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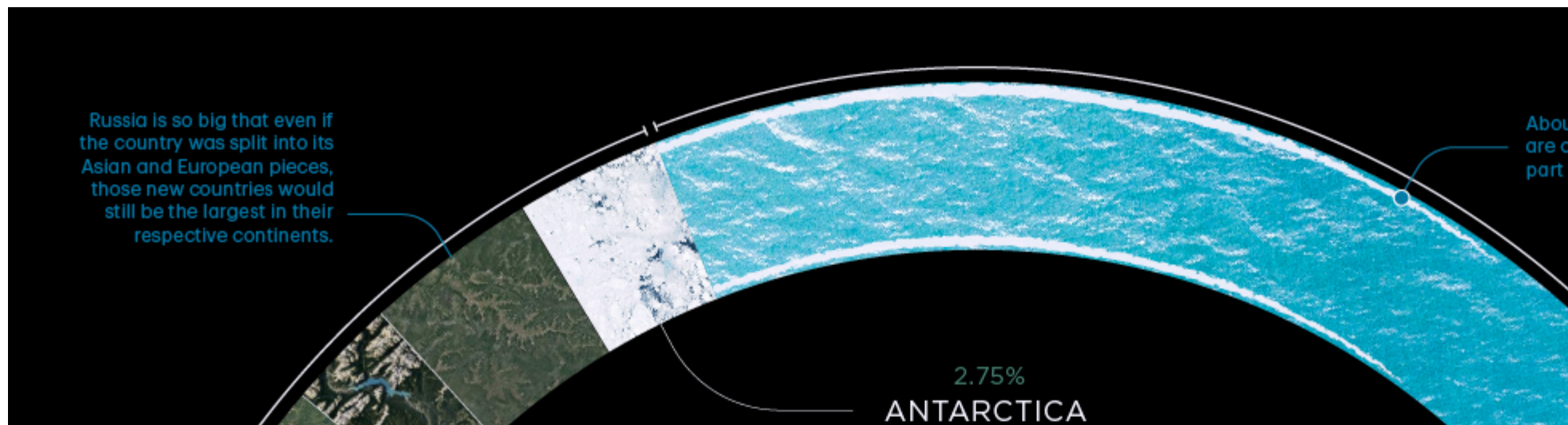
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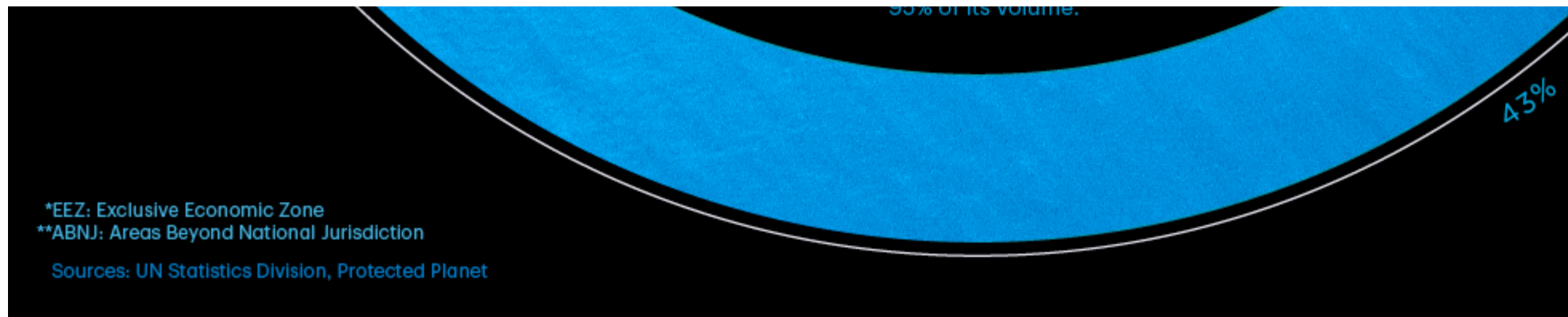
Visualizing Countries by Share of Earth's Surface



Published 8 months ago on January 23, 2021

By **Nicholas LePan**





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Visualizing Countries by Share of Earth's Surface

There are over 510 million square kilometers of area on the surface of Earth, but **less than 30%** of this is covered by land. The rest is *water*, in the form of vast oceans.

Today's visualization uses data primarily from the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) to rank the world's countries by their share of Earth's surface.

Breakdown of Countries Share of Earth's Surface

The largest countries by surface area are **Russia** (3.35%), **Canada** (1.96%), and **China** (1.88%).

