Documentation: Creating Basemaps from Natural Earth Data with QTiles in QGIS

About the project:

This project is part of an internship assignment which aimed at creating tiled basemaps for the KNMI geospatial infrastructure. The data and tools used to create the basemaps are open-source. Therefore, this project and the basemaps are reproducible for everyone who wants to create simple basemaps (raster tiled basemaps) from free vector data!

About Natural Earth:

Natural Earth is a public domain map dataset available at 1:10m, 1:50m, and 1:110 million scales. Featuring tightly integrated vector and raster data, with Natural Earth it is possible to make a variety of visually pleasing, well-crafted maps with cartography or GIS software. In this project, vector datasets were downloaded for styling in a QGIS project before finally generating raster tiles with the QTiles plugin.

Natural Earth Data can be downloaded from the official website: http://www.naturalearthdata.com/downloads/

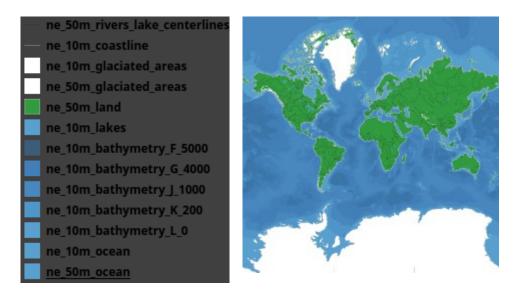
About QTiles plugin in QGIS:

The QTiles plugin generates raster tiles from QGIS project for selected zoom levels and tile naming convention (Slippy Map or TMS). It can package tiles for variety of formats and applications. For instance, it can export tiles in a directory structure or in a MBTiles file. Currently there is no release of QTiles plugin for QGIS 3.0. It was designed for QGIS version 1.9.0 and higher. In this project QGIS 2.18.16 was used on Linux Fedora 26.

The plugin is available via official repository: https://plugins.qgis.org/plugins/qtiles/

For developers there is also a Github repository: https://github.com/nextgis/QTiles

Basemap 1: WorldMap



Data (shapefiles) used for this basemap:

1) 50m Physical, Rivers + lake centerlines:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines.zip (389.27 KB)

Style: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #000000, Transparency 90%.

2) 10m Physical, Coastline (includes major islands):

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_coastline.zip (2.93 MB)

Style: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #b8b8b8, Transparency 50%.

3) 10m Physical, Lakes:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m lakes.zip (1.74 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.

4) 10m Physical, Glaciated areas (includes glaciers and recently de-glaciated areas):

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m glaciated ar eas.zip (1.57 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

5) 50m Physical, Glaciated areas (includes glaciers and recently de-glaciated areas):

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m glaciated ar eas.zip (211.39 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

6) 50m Physical, Land:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m land.zip (446.45 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #329b3f. Outline: Solid line, Color: #b8b8b8, Width: 0.260000 millimeter.

7) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 5000m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry F_5000.zip (2.72 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #386f9, Transparency 40%. Set outline to transparent.

8) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 4000m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry_G_4000.zip (3.43 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #427fb8. Set outline to transparent.

9) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 1000m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry J 1000.zip (741.08 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #4988be. Set outline to transparent.

10) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 200m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry K 200.zip (1.14 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #5096c9. Set outline to transparent.

11) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 0m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry_L_0.zip_(2.86 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.

12) 10m Physical, Ocean:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m ocean.zip (3.48 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.

13) 50m Physical, Ocean:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne_50m_ocean.zip (450.91 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.

Tutorial WorldMap QTiles:

Step 1: Download Natural Earth data

Download the shapefiles (in .zip format) from the website of Natural Earth: http://www.naturalearthdata.com/downloads/. Create a folder "WorldMap" and a subfolder "Data". Import the downloaded .zip files into the "Data" subfolder. Afterwards, unzip all the .zip files.

```
mkdir -p WorldMap/Data
cd WorldMap/Data
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m coastline.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_lakes.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m glaciated areas.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m glaciated areas.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m land.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry_F_5000.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry_G_4000.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry J 1000.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry_K_200.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry_L_0.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m ocean.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m ocean.zip
unzip ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines.zip
unzip ne 10m coastline.zip
unzip ne 10m lakes.zip
unzip ne_10m_glaciated_areas.zip
unzip ne 50m glaciated areas.zip
unzip ne 50m land.zip
unzip ne_10m_bathymetry F 5000.zip
unzip ne 10m bathymetry G 4000.zip
unzip ne_10m_bathymetry_J_1000.zip
unzip ne 10m bathymetry K 200.zip
unzip ne_10m_bathymetry_L_0.zip
unzip ne 10m ocean.zip
unzip ne_50m_ocean.zip
```

Step 2: Create a QGIS project

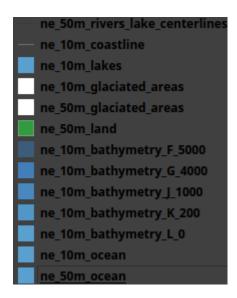
 $Run\ QGIS\ Desktop\ and\ create\ a\ new\ project\ (CTRL+N).\ Save\ the\ project\ as\ WorldMap.qgs\ in\ the\ WorldMap\ folder\ created\ earlier.$

Step 3: Add Layers in the QGIS project

Add all shapefiles to the QGIS project: Layer \rightarrow Add Layer \rightarrow Add Vector Layer (CTRL+SHIFT+V). Choose the shapefiles in the "Data" subfolder.

