

WORLD ATLAS

2026-2027

**Explore the Globe Through Detailed Cartography, Political
and Physical Maps, Capitals, Flags, Climate, Landscapes,
Natural Wonders, and Essential Geographic Facts**

Nathan Kingswell

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DEDICATION

To the explorers, travelers, students, educators, scientists, and lifelong learners whose curiosity continues to expand our understanding of the world.

May this atlas inspire a deeper appreciation for Earth's extraordinary landscapes, diverse cultures, remarkable ecosystems, and the enduring connections that unite humanity across every continent.

FOREWORD

The world is a remarkable place of extraordinary diversity. Towering mountain ranges, expansive deserts, dense rainforests, winding rivers, vibrant cities, and countless cultures combine to form a planet of remarkable complexity and beauty. Understanding these places and the relationships between them is essential in an increasingly interconnected world.

THIS WORLD ATLAS has been created to serve as a comprehensive geographic reference for readers of all ages. Whether you are a student learning about world geography, a traveler planning your next journey, an educator preparing classroom materials, or simply someone fascinated by our planet, this atlas is designed to make geography accessible, accurate, and visually engaging.

The pages that follow combine modern cartography, thematic mapping, satellite-style illustrations, statistical summaries, and carefully researched geographic information. Rather than simply presenting maps, this atlas explains the physical and human processes that shape our world, helping readers develop a deeper understanding of Earth's landscapes, environments, and societies.

From the icy wilderness of Antarctica to the tropical rainforests of the Amazon and the bustling megacities of Asia, every region tells a unique story. We hope this atlas encourages exploration, inspires curiosity, and serves as a trusted companion for years to come.

Welcome to an extraordinary journey across our remarkable planet.

PREFACE

Maps are among humanity's oldest and most valuable tools. They help us understand where we are, where we have been, and how different parts of the world are connected. Over centuries, cartography has evolved from hand-drawn sketches and maritime charts into sophisticated digital mapping systems capable of representing Earth's geography with extraordinary precision.

THIS WORLD ATLAS combines traditional cartographic principles with modern geographic information to present an accurate and engaging portrait of our planet. Every chapter has been carefully organized to guide readers from global concepts to detailed continental, regional, and national perspectives.

Within these pages you will discover political maps, physical maps, climate maps, vegetation maps, population maps, transportation networks, natural resources, major landforms, rivers, lakes, deserts, mountain systems, and much more. Rich illustrations, informative diagrams, and concise reference tables complement the maps, transforming geographic information into an engaging visual experience.

As the world continues to evolve, so too does our understanding of its geography. This edition reflects current knowledge and contemporary cartographic practices while celebrating the enduring beauty and diversity of the Earth.

We invite you to explore every page, discover new places, deepen your geographic knowledge, and experience the fascinating story of our shared world.

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HOW TO USE THIS ATLAS

Welcome to Your Journey Around the World

Whether you are a student, educator, traveler, researcher, or geography enthusiast, this atlas has been carefully designed to help you explore the Earth with confidence. Each map, diagram, and illustration has been organized to make geographic information easy to understand while maintaining the accuracy expected from a professional reference atlas.

The atlas is arranged in a logical sequence. It begins with essential cartographic concepts, progresses through global thematic maps, then explores each continent in detail before concluding with country profiles, geographic statistics, and reference material.

UNDERSTANDING THE ATLAS LAYOUT

Every map follows the same design principles to ensure consistency throughout the book.

Each map may contain:

- ❖ Map title
- ❖ Legend
- ❖ Scale bar
- ❖ Compass rose
- ❖ Latitude and longitude grid
- ❖ Political boundaries
- ❖ Physical features
- ❖ Place names
- ❖ Insets for important regions
- ❖ Elevation colors where appropriate

Reading a Map

Before using any map:

1. Read the title.
2. Examine the legend.
3. Check the scale.
4. Locate the compass rose.
5. Observe latitude and longitude.
6. Identify the symbols used.
7. Study the physical and political features.

Atlas Features

Throughout the atlas you will find:

Quick Facts

Key geographic information presented in concise form.

Geography Spotlight

Interesting places, landmarks, and natural wonders.