Together they occupy roughly **7.2%** of Earth's surface. Russia is so big that even if we divided the country between its Asian and European sections, those new regions would still be the largest in their respective continents.



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Country / Dependency	Total in km ² (mi ²)	Percentage of Earth's Surface
Russia	17,098,246 (6,601,670)	3.352%
Antarctica	14,000,000 (5,400,000)	2.745%
Canada	9,984,670 (3,855,100)	1.958%
China	9,596,961 (3,705,407)	1.881%
United States	9,525,067 (3,677,649)	1.867%
Brazil	8,515,767 (3,287,956)	1.670%
Australia	7,692,024 (2,969,907)	1.508%
India	3,287,263 (1,269,219)	0.644%
Argentina	2,780,400 (1,073,500)	0.545%
Kazakhstan	2,724,900 (1,052,100)	0.534%

Showing 1 to 10 of 200 entries

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Antarctica, although not a country, covers the second largest amount of land overall at **2.75%**. Meanwhile, the other nations that surpass the 1% mark for surface area include the **United States** (1.87%), **Brazil** (1.67%), and **Australia** (1.51%).

The remaining 195 countries and regions below 1%, combined, account for the other half of Earth's land surface. Among the world's smallest countries are the island nations of the Caribbean and the South Pacific Ocean. However, the tiniest of the tiny are Vatican City and Monaco, which combine for a total area of just **2.51 km²**.

The remaining 70% of Earth's surface is water: **27%** territorial waters and **43%** international waters or areas beyond national jurisdiction.

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Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

In the past, nations adhered to the freedom-of-the-seas doctrine, a 17th century principle that limited jurisdiction over the oceans to a narrow area along a nation's coastline. The rest of the seas did not belong to any nation and were free for countries to travel and exploit.

This situation lasted into the 20th century, but by mid-century there was an effort to extend national claims as competition for offshore resources became increasingly fierce and ocean pollution became an issue.

In 1982, the United Nations adopted the Law of the Sea Convention which extended international law over the extra-territorial waters. The convention established freedom-of-navigation rights and set territorial sea boundaries 12 miles (19 km) offshore with exclusive economic zones up to 200 miles (322 km) offshore, extending a country's influence over maritime resources.

Does Size Matter?

The size of countries is the outcome of politics, economics, history, and geography. Put simply, borders can change over time.

In 1946, there were 76 independent countries in the world, and today there are 195. There are forces that push together or pull apart landscapes over time. While physical geography plays a role in the identity of nations, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the former ruler of UAE, a tiny Gulf nation, put it best:

***“A country is not measured by the size of its area on the map.
A country is truly measured by its heritage and culture.”***

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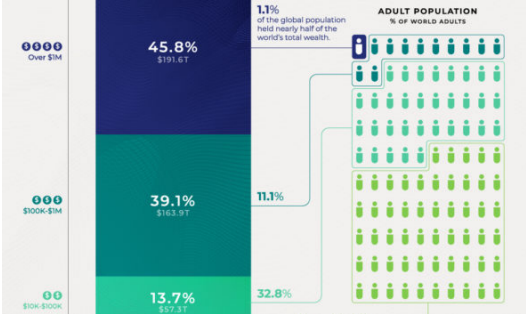
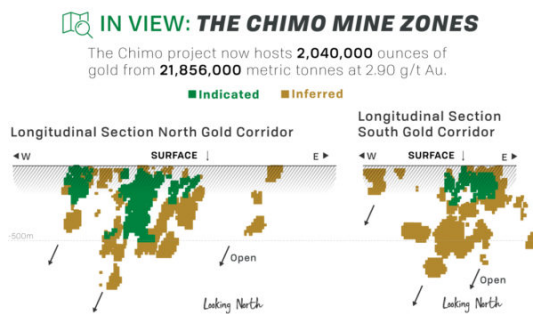
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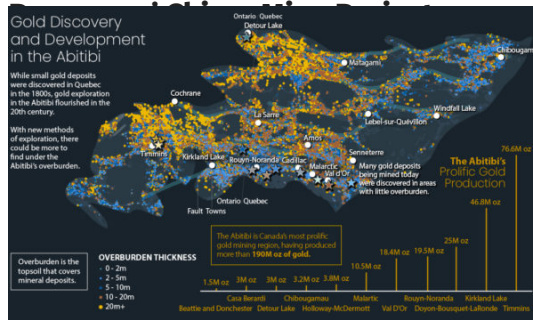