Step 4: Put the Layers in the correct order

- ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines
- ne 10m coastline
- ne_ 10m_lakes
- ne_10m_glaciated_areas
- ne_50m_glaciated_areas
- ne_50m_land
- ne_10_bathymetry_F_5000
- ne_10_bathymetry_G_4000
- ne_10_bathymetry_J_1000
- ne_10_bathymetry_K_200
- ne_10_bathymetry_L_0
- ne 10m ocean4
- ne_50m_ocean

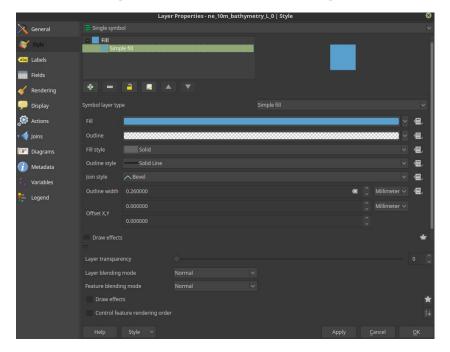


Step 5: Apply styles

Apply styling. Properties -> Style. Right click on the layer and select properties, or simply <u>double click</u> on the layer.

- ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #000000, Transparency 90%. ne_10m_coastline: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #b8b8b8, Transparency 50%.
- ne_ 10m_lakes: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_10m_glaciated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

- ne_50m_glaciated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.
 ne_50m_glaciated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #500m_stated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #329b3f. Outline: Solid line, Color: #500m_stated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #329b3f. Outline: Solid line, Color: #500m_stated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #386f9, Transparency 40%. Set outline to transparent.
 ne_10_bathymetry_G_4000: Simple Fill, Color: #4200m_stated_areas: Stated_areas.
 ne_10_bathymetry_G_4000: Simple Fill, Color: #4200m_stated_areas.
 New York Stated areas: Simple Fill, Color: #4200m_stated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #4200m_stated_areas: Stated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #4200m_stated_areas: Simp
- ne_10_bathymetry_J_1000: Simple Fill, Color: #4988be. Set outline to transparent. ne_10_bathymetry_K_200: Simple Fill, Color: #5096c9. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_10_bathymetry_L_0: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.
 ne_10m_ocean: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.
 ne_50m_ocean: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.



Step 6: Generate raster tiles with QTiles plugin

Open the QTiles plugin: Plugins \rightarrow QTiles (CTRL+T).

Output: Select Directory to export the raster tiles as a directory structure.

Extent: Set desired geographic extent of the map:

Canvas extent — current canvas extent will be used. Full extent — full extent of all project layers will be used

Layer extent — output extent will be the same as extent of the selected layer

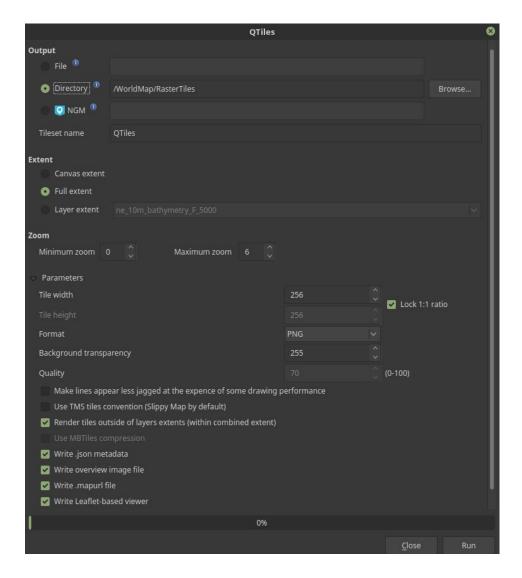
We will select Full extent to take into account all project layers for the generation of the tiles.

Zoom: Set the zoom levels. The more zoomlevels, the more detail on the deeper zoom levels, however more tiles needed which will slow the process and which takes more size. In this case, a maximum zoom of 6 will do (5461 tiles, approximately: 54 MB). A zoom level of 9 will give a better user experience, however the total size of the tiles is approximately 1 GB.