Did You Know?

Remarkable geographic facts from around the world.

Cartographer's Note

Professional insights into map design and interpretation.

World by the Numbers

Important statistics presented visually.

Included Visuals

Illustration 1

A fully labeled sample atlas page identifying:

- ❖ Title
- ❖ Legend
- ❖ Scale
- ❖ Compass
- ❖ Latitude
- ❖ Longitude
- ❖ Political boundary
- ❖ Physical feature
- ❖ Inset map
- ❖ Map grid

Illustration 2

Flowchart showing how to navigate the atlas.

GUIDE TO SYMBOLS, COLORS, AND LEGENDS

Maps communicate information through a universal visual language. Understanding that language allows readers to interpret maps quickly and accurately.

Common Map Symbols

Symbol	Meaning
★	National Capital
●	Major City
○	Town
▲	Mountain Peak
▲	Mountain Range
🌋	Volcano
🌲	Forest
🌴	Tropical Forest
🌾	Grassland
🏜️	Desert
~~~~~	River

	Lake
	Port
	International Airport
	Railway
	Major Highway

## Standard Map Colors

Color	Represents
Dark Blue	Deep Ocean
Light Blue	Rivers and Lakes
Green	Lowlands
Yellow	Plains
Brown	Highlands
Dark Brown	Mountains
White	Snow and Ice
Red	Capitals
Black	Political Boundaries

## UNDERSTANDING MAP SCALES

Maps reduce the Earth's surface to a manageable size while maintaining proportional relationships.

A map scale shows how distances on the map relate to real-world distances.

### Types of Map Scale

#### Representative Fraction

Example:

1 : 5,000,000

#### Graphic Scale

A visual scale bar.

#### Written Scale

One centimeter represents fifty kilometers.

### Why Scale Matters

Large-scale maps show:

- ❖ Streets
- ❖ Neighborhoods
- ❖ Small regions

Small-scale maps show:

- ❖ Countries
- ❖ Continents

- ❖ Entire world

## MAP PROJECTIONS EXPLAINED

Because Earth is nearly spherical, it cannot be represented perfectly on a flat surface.

Cartographers use projections to balance distortion.

### Mercator Projection

- ❖ Best for navigation.
- ❖ Distorts land areas near the poles.

### Robinson Projection

- ❖ Balances shape and size.
- ❖ Widely used in classrooms.

### Winkel Tripel Projection

- ❖ One of today's most widely used world projections.
- ❖ Minimizes overall distortion.

### Orthographic Projection

- ❖ Shows Earth as viewed from space.

### Comparison Table

Projection	Best For
Mercator	Navigation
Robinson	General Reference
Winkel Tripel	World Atlases
Orthographic	Educational Displays

## LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE

Latitude and longitude form the global coordinate system used to locate any place on Earth.

### Latitude

Measures distance north or south of the Equator.

Ranges:

0° to 90°

### Longitude

Measures distance east or west of the Prime Meridian.

Ranges:

0° to 180°

### Important Lines

- ❖ Equator
- ❖ Prime Meridian
- ❖ Tropic of Cancer
- ❖ Tropic of Capricorn
- ❖ Arctic Circle
- ❖ Antarctic Circle

#### Included Visuals

- ❖ Globe with latitude lines.
- ❖ Globe with longitude lines.
- ❖ Coordinate grid.
- ❖ World coordinate map.

## GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATE SYSTEM

Every location on Earth can be described by a unique pair of geographic coordinates.

Example:

New York

40.7128° N

74.0060° W

London

51.5074° N

0.1278° W

Sydney

33.8688° S

151.2093° E

