**Continents of the world**

There are 7 major continents in the world. These are separated by large water bodies.

1. Asia
2. Europe
3. Africa
4. North America
5. South America
6. Australia
7. Antarctica

Asia:

Asia is the largest continent that covers about 1/3rd of the total land area of the earth. The continent lies in the eastern hemisphere. The tropic of cancer passes through this continent. This continent is separated from europe by Ural mountains on the west. The combined landmass of europe and Asia is called Eurasia.

Area: 44,579000 sq km

Percentage of land are covered with respect to total land area on earth- 29.8%

**Oceans and seas- Arctic, Pacific, Indian ocean, Red sea, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Persian Gulf, Bering Sea, Sea of Okhotsk, Bay of Bengal, China sea**

**Important Lakes- Caspian sea, Aral sea, Lake Baikal, Balkhash**

**Average Elevation- 923m**

**No. of countries in continent: 50**

**Important mountain ranges-** Tian shan, Ural mountain, Kamchatka ranges, Verkhoyansk mountains, western ghats, Jagros mountain range, Elburz range, Caucasus range

**Major Plateau- Asia Minor, Anatolia plateau (turkey), Pamir Plateau**

**Major desert- Arabian desert, Gobi desert, Takla Makan, Karakum, Thar desert, Kajilkulam, Dust-i-lut**

**Grasslands- Steppe**

**Latitude- 10 degree South and 80 degree North**

**Longitude- 25 degree East and 170 degree West**

**Land-locked countries- Total Ten- Kazakhstan (largest), Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Mongolia, Laos**

**Europe:**

It is much smaller than Asia. The continent lies to the west of Asia. The Arctic circle passes through it. It is bound by water bodies on three sides.

Area: 9,938,000 sq km

Percentage of land are covered with respect to total land area on earth- 6.7%

**Oceans and seas-** Arctic ocean, Caspian sea, Gulf of Finland, Mediterranean sea, Atlantic ocean, Black sea, White sea, Norwegian sea, Baltic sea, Gulf of Bothnia, Adriatic sea.

**Important Lakes- Lake Ladoga, Onega, Peipus, Vanern, Vaitern**

**Average Elevation- 302m**

**No. of countries in continent: 51**

Important mountain ranges- Scandinavian range, Alps mountain range, Apenine range

**Major Plateau- Meseta Plateau in Iberian peninsula (spain)**

**Grasslands- Steppe, Pustaz (Hungary),**

**Latitude- 35 degree North and 73 degree North**

**Longitude- 25 degree West and 65 degree East**

**Land-locked countries- Total 18- Austria, Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Hungary, Serbia, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Slovakia, South, Ossetia, Armenia, Belarus, Lichtenstein, Vatican city, Kosovo, macedonia, Moldova, Sanmarino**

**Africa:**

It is the second largest continent after Asia. The Equator or 0 degree latitude runs almost through the middle of the continent. A large part of Africa lies in the Northern hemisphere. It is the only continent through which the Tropic of cancer, Equator and the tropic of cancer pass.

The Sahara desert is the world’s largest hot desert lies in Africa. The continent is bound on all sides by oceans and seas. World’s longest river the Nile, flows through Africa.

Mountain Atlas is situated in north-west of African continent. Here given are the location of other geographical areas,

Abysssinian Plateau- East Africa

Guiana Hilands- North Western Africa

Okavango Basin- South-western Africa

Area: 30,065,000 sq km

Percentage of land are covered with respect to total land area on earth- 20.3%

**Important Lakes- Lake Victoria, Tanganyka, Malawi, Chad, Rudolf, Albert**

**Oceans and seas- Indian ocean, Red sea, Gulf of Guinea, Mediterranean sea, Atlantic ocean**

**Average Elevation- 600m**

**No. of countries in continent: 54**

Important mountain ranges- Atlas mountain, Drakensberg range

**Major desert- Sahara desert, Somali desert, Sotoran deser**

**Grasslands- Velds, Savanna**

**Latitude- 35 degree South and 37 degree North**

**Longitude- 50 degree East and 17 degree West**

**Land-locked countries- Total 16-** Botswana, Burundi, Chad, Malabi, Lesotho, Rwanda, Mali, Niger, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Uganda, Central African Republic, Burkinafaso, Zambia, South Sudan, Ethiopia

**North America:**

It is the 3rd largest continent in the world. It is linked to South America by a narrow strip of land called Isthmus of panama. The Continent lies completely in the Northern and western Hemisphere.