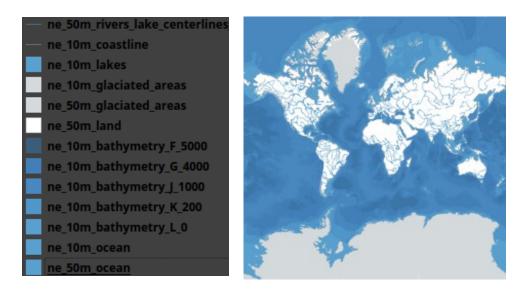
More about zoomlevels: https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Zoom_levels

Parameters: Set the tile size. 256X256 pixels is used for slippy maps. Choose the format: PNG. Select other wished options. Recommended is to write Leaflet-based viewer to check the result once the tiles are created.

More about slippy maps: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiled-web-map/



Basemap 2: WorldMap_Light



Data (shapefiles) used for this basemap:

1) 50m Physical, Rivers + lake centerlines:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m rivers lake centerlines.zip (389.27 KB)

Style: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #000000, Transparency 90%.

2) 10m Physical, Coastline (includes major islands):

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_coastline.zip (2.93 MB)

Style: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #b8b8b8, Transparency 50%.

3) 10m Physical, Lakes:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_lakes.zip (1.74 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.

4) 10m Physical, Glaciated areas (includes glaciers and recently de-glaciated areas):

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_glaciated_ar eas.zip (1.57 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

5) 50m Physical, Glaciated areas (includes glaciers and recently de-glaciated areas):

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m glaciated ar eas.zip (211.39 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

6) 50m Physical, Land:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m land.zip (446.45 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #329b3f. Outline: Solid line, Color: #b8b8b8, Width: 0.260000 millimeter.

7) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 5000m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry F 5000.zip (2.72 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #386f9, Transparency 40%. Set outline to transparent.

8) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 4000m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry <u>G_4000.zip</u> (3.43 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #427fb8. Set outline to transparent.

9) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 1000m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry J 1000.zip (741.08 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #4988be. Set outline to transparent.

10) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 200m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry K_200.zip (1.14 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #5096c9. Set outline to transparent.

11) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 0m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry L_0.zip (2.86 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.

12) 10m Physical, Ocean:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m ocean.zip (3.48 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.

13) 50m Physical, Ocean:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m ocean.zip (450.91 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.

Tutorial Basemap 2: WorldMap_Light QTiles:

Step 1: Download Natural Earth data

Download the shapefiles (in .zip format) from the website of Natural Earth: http://www.naturalearthdata.com/downloads/. Create a folder "WorldMap_Light" and a subfolder "Data". Import the downloaded .zip files into the "Data" subfolder. Afterwards, unzip all the .zip files.

```
mkdir -p WorldMap Light/Data
cd WorldMap Light/Data
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m rivers lake centerlines.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_coastline.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m lakes.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_glaciated_areas.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne_50m_glaciated_areas.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m land.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry F 5000.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry_G_4000.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry_J_1000.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry K 200.zip
wdet http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry_L_0.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_ocean.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m ocean.zip
unzip ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines.zip
unzip ne 10m coastline.zip
unzip ne_10m_lakes.zip
unzip ne 10m glaciated areas.zip
unzip ne 50m glaciated areas.zip
unzip ne 50m land.zip
unzip ne 10m bathymetry F 5000.zip
unzip ne_10m_bathymetry_G_4000.zip
unzip ne_10m_bathymetry_J_1000.zip
unzip ne_10m_bathymetry_K_200.zip
unzip ne 10m bathymetry L 0.zip
unzip ne_10m_ocean.zip
unzip ne 50m ocean.zip
```

Step 2: Create a QGIS project

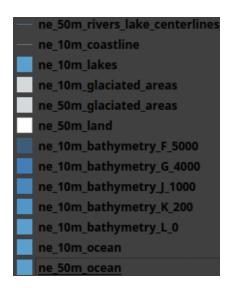
Run QGIS Desktop and create a new project (CTRL+N). Save the project as WorldMap_Light.qgs in the WorldMap_Light folder created earlier.

Step 3: Add Layers in the QGIS project

Add all shapefiles to the QGIS project: Layer \rightarrow Add Layer \rightarrow Add Vector Layer (CTRL+SHIFT+V). Choose the shapefiles in the "Data" subfolder.

Step 4: Put the Layers in the correct order

- ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines
- ne_10m_coastline
- ne_ 10m_lakes
- ne_10m_glaciated_areas
- ne_50m_glaciated_areas
- ne_50m_land
- ne_10_bathymetry_F_5000
- ne_10_bathymetry_G_4000
- ne_10_bathymetry_J_1000
- ne 10 bathymetry K 200
- ne_10_bathymetry_L_0
- ne_10m_ocean
- ne_50m_ocean



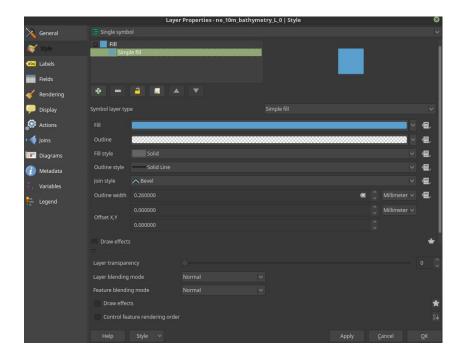
Step 5: Apply styles

Apply styling. Properties -> Style. Right click on the layer and select properties, or simply double click on the layer.

- ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #59a0ce, Transparency 40%.
- ne_10m_coastline: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #b8b8b8, Transparency 50%.
 ne_10m_lakes: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.
 ne_10m_glaciated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #4d4d9dc. Set outline to transparent.

- ne_50m_glaciated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #d4d9dc. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_50m_land : Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Outline: Solid line, Color: #b8b8b8, Width: 0.260000 millimeter.
- ne_10_bathymetry_F_5000: Simple Fill, Color: #386f9, Transparency 40%. Set outline to transparent.
 ne_10_bathymetry_G_4000: Simple Fill, Color: #427fb8. Set outline to transparent.
 ne_10_bathymetry_J_1000: Simple Fill, Color: #4988be. Set outline to transparent.
 ne_10_bathymetry_K_200: Simple Fill, Color: #5096c9. Set outline to transparent.

- ne_10_bathymetry_L_0: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_10m_ocean: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent. ne_50m_ocean: Simple Fill, Color: #59a0ce. Set outline to transparent.



Step 6: Generate raster tiles with QTiles plugin

Open the QTiles plugin: Plugins → QTiles (CTRL+T).

Output: Select Directory to export the raster tiles as a directory structure.

Extent: Set desired geographic extent of the map:

Canvas extent — current canvas extent will be used.

Full extent — full extent of all project layers will be used

Layer extent — output extent will be the same as extent of the selected layer

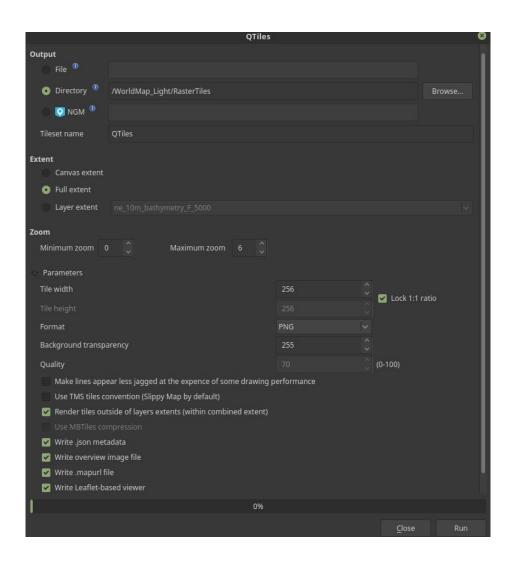
We will select Full extent to take into account all project layers for the generation of the tiles.

Zoom: Set the zoom levels. The more zoomlevels, the more detail on the deeper zoom levels, however more tiles needed which will slow the process and which takes more size. In this case, a maximum zoom of 6 will do (5461 tiles, approximately: 54 MB). A zoom level of 9 will give a better user experience, however the total size of the tiles is approximately 1 GB.

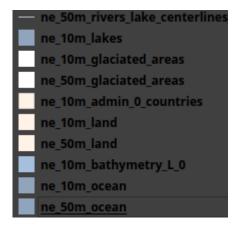
More about zoomlevels: https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Zoom_levels

Parameters: Set the tile size. 256X256 pixels is used for slippy maps. Choose the format: PNG. Select other wished options. Recommended is to write Leaflet-based viewer to check the result once the tiles are created.

More about slippy maps: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiled_web_map/



Basemap 3: WorldMap_Canvas





Data (shapefiles) used for this basemap:

1) 50m Physical, Rivers + lake centerlines:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines.zip (389.27 KB)

Style: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #d4d9dc.

2) 10m Physical, Lakes:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_lakes.zip (1.74 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #a5bfdd, Transparency 20%.

3) 10m Physical, Glaciated areas (includes glaciers and recently de-glaciated areas):

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m glaciated ar eas.zip (1.57 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

4) 50m Physical, Glaciated areas (includes glaciers and recently de-glaciated areas):

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m glaciated ar eas.zip (211.39 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

5) 10m Cultural, Admin 0 – Countries:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/cultural/ne 10m admin 0 co untries.zip (5.12 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #fff2e6. Outline: Solid line, Color: #b3b3b3, Width: 0.260000 millimeter.

6) 10m Physical, Land:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_land.zip (3.32 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #fff2e6. Set outline transparent.