#### Included Visuals

- ❖ Coordinate globe.
- ❖ GPS satellite illustration.
- ❖ Coordinate lookup example.
- ❖ Grid reference diagram.

## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Meaning
km	Kilometer
mi	Mile
m	Meter
ft	Foot
ha	Hectare
sq km	Square Kilometer

<b>°C</b>	Degrees Celsius
<b>°F</b>	Degrees Fahrenheit
<b>mm</b>	Millimeter
<b>cm</b>	Centimeter
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>UTC</b>	Coordinated Universal Time
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>EU</b>	European Union

## WORLD QUICK FACTS

### Planet Earth

Feature	Value
<b>Continents</b>	7
<b>Oceans</b>	5
<b>Countries</b>	Approximately 195
<b>Surface Area</b>	510.1 million km ²
<b>Water Coverage</b>	71%
<b>Land Coverage</b>	29%
<b>Population</b>	Over 8 billion
<b>Highest Mountain</b>	Mount Everest
<b>Deepest Ocean Point</b>	Challenger Deep
<b>Longest River</b>	Nile (traditional measurement)
<b>Largest Desert</b>	Antarctica (overall); Sahara (largest hot desert)
<b>Largest Ocean</b>	Pacific Ocean

### Included Visuals

- ❖ World political map.
- ❖ World physical map.
- ❖ Earth from space.
- ❖ Continents infographic.
- ❖ Time zones map.
- ❖ Population distribution chart.
- ❖ Climate zones map.
- ❖ Relief map.
- ❖ Elevation profile.
- ❖ World statistics dashboard.

## CARTOGRAPHER'S NOTE

These introductory sections establish the knowledge needed to interpret the maps throughout the atlas. By understanding map symbols, scales, projections, coordinates, and geographic conventions, readers will be able to navigate the world's landscapes and political boundaries with confidence, making the atlas both an educational resource and a practical reference.

# PART I

# THE PLANET WE CALL HOME

Earth is more than a place—it is our shared home. In this part, we explore the planet's essential features, its diverse environments, and the people and cultures that make our world so extraordinary.



#### OUR PLANET

Discover Earth's shape, structure, continents, and oceans.



#### OUR ENVIRONMENT

Explore climates, biomes, natural resources, and ecosystems.



#### OUR PEOPLE

Learn about populations, cultures, languages, and religions.



#### OUR WORLD

Understand political boundaries, economies, and global connections.



#### MAPS & DATA

Use maps and geographic data to explore and understand our world.



#### OUR FUTURE

Discover the challenges we face and how we can build a better tomorrow.



**ONE PLANET. ONE HOME. ONE FUTURE.**

Let's explore it. Let's understand it. Let's protect it.



## CHAPTER 1

# EARTH AT A GLANCE

### Our Home in the Universe

Earth is the third planet from the Sun and the only known place in the universe that supports life. It is a dynamic world of land and water, atmosphere and life, constantly changing and always connected.



#### KEY FACTS ABOUT EARTH

**DISTANCE FROM THE SUN**

About 149.6 million km  
(92.96 million miles)

**AGE**

About 4.54 billion years

**DIAMETER**

12,742 km (7,918 miles)

**SURFACE AREA**

510.1 million km²  
(196.9 million mi²)

**MASS**

$5.97 \times 10^{24}$  kg

**GRAVITY (AT SURFACE)**

9.81 m/s²

**AVERAGE TEMPERATURE**

15 °C (59 °F)

**WATER COVERAGE**

71% of the surface

**ATMOSPHERE**

78% Nitrogen, 21% Oxygen,  
1% other gases

**NATURAL SATELLITE**

1 (The Moon)