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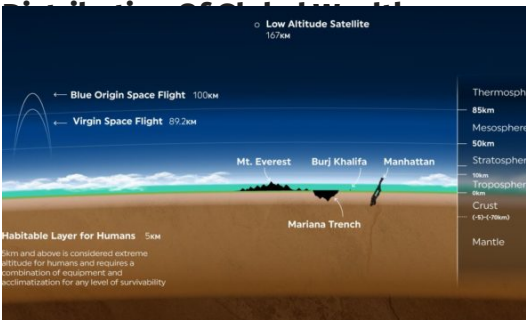


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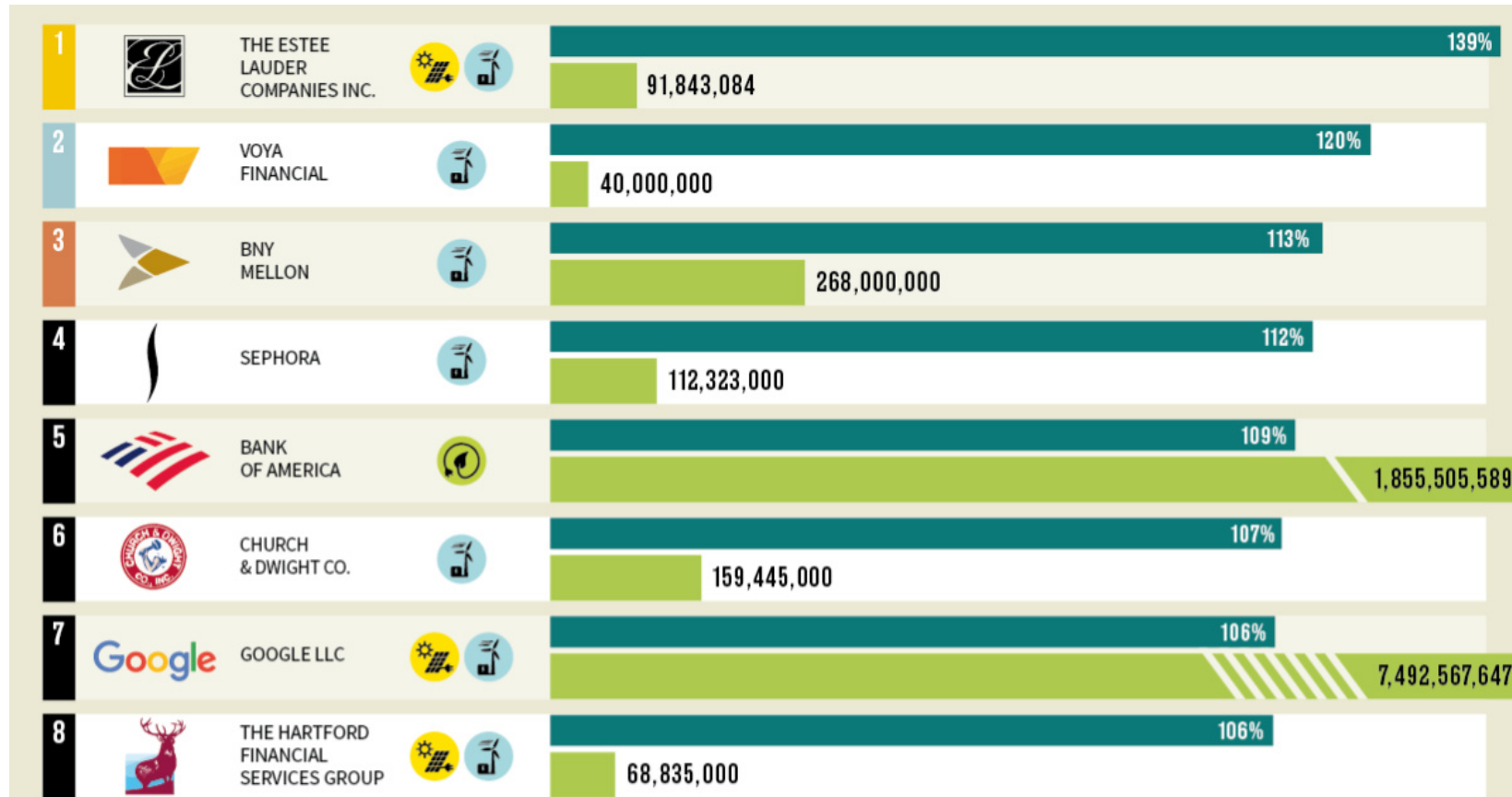
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Ranked: The 50 Companies That Use the Highest Percentage of Green Energy

Which U.S. companies use the most green energy as a percentage of total energy used? Here are the 50 highest ranked companies according to the EPA.