7) 50m Physical, Land:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m land.zip (446.45 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #fff2e6. Set outline transparent.

8) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 0m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry_L_0.zip_(2.86 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #a5bfdd. Set outline to transparent.

9) 10m Physical, Ocean:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_ocean.zip (3.48 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #a5bfdd. Set outline to transparent.

10) 50m Physical, Ocean:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m ocean.zip (450.91 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #a5bfdd. Set outline to transparent.

Tutorial Basemap 3: WorldMap_Canvas QTiles:

Step 1: Download Natural Earth data

Download the shapefiles (in .zip format) from the website of Natural Earth: http://www.naturalearthdata.com/downloads/. Create a folder "WorldMap_Canvas" and a subfolder "Data". Import the downloaded .zip files into the "Data" subfolder. Afterwards, unzip all the .zip files

```
mkdir -p WorldMap_ Canvas/Data
cd WorldMap Canvas/Data
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m rivers lake centerlines.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m lakes.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_glaciated_areas.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne_50m_glaciated_areas.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/cultural/ne 10m admin 0 countries.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_land.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m land.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry L 0.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_ocean.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m ocean.zip
unzip ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines.zip
unzip ne 10m lakes.zip
unzip ne_10m glaciated areas.zip
unzip ne_50m_glaciated_areas.zip
unzip ne 10m admin 0 countries.zip
unzip ne-10m land.zip
unzip ne_50m_land.zip
unzip ne_10m_bathymetry_L_0.zip
unzip ne 10m ocean.zip
unzip ne 50m ocean.zip
```

Step 2: Create a QGIS project

Run QGIS Desktop and create a new project (CTRL+N). Save the project as WorldMap_Canvas.qgs in the WorldMap_Canvas folder created earlier.

Step 3: Add Layers in the QGIS project

Add all shapefiles to the QGIS project: Layer \rightarrow Add Layer \rightarrow Add Vector Layer (CTRL+SHIFT+V). Choose the shapefiles in the "Data" subfolder.

Step 4: Put the Layers in the correct order

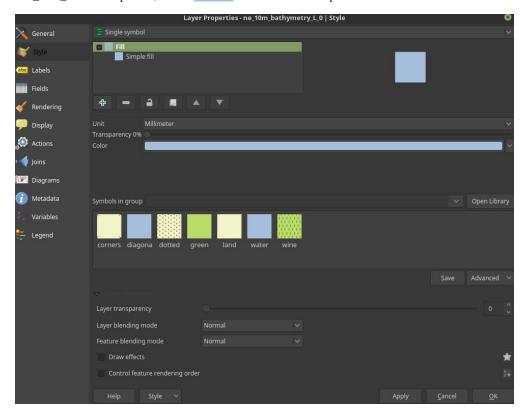
- ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines
- ne_ 10m_lakes
- ne_10m_glaciated_areas
- ne_50m_glaciated_areas
- ne_10m_admin_0_countries
- ne_10m_land
- ne_50m_land
- $ne_10_bathymetry_L_0$
- ne_10m_ocean
- ne_50m_ocean



Step 5: Apply styles

Apply styling. Properties -> Style. Right click on the layer and select properties, or simply double click on the layer.

- ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #d4d9dc. ne_10m_lakes: Simple Fill, Color: #a5bfdd, Transparency 20%.
- ne_10m_glaciated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_50m_glaciated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_10m_admin_0_countries: Simple Fill, Color: #fff2e6. Outline: Solid line, Color: #b3b3b3, Width: 0.260000 millimeter.
- ne_10m_land: Simple Fill, Color: #fff2e6. Set outline transparent.
 ne_50m_land: Simple Fill, Color: #fff2e6. Set outline transparent.
- ne_10_bathymetry_L_0: Simple Fill, Color: #a5bfdd. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_10m_ocean: Simple Fill, Ĉolor: #a5bfdd. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_50m_ocean: Simple Fill, Color: #a5bfdd. Set outline to transparent.



Step 6: Generate raster tiles with QTiles plugin

Open the QTiles plugin: Plugins \rightarrow QTiles (CTRL+T).

Output: Select Directory to export the raster tiles as a directory structure.

Extent: Set desired geographic extent of the map:

Canvas extent — current canvas extent will be used. Full extent — full extent of all project layers will be used

Layer extent — output extent will be the same as extent of the selected layer

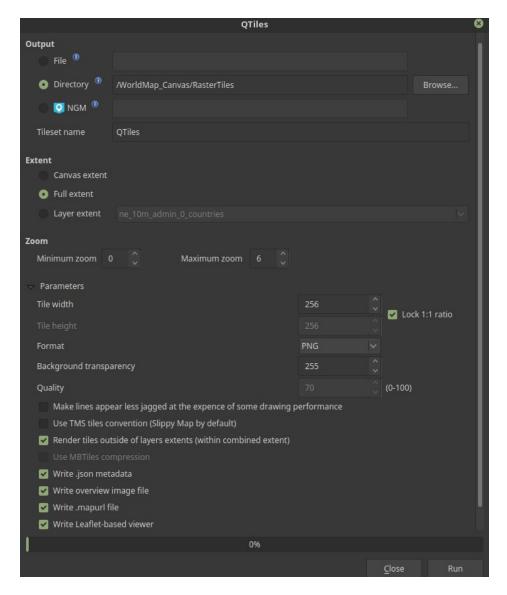
We will select Full extent to take into account all project layers for the generation of the tiles.