### A UNIQUE PLANET

Earth's perfect balance of distance from the Sun, atmosphere, water, and magnetic field creates the ideal conditions for life.

## EARTH IN PERSPECTIVE

Earth is a small but vibrant part of a vast universe.



Earth is the only planet known to have liquid water on its surface and to support a rich diversity of life.

## EARTH'S MAIN SYSTEMS

### THE ATMOSPHERE



A blanket of gases that protects life, regulates climate, and provides the air we breathe.

### THE HYDROSPHERE



All the water on Earth—oceans, rivers, lakes, glaciers, and groundwater.

### THE GEOSPHERE



The solid Earth—rocks, minerals, mountains, valleys, and the land we live on.

### THE BIOSPHERE



All living things and the ecosystems they form, from microbes to mammals.

### THE CRYOSPHERE



The frozen parts of Earth—ice caps, glaciers, snow, and sea ice.

## AMAZING EARTH



Highest Point  
Mount Everest  
8,849 m  
(29,029 ft)



Deepest Ocean Point  
Challenger Deep  
10,994 m  
(36,037 ft)



Longest River  
Nile River  
6,650 km  
(4,130 miles)



Largest Desert  
Sahara Desert  
9.2 million km²  
(3.6 million mi²)



Largest Forest  
Amazon Rainforest  
5.5 million km²  
(2.1 million mi²)



**ONE PLANET. ONE HOME. ONE FUTURE.**

Understanding Earth is the first step to protecting it.



## CHAPTER 2

# THE SHAPE AND STRUCTURE OF EARTH

### A Dynamic Planet with Layers

Earth is not a perfect sphere. It is an oblate spheroid—slightly wider at the equator and flattened at the poles. Beneath its surface lies a complex structure of layers, each with unique properties that work together to make our planet dynamic and capable of supporting life.



### THE SHAPE OF EARTH



#### OBLATE SPHEROID

Earth bulges at the equator and is flattened at the poles due to its rotation.



#### EQUATORIAL DIAMETER

12,756 km (7,918 miles)



#### POLAR DIAMETER

12,714 km (7,900 miles)



#### MEAN RADIUS

6,371 km (3,959 miles)



#### MASS

$5.97 \times 10^{24}$  kg



#### ROTATION PERIOD

23 hours, 56 minutes  
(One solar day)

### EARTH'S SHAPE



Because of its rotation, Earth experiences slight bulging at the equator and flattening at the poles—about 42 km difference in diameter.

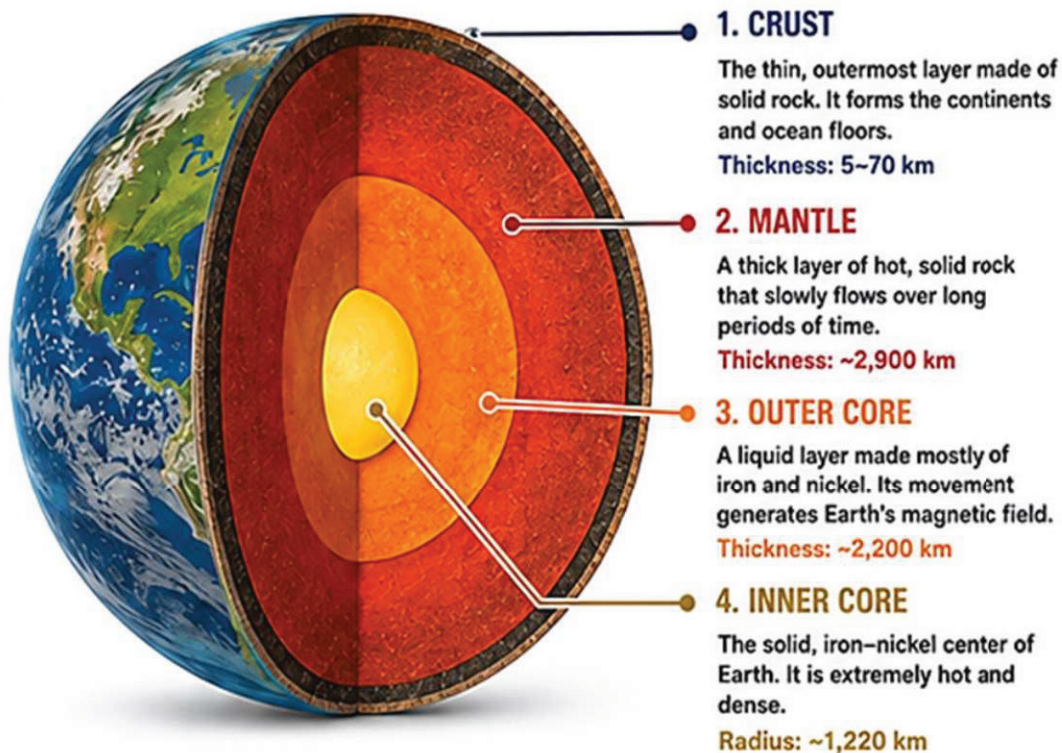


### EARTH'S SHAPE AND STRUCTURE WORK TOGETHER

to create a planet that is active, resilient, and full of life.

## EARTH'S INTERNAL STRUCTURE

Earth is made of four main layers. Each layer has different composition, temperature, and physical properties.



## KEY FEATURES OF EARTH'S STRUCTURE



### TECTONIC PLATES

Earth's outer layer is broken into moving plates that interact, causing earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountain building.



### MAGNETIC FIELD

Generated by the movement of liquid metals in the outer core, it protects Earth from harmful solar radiation.



### HEAT FLOW

Heat from Earth's interior rises toward the surface, driving plate movement and volcanic activity.



### WATER CYCLE

Earth's structure influences the movement of water through oceans, atmosphere, and land.



### LIFE SUPPORT

The right combination of structure, atmosphere, water, and energy makes Earth a living planet.



## UNDERSTANDING EARTH'S SHAPE AND STRUCTURE

helps us understand natural phenomena, use resources wisely, and protect our planet for the future.