Area: 24,256,000 sq km

Percentage of land are covered with respect to total land area on earth- 16.2%

**Oceans and seas- Pacific ocean, Arctic ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Gulf of Alaska, Atlantic ocean, Bering sea, Hudsun bay**

**Important Lakes- Lake Superior (Largest sweet water lake), Great slave, Huron, Michigan, Great bear, Ontario**

**Average Elevation- 720m**

**No. of countries in continent: 23**

Important mountain ranges- Rocky mountain range, Appalachian mountain range, Cascade range, Sierra Madre Oriental, Western Sierra Madre, Sierra madre del sur, Alaska

**Major Plateau-** Chiapas plateau (Southern Mexico), Alaska/Ukraine plateau, Columbia Plateau, Great Basin Plateau, Colorado plateau, Greenland Plateau.

**Major desert-** Mojave desert (South california)

**Grasslands- Prairies**

**Latitude- 7 degree North and 84 degree North**

**Longitude- 20 degree West and 180 degree West**

**South America:**

It lies mostly in the Southern Hemisphere. The Andes, world’s longest mountain range, runs through its length fromm North to South. South America has the world’s largest river, the Amazon.

Area: 17,819,000 sq km

Percentage of land are covered with respect to total land area on earth- 11.9%

**Oceans and seas- Pacific ocean, Atlantic ocean, Caribbean sea**

**Important Lakes- Lake Maracaibo, Titicaca**

**Average Elevation- 554m**

**No. of countries in continent: 12**

Important mountain ranges- Cardilera de los Andes,

**Major Plateau- Patagonia plateau,**

**Major desert- Atacama (World’s driest desert), The sito de Sechura (Northwest Peru), Patagonia desert (Argentina and Chile)**

**Grasslands- Campos, Llanos, Pampas**

**Latitude- 12 degree North and 55 degree North**

**Longitude- 35 degree West and 81 degree West**

**Land-locked countries- Total Two- Bolivia, Paraguay**

**Australia:**

It is the smaller continent that lies completely in the southern Hemisphere. It is surrounded on all sides by the oceans and seas. It is called an island continent.

Area: 7,687,000 sq km

Percentage of land are covered with respect to total land area on earth- 5.7%

**Oceans and seas- Pacific ocean, Indian ocean, Tasman sea, Timor sea, Arafura sea, Gulf of Carpentaria, Great Australian Bight, Coral sea**

**Important Lakes- Lake Eyre**

**Average Elevation- 308m**

**No. of countries in continent: 14**

Important mountain ranges- Great dividing range

**Major desert- Australian desert ( Great victoria, Simpson, Gibson, Stuart and great sandy desert areas combindely formed Australian desert)**

**Grasslands- Downs, Savanna, Canterbury (Newzealand)**

**Latitude- 10 degree South and 80 degree North**

**Longitude- 25 degree East and 170 degree West**

**Antarctica:**

Antarctica, completely in the southern hemisphere, is a huge continent. The south pole lies almost at the centre of this continent. As it is located in the South polar region, it is permanently covered with thick ice sheets. There are no permanent human settlements. Many countries have research stations in Antarctica. India also has Maitri and Dakshin Gangotri research stations there.

It is the continent with highest mean elevation in the world. It is situated around South Pole.

Area: 13,209,000 sq km

Percentage of land are covered with respect to total land area on earth- 9.4%

**Average Elevation- 1846m**

**No. of countries in continent:** No permanent inhabitants

Important mountain ranges- Trans Antarctica mountain

**Latitude- 10 degree South and 80 degree North**

**Longitude- 25 degree East and 170 degree West**