Zoom: Set the zoom levels. The more zoomlevels, the more detail on the deeper zoom levels, however more tiles needed which will slow the process and which takes more size. In this case, a maximum zoom of 6 will do (5461 tiles, approximately: 54 MB). A zoom level of 9 will give a better user experience, however the total size of the tiles is approximately 1 GB.

More about zoomlevels: https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Zoom_levels

Parameters: Set the tile size. 256X256 pixels is used for slippy maps. Choose the format: PNG. Select other wished options. Recommended is to write Leaflet-based viewer to check the result once the tiles are created.

More about slippy maps: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiled-web-map/



Basemap 4: WorldMap_GreyCanvas



Data (shapefiles) used for this basemap:

1) 50m Physical, Rivers + lake centerlines:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines.zip (389.27 KB)

Style: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #d4d9dc, Transparency 60%.

2) 10m Physical, Lakes:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_lakes.zip (1.74 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

3) 10m Physical, Glaciated areas (includes glaciers and recently de-glaciated areas):

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_glaciated_ar_eas.zip (1.57 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #e4e4e4. Set outline to transparent.

4) 50m Physical, Glaciated areas (includes glaciers and recently de-glaciated areas):

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m glaciated ar eas.zip (211.39 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #e4e4e4. Set outline to transparent.

5) 10m Cultural, Admin 0 – Countries:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/cultural/ne 10m admin 0 co untries.zip (5.12 MB)

Style: Simple Fill: Transparent. Outline: Solid line, Color: #848484, Width: 0.260000 millimeter.

6) 10m Physical, Land:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m land.zip (3.32 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #b3b3b3. Set outline transparent.

7) 50m Physical, Land:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m land.zip (446.45 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #b3b3b3. Set outline transparent.

8) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 0m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry L 0.zip (2.86 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

9) 10m Physical, Ocean:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_ocean.zip (3.48 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

10) 50m Physical, Ocean:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m ocean.zip (450.91 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

Tutorial Basemap 4: WorldMap_GreyCanvas QTiles:

Step 1: Download Natural Earth data

Download the shapefiles (in .zip format) from the website of Natural Earth: http://www.naturalearthdata.com/downloads/. Create a folder "WorldMap_GreyCanvas" and a subfolder "Data". Import the downloaded .zip files into the "Data" subfolder. Afterwards, unzip all the .zip files.

```
mkdir -p WorldMap GreyCanvas/Data
cd WorldMap GreyCanvas/Data
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_lakes.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m glaciated areas.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m glaciated areas.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/cultural/ne_10m_admin_0_countries.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m land.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne_50m_land.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry_L_0.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m ocean.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m ocean.zip
unzip ne 50m rivers lake centerlines.zip
unzip ne_10m_lakes.zip
unzip ne 10m glaciated areas.zip
unzip ne 50m glaciated areas.zip
unzip ne_10m_admin_0_countries.zip
unzip ne-10m land.zip
unzip ne 50m land.zip
unzip ne_10m_bathymetry_L_0.zip
unzip ne_10m_ocean.zip
unzip ne 50m ocean.zip
```

Step 2: Create a QGIS project

Run QGIS Desktop and create a new project (CTRL+N). Save the project as WorldMap_GreyCanvas.qgs in the WorldMap_GreyCanvas folder created earlier.

Step 3: Add Layers in the QGIS project

Add all shapefiles to the QGIS project: Layer \rightarrow Add Layer \rightarrow Add Vector Layer (CTRL+SHIFT+V). Choose the shapefiles in the "Data" subfolder.

Step 4: Put the Layers in the correct order

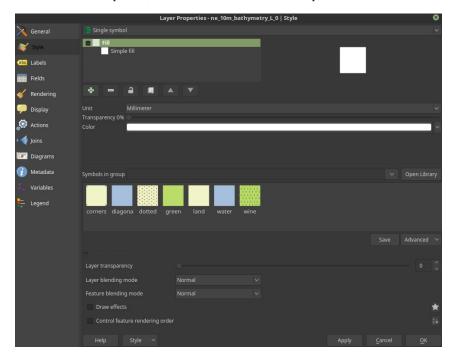
- ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines
- ne_ 10m_lakes
- ne 10m glaciated areas
- ne_50m_glaciated_areas
- ne_10m_admin_0_countries
- ne_10m_land
- ne_50m_land
- $ne_10_bathymetry_L_0$
- ne_10m_ocean
- ne_50m_ocean



Step 5: Apply styles

Apply styling. Properties -> Style. Right click on the layer and select properties, or simply double click on the layer.

- ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #d4d9dc, Transparency 60%.
- ne_ 10m_lakes: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_10m_glaciated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #e4e4e4. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_50m_glaciated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #e4e4e4. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_10m_admin_0_countries: Simple Fill: Transparent. Outline: Solid line, Color: #848484, Width: 0.260000 millimeter.
- ne_10m_land: Simple Fill, Color: #b3b3b3. Set outline transparent.
- ne_50m_land : Simple Fill, Color: #b3b3b3. Set outline transparent.
- ne_10_bathymetry_L_0: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_10m_ocean: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_50m_ocean: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.



Step 6: Generate raster tiles with QTiles plugin

Open the QTiles plugin: Plugins → QTiles (CTRL+T).

Output: Select Directory to export the raster tiles as a directory structure.

Extent: Set desired geographic extent of the map:

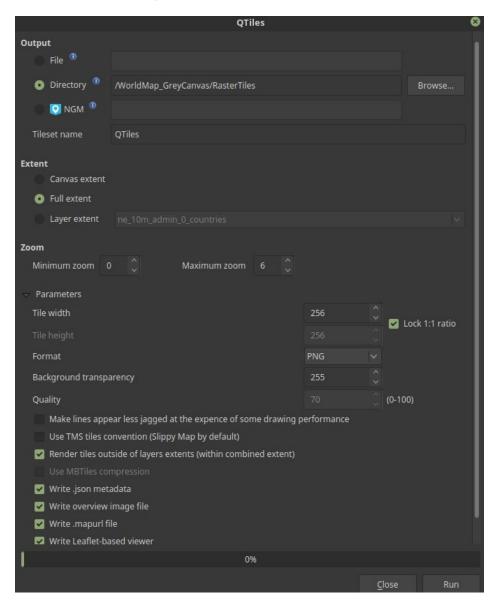
Canvas extent — current canvas extent will be used.
Full extent — full extent of all project layers will be used
Layer extent — output extent will be the same as extent of the selected layer
We will select Full extent to take into account all project layers for the generation of the tiles.

Zoom: Set the zoom levels. The more zoomlevels, the more detail on the deeper zoom levels, however more tiles needed which will slow the process and which takes more size. In this case, a maximum zoom of 6 will do (5461 tiles, approximately: 54 MB). A zoom level of 9 will give a better user experience, however the total size of the tiles is approximately 1 GB.

More about zoomlevels: https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Zoom_levels

Parameters: Set the tile size. 256X256 pixels is used for slippy maps. Choose the format: PNG. Select other wished options. Recommended is to write Leaflet-based viewer to check the result once the tiles are created.

More about slippy maps: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiled_web_map/



Basemap 5: WorldMap_LightGreyCanvas



Data (shapefiles) used for this basemap:

1) 50m Physical, Rivers + lake centerlines:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m rivers lake centerlines.zip (389.27 KB)

Style: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #d4d9dc, Transparency 50%.

2) 10m Physical, Lakes:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m lakes.zip (1.74 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #d4d9dc. Set outline to transparent.

3) 10m Physical, Glaciated areas (includes glaciers and recently de-glaciated areas):

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m glaciated ar eas.zip (1.57 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

4) 50m Physical, Glaciated areas (includes glaciers and recently de-glaciated areas):

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m glaciated ar eas.zip (211.39 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.

5) 10m Cultural, Admin 0 – Countries:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/cultural/ne 10m admin 0 co untries.zip (5.12 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #fafaf8, Transparency: 40%. Outline: Solid line, Color: #d4d9dc, Width: 0.260000 millimeter.

6) 10m Physical, Land:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m land.zip (3.32 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #fafaf8, Transparency: 40%. Set outline transparent.

7) 50m Physical, Land:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne_50m_land.zip (446.45 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #fafaf8, Transparency: 40%. Set outline transparent.

8) 10m Physical, Bathymetry 0m:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m bathymetry L 0.zip (2.86 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #d4d9dc. Set outline to transparent.

9) 10m Physical, Ocean:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m ocean.zip (3.48 MB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #d4d9dc. Set outline to transparent.

10) 50m Physical, Ocean:

http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m ocean.zip (450.91 KB)

Style: Simple Fill, Color: #d4d9dc. Set outline to transparent.