## CHAPTER 3

# CONTINENTS AND OCEANS



### The World's Great Landmasses and Waters

Earth is covered by vast oceans and home to seven major continents. Together, they form the diverse and interconnected world we live in.



#### THE SEVEN CONTINENTS

NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	AFRICA	ASIA	OCEANIA	ANTARCTICA
						
<b>Area</b> 24.7 million km ² (9.5 million mi ² )	<b>Area</b> 17.8 million km ² (6.9 million mi ² )	<b>Area</b> 10.2 million km ² (3.9 million mi ² )	<b>Area</b> 30.4 million km ² (11.7 million mi ² )	<b>Area</b> 30.6 million km ² (17.2 million mi ² )	<b>Area</b> 8.5 million km ² (3.3 million mi ² )	<b>Area</b> 14.0 million km ² (5.4 million mi ² )
<b>Population</b> ~592 million	<b>Population</b> ~439 million	<b>Population</b> ~748 million	<b>Population</b> ~1.5 billion	<b>Population</b> ~4.8 billion	<b>Population</b> ~46 million	<b>Population</b> (No permanent population)

# THE WORLD'S OCEANS

Oceans cover more than 70% of Earth's surface and play a vital role in regulating climate, supporting life, and connecting the world.



## OCEAN FACTS



**71%**  
of Earth's surface  
is covered by  
oceans.



**96.5%**  
of all water on  
Earth is in the  
oceans.



Oceans produce  
more than 50% of  
the oxygen we  
breathe.



Oceans absorb over  
90% of the excess  
heat from climate  
change.



They connect  
nations and support  
trade, food, and  
travel.

## THE FIVE OCEANS

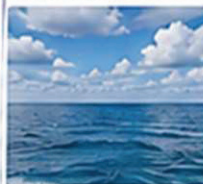
### PACIFIC OCEAN



Area: 165.2 million km²  
(63.8 million mi²)

**Deepest Point:**  
Mariana Trench  
10,984 m (36,070 ft)

### ATLANTIC OCEAN



Area: 106.5 million km²  
(41.1 million mi²)

**Deepest Point:**  
Puerto Rico Trench  
8,742 m (28,669 ft)

### INDIAN OCEAN



Area: 70.6 million km²  
(27.2 million mi²)

**Deepest Point:**  
Java Trench  
7,725 m (25,344 ft)

### SOUTHERN OCEAN



Area: 20.3 million km²  
(7.8 million mi²)

**Deepest Point:**  
South Sandwich Trench  
7,235 m (23,737 ft)

### ARCTIC OCEAN



Area: 14.1 million km²  
(5.4 million mi²)

**Deepest Point:**  
Molloy Deep  
5,550 m (18,208 ft)



Oceans and continents shape our planet,  
sustain life, and unite us all.

## CHAPTER 4

# MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS



### Understanding the World in Regional Context

Geographic regions are areas of the Earth that share similar physical features, climate, culture, or human activities. They help us understand the diversity of our planet and how people and environments are connected.

#### THE WORLD'S MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS



#### TYPES OF GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS



**PHYSICAL REGIONS**  
Defined by natural features such as mountains, rivers, climate, and landforms.



**CULTURAL REGIONS**  
Based on shared language, religion, history, traditions, and ways of life.



**ECONOMIC REGIONS**  
Defined by similar economic activities, industries, resources, or levels of development.



**POLITICAL REGIONS**  
Areas defined by political boundaries such as countries, states, or unions.



Regions help us explore the patterns, similarities, and differences that shape our world.