Published 1 day ago on September 27, 2021

By **Anshool Deshmukh**

Which Companies Use the Most Green Energy?

Green energy was once a niche segment of the wider energy industry, but it's quickly becoming an essential energy source in many regions and nations across the globe.

Based on data from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this infographic by SolarPower.Guide shows the top 50 greenest companies, based on the highest

proportion of green energy used in their overall consumption mix.

Leaders in Green Energy Use

As green energy becomes more affordable, some major businesses like Google, Wells Fargo, and Apple are embracing it in a big way.

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The World's 25 Largest Lakes, Side by Side

This unique map graphic uses the Great Lakes region as a point of comparison for the top 25 largest lakes in the world.



Published 3 weeks ago on September 7, 2021

By **Nick Routley**





The World's 25 Largest Lakes, Side by Side

In many parts of the world, you don't have to look very far to find a lake.

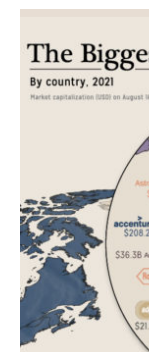
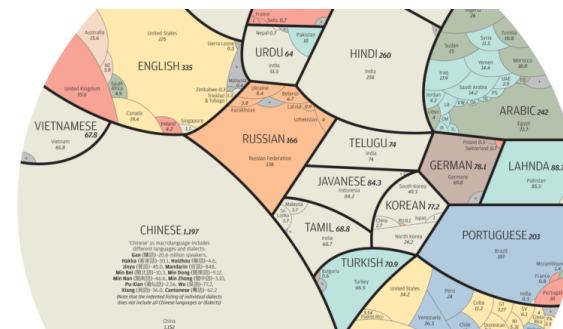
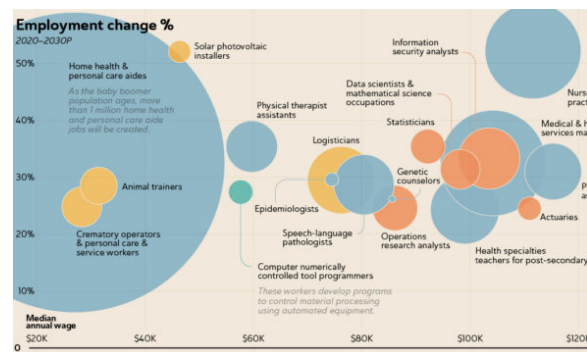
According to satellite data, there are roughly 100 million lakes larger than one hectare (2.47 acres) to be found globally. The largest lakes, which rival the size of entire nations, are more of a rarity.

One might expect the world's largest lakes to be very alike, but from depth to saline content, their properties can be quite different. As well, the ranking of the world's

largest lakes is far from static, as human activity can turn a massive body of water into a desert within a single generation.

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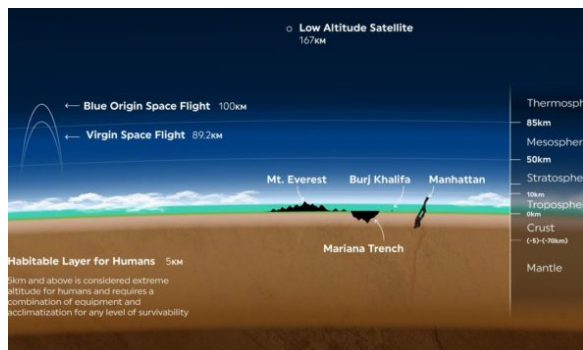
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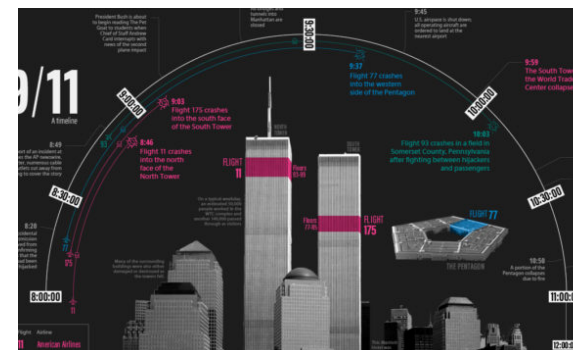
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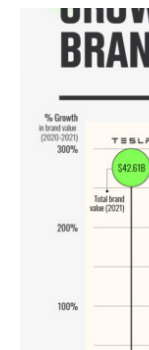
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