Tutorial Basemap 5: WorldMap_LightGreyCanvas QTiles:

Step 1: Download Natural Earth data

Download the shapefiles (in .zip format) from the website of Natural Earth: http://www.naturalearthdata.com/downloads/. Create a folder "WorldMap_LightGreyCanvas" and a subfolder "Data". Import the downloaded .zip files into the "Data" subfolder. Afterwards, unzip all the .zip files.

```
mkdir -p WorldMap LightGreyCanvas/Data
cd WorldMap LightGreyCanvas/Data
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_lakes.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m glaciated areas.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne_50m_glaciated_areas.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/cultural/ne_10m_admin_0_countries.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne 10m land.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m land.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_bathymetry_L_0.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http//www.naturalearthdata.com/download/10m/physical/ne_10m_ocean.zip
wget http://www.naturalearthdata.com/http://www.naturalearthdata.com/download/50m/physical/ne 50m ocean.zip
unzip ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines.zip
unzip ne_10m_lakes.zip
unzip ne 10m glaciated areas.zip
unzip ne_50m_glaciated_areas.zip
unzip ne 10m admin 0 countries.zip
unzip ne-10m land.zip
unzip ne 50m land.zip
unzip ne 10m bathymetry L 0.zip
unzip ne_10m_ocean.zip
unzip ne 50m ocean.zip
```

Step 2: Create a QGIS project

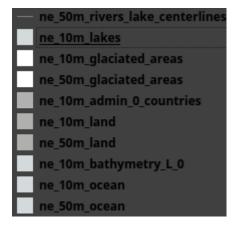
Run QGIS Desktop and create a new project (CTRL+N). Save the project as WorldMap_LightGreyCanvas.qgs in the WorldMap_LightGreyCanvas folder created earlier.

Step 2: Add Layers in the QGIS project

Add all shapefiles to the QGIS project: Layer → Add Layer → Add Vector Layer (CTRL+SHIFT+V). Choose the shapefiles in the "Data" subfolder.

Step 3: Put the Layers in the correct order

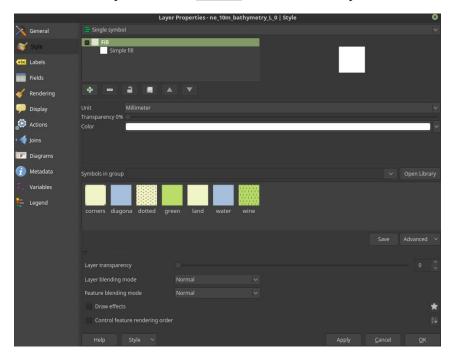
- ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines
- ne_ 10m_lakes
- ne_10m_glaciated_areas
- ne_50m_glaciated_areas
- ne_10m_admin_0_countries
- ne_10m_land
- ne_50m_land
- $ne_10_bathymetry_L_0$
- ne_10m_ocean
- ne_50m_ocean



Step 4: Apply styles

Apply styling. Properties -> Style. Right click on the layer and select properties, or simply double click on the layer.

- ne_50m_rivers_lake_centerlines: Simple Line, Solid, Width: 0.260000 millimeter, Color: #d4d9dc, Transparency 50%.
- ne_ 10m_lakes: Simple Fill, Color: #d4d9dc. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_10m_glaciated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_50m_glaciated_areas: Simple Fill, Color: #ffffff. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_10m_admin_0_countries: Simple Fill, Color: #fafaf8, Transparency: 40%. Outline: Solid line, Color: #d4d9dc, Width: 0.260000 millimeter.
- ne_10m_land: Simple Fill, Color: #fafaf8, Transparency: 40%. Set outline transparent.
- ne_50m_land : Simple Fill, Color: #fafaf8, Transparency: 40%. Set outline transparent.
- ne_10_bathymetry_L_0: Simple Fill, Color: #d4d9dc. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_10m_ocean: Simple Fill, Color: #d4d9dc. Set outline to transparent.
- ne_50m_ocean: Simple Fill, Color: #d4d9dc. Set outline to transparent.



Step 5: Generate raster tiles with QTiles plugin

Open the QTiles plugin: Plugins → QTiles (CTRL+T).

Output: Select Directory to export the raster tiles as a directory structure.

Extent: Set desired geographic extent of the map:

Canvas extent — current canvas extent will be used.

Full extent — full extent of all project layers will be used

Layer extent — output extent will be the same as extent of the selected layer

We will select Full extent to take into account all project layers for the generation of the tiles.

Zoom: Set the zoom levels. The more zoomlevels, the more detail on the deeper zoom levels, however more tiles needed which will slow the process and which takes more size. In this case, a maximum zoom of 6 will do (5461 tiles, approximately: 54 MB). A zoom level of 9 will give a better user experience, however the total size of the tiles is approximately 1 GB.

More about zoomlevels: https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Zoom_levels

Parameters: Set the tile size. 256X256 pixels is used for slippy maps. Choose the format: PNG. Select other wished options. Recommended is to write Leaflet-based viewer to check the result once the tiles are created.

More about slippy maps: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiled_web_map/