# THE WORLD'S MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

Here are the key geographic regions of the world and what makes each one unique.

## 1. NORTH AMERICA



A diverse region with vast forests, plains, deserts, and mountains. Home to a variety of cultures and highly developed economies.

## 2. SOUTH AMERICA



Rich in natural resources, rainforests, and cultural heritage. Known for the Amazon Basin and the Andes Mountains.

## 3. EUROPE



A region of deep history, diverse cultures, and strong economies. It is a center of political and cultural influence.

## 4. ASIA



The largest and most populous region, with incredible cultural diversity and contrasting landscapes.

## 5. AFRICA



A continent of vast landscapes, rich cultures, and abundant resources. Home to the Sahara, the Nile, and a young, growing population.

## 6. OCEANIA



Made up of Australia, New Zealand, and thousands of islands. Known for its unique ecosystems and island cultures.

## 7. ANTARCTICA



The coldest and most remote region, covered in ice. It plays a vital role in regulating Earth's climate and global weather patterns.



Each region is unique, yet all are part of one connected planet—our home, Earth.

## CHAPTER 5

# POLITICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE MODERN WORLD



### The Lines That Shape Our World

Political boundaries define the extent of countries, states, and territories. These invisible lines on maps represent sovereignty, governance, and the rights of nations to manage their people and resources.

### THE POLITICAL MAP OF THE WORLD



### KEY FACTS



**195+**  
Recognized  
independent  
countries  
in the world.



**Thousands**  
of territories,  
regions, and  
dependencies  
exist worldwide.



**8.1 Billion+**  
People live within  
these political  
boundaries.



**Sovereignty**  
Each country has  
the authority to  
govern its people  
and territory.



**Boundaries**  
promote order,  
security, and  
international  
cooperation.



Political boundaries are more than lines on a map—  
they are expressions of history, culture, identity, and governance.

## WHY POLITICAL BOUNDARIES MATTER

Boundaries influence daily life, from laws and services to trade, travel, security, and international relations.



### GOVERNANCE

Define the area where a government has authority.



### IDENTITY

Reflect the history, culture, and identity of nations.



### RESOURCES

Determine control over land, water, and natural resources.



### RELATIONS

Shape diplomatic relations and international agreements.



### SECURITY

Help maintain national security and border protection.



### MOVEMENT

Affect the movement of people, goods, and information across borders.

## TYPES OF POLITICAL BOUNDARIES



### 1. NATURAL BOUNDARIES

Follow physical features of the Earth, such as mountains, rivers, lakes, or deserts. Example: The U.S.-Canada border follows the Great Lakes in some areas.



Mountains often form natural dividing lines.



### 2. GEOMETRIC BOUNDARIES

Created using straight lines, often based on latitude and longitude or treaties. Example: Many African countries have straight-line borders.



Straight lines drawn on maps define borders.



