Northern hemispheres.
-It contains countries like Russia, China and India.

Africa



-Africa is the 2nd largest continent.
-The continent straddles the Equator, with more of its landmass in the northern hemisphere.
-It contains countries like Egypt, Nigeria and Chad.



North America

-North America is the 3rd largest continent.
-It is mainly located in the western hemisphere.
-It contains countries such as the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean countries.

Europe



-Europe is the 2nd smallest continent.
-It is located in the northern hemisphere.
-It contains countries such as the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.



South America

-South America is the 4th largest continent.
-It is located in the western hemisphere. It contains countries like Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

Australia

-Australia is the smallest continent in the world.
-It is sometimes called Oceania or Australasia. It contains Australia and New Zealand.



Antarctica

-Antarctica is the world's southernmost continent.
-It is the location of the South Pole. There are no countries. It is the coldest continent.

Continents by Size



0.6 million km²



10.2 million km²



14.2 million km²



17.0 million km²



24.7 million km²



30.3 million km²



44.5 million km²

How the Continents Formed

(a) 250 million years ago



(c) 65 million years ago



-The continents haven't always looked as they do now – they are always moving (although very slowly!)

-This is called 'continental drift.' It happens because the tectonic plates under the earth's surface move.

-Around 250 million years ago, all of the land on earth was in one giant super-continent called Pangaea.

(b) 200 million years ago



(d) 45–38 million years ago



Top Ten Facts!

1. The equator passes through the continents of South America, Africa and Asia.
2. Until 1840, Antarctica was known as 'Terra Australis Incognita' ('Unknown Southern Land').
3. Asia has 1/3 of the land on earth.
4. Australia is sometimes known as an 'island continent.'
5. Europe is the only continent without any deserts.
6. Russia, the world's largest country, is in both Europe and Asia.
7. The smallest country, the Vatican City, is in Europe.
8. The highest mountain system, the Himalayas, is in Asia.
9. North America has every type of climate – Tropical, Dry, Continental, Moderate and Polar.
10. The largest rainforest, the Amazon, is in South America.

Largest Populations



Antarctica: 2,000



Australia: 40 million



S.America: 420 million



N.America: 580 million



Europe: 743 million



Africa: 1.2 billion



Asia: 4.5 billion

Subject Specific Vocabulary

Continent	A large area of the land on Earth that is joined together.
Latitude	Imaginary horizontal lines that circle the Earth parallel to the equator.
Longitude	Imaginary vertical lines that stretch from the South to the North Pole.
Meridians	Another name for line of longitude.
Hemisphere	Half of the Earth (usually Northern or Southern)
Tropic of Cancer	The imaginary line that is about 23 degrees North of the equator.
Tropic of Capricorn	The imaginary line that is about 23 degrees South of the equator.
The tropics	The area between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn
Trade links	The goods and services that are bought and sold between two or more places.
Biomes	A specific environment that's home to living things suited for that place and climate.
Natural Resources	Something, such as a forest, a mineral deposit, or fresh water, that is found in nature and is necessary or useful to humans.
Prime meridian	Also called the Greenwich meridian, an imaginary line that runs from the North pole to the south pole and passes through Greenwich, England.

Biomes

Some biomes that can be found across each continent include: rainforest, desert, savanna, temperate and tundra.



Rainforests are forests characterized by high and continuous rainfall, with annual rainfall in the case of tropical rainforests between 2.5 and 4.5 metres.



A desert is a barren area of landscape where little precipitation occurs and, consequently, living conditions are hostile for plant and animal life.



In physical geography, tundra is a type of biome where the tree growth is hindered by low temperatures and short growing seasons.