### 3. CULTURAL BOUNDARIES

Based on the distribution of ethnic, linguistic, or religious groups. Example: Some European borders reflect language and cultural differences.

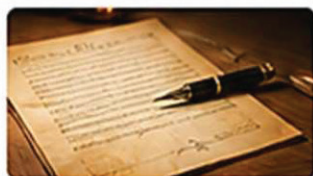


Culture and language can shape borders.



### 4. POLITICAL (HISTORICAL) BOUNDARIES

Result from historical agreements, wars, colonization, or independence movements. Example: Many Middle Eastern borders were drawn during the colonial period.



History and agreements create borders.



### 5. DISPUTED BOUNDARIES

Not fully agreed upon by the countries involved, often leading to tension or conflict. Example: Some borders remain disputed, such as in the South China Sea.



Disputes occur when borders are unclear.



Political boundaries are constantly evolving.

Understanding them helps us appreciate the complexity of our world and work toward peace, respect, and cooperation among nations.

## CHAPTER 6

# PHYSICAL FEATURES OF EARTH



### The Natural Landscape That Shapes Our World

Earth is a dynamic planet with a wide variety of physical features formed by natural processes over millions of years. These features shape our environments, influence climates, and support life across the globe.

#### MAJOR PHYSICAL FEATURES OF EARTH



#### EARTH BY THE NUMBERS

				
71%	29%	1,386 million km ³	8,848 m	10,994 m
of Earth's surface is covered by water.	is land, with vast diversity in terrain.	is the total volume of Earth's water.	is the height of Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth.	is the depth of the Mariana Trench, the deepest point in the oceans.



Earth's physical features are the result of powerful natural forces that continue to shape our planet every day.

## TYPES OF PHYSICAL FEATURES

### MOUNTAINS



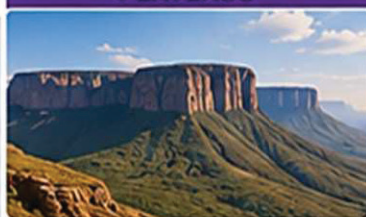
High, elevated landforms with steep slopes and peaks. They are formed by tectonic uplift or volcanic activity.  
Example: The Himalayas

### PLAINS



Large areas of flat or gently rolling land. Plains are often fertile and suitable for farming and settlements.  
Example: The Great Plains

### PLATEAUS



Elevated flatlands that rise sharply above surrounding areas. They are formed by uplift or volcanic activity.  
Example: The Deccan Plateau

### RIVERS



Natural flowing watercourses that move water from highlands to oceans, lakes, or other rivers.  
Example: The Amazon River

### LAKES



Large bodies of water surrounded by land. Lakes may be freshwater or saltwater.  
Example: Lake Superior

### DESERTS



Dry regions with very little rainfall and sparse vegetation. Deserts can be hot or cold.  
Example: The Sahara Desert

### COASTLINES



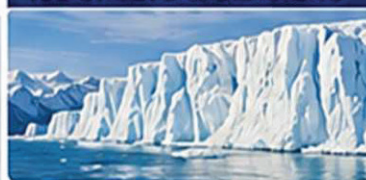
Where land meets the ocean. Coastlines include beaches, cliffs, bays, and deltas.  
Example: California Coast

### ISLANDS



Land masses completely surrounded by water.  
Example: Madagascar

### ICE SHEETS & GLACIERS



Large masses of ice that cover land or flow slowly across the surface.  
Example: Greenland Ice Sheet

## HOW PHYSICAL FEATURES ARE FORMED



#### TECTONIC ACTIVITY

Movement of Earth's plates builds mountains, creates earthquakes, and forms volcanoes.



#### WEATHERING & EROSION

Wind, water, ice, and temperature break down rocks and reshape the land over time.



#### DEPOSITION

Sediments carried by water, wind, or ice are deposited to form plains, deltas, and beaches.



#### CLIMATE & SEA LEVEL

Changes in climate and sea level shape coastlines, glaciers, and ice sheets over long periods.



#### LIFE & ORGANISMS

Plants, animals, and humans also influence landscapes through natural processes.



From the highest mountains to the deepest oceans, Earth's physical features create the world we live in.

## CHAPTER 7

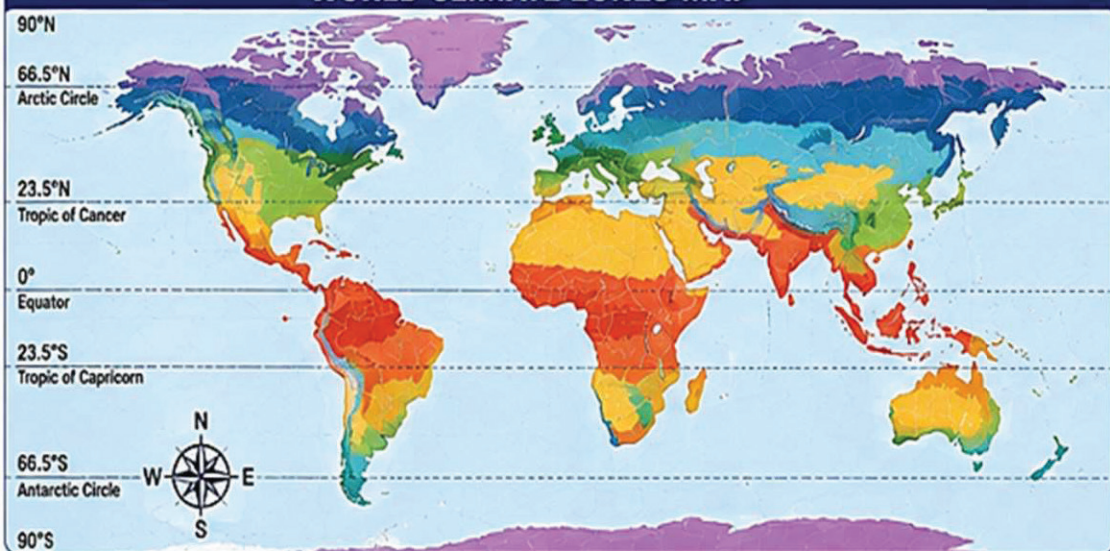
# GLOBAL CLIMATE ZONES



### Different Climates, One Connected Planet

Climate zones are large regions of Earth that experience similar temperature and precipitation patterns throughout the year. These patterns are influenced by latitude, altitude, ocean currents, wind systems, and the distribution of land and sea.

#### WORLD CLIMATE ZONES MAP

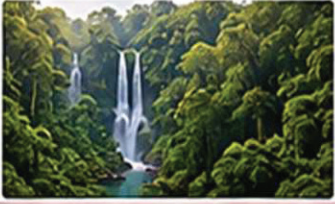


POLAR	BOREAL	TEMPERATE	DRY	TROPICAL	HIGHLAND
Very cold year-round. Low precipitation.	Long, cold winters. Short, mild summers.	Four distinct seasons. Moderate precipitation.	Low precipitation. Includes deserts and semi-arid areas.	Warm year-round. High precipitation.	Varies with elevation. Cooler at higher altitudes.
					



Climate shapes our environment, influences our lives,  
and connects every part of our planet.

## THE MAIN GLOBAL CLIMATE ZONES

<b>1</b> 	<b>POLAR CLIMATE</b> Extremely cold all year. Long, dark winters and short, cool summers. Very low precipitation, mostly snow.		<b>WHERE FOUND</b> Greenland, Antarctica, Arctic Ocean region and surrounding areas.	
<b>2</b> 	<b>BOREAL (SUBARCTIC) CLIMATE</b> Very cold winters and cool summers. Moderate precipitation, mostly in summer.		<b>WHERE FOUND</b> Canada, Alaska, Scandinavia, Russia (Siberia).	
<b>3</b> 	<b>TEMPERATE CLIMATE</b> Warm summers and cool winters. Moderate precipitation year-round. Ideal for many plants and human activities.		<b>WHERE FOUND</b> North America, Europe, parts of Asia, New Zealand, southern South America, Australia.	
<b>4</b> 	<b>DRY CLIMATE</b> Low precipitation throughout the year. Includes hot deserts and cold deserts.		<b>WHERE FOUND</b> Sahara, Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia, Australia, western North America.	
<b>5</b> 	<b>TROPICAL CLIMATE</b> Warm to hot all year. High humidity and abundant rainfall, especially in the tropical rainforests.		<b>WHERE FOUND</b> Near the Equator: Amazon Basin, Central Africa, Southeast Asia, Pacific Islands.	
<b>6</b> 	<b>HIGHLAND CLIMATE</b> Climate varies with elevation. Temperatures decrease as altitude increases.		<b>WHERE FOUND</b> Rocky Mountains, Andes, Himalayas, Ethiopian Highlands, and other high elevation areas.	

### FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE CLIMATE

 <b>LATITUDE</b> Closer to the Equator is warmer; toward the poles is colder.	 <b>ALTITUDE</b> Higher elevations are cooler than lowlands.	 <b>DISTANCE FROM OCEAN</b> Coastal areas have milder climates than inland areas.	 <b>OCEAN CURRENTS</b> Warm or cold currents affect temperatures of nearby regions.	 <b>WIND PATTERNS</b> Winds move heat and moisture, influencing climate.
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Understanding climate zones helps us protect our environment, plan for the future, and live in harmony with nature.