

# **WORLD GEOGRAPHY FACTS**

About 70% of the world's surface is water.

About 30% of the world's surface is land.

## **PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN OF THE EARTH'S LAND BY CONTINENT**

Asia	29.9%
Africa	20.2%
North America	16.3%
South America	11.9%
Antarctica	9.3%
Europe	6.6%
Australia	5.7%

## **AREA - CONTINENTS**

Asia	17, 702,000 sq. miles
Africa	11,707,000 sq. miles
North America	9,421,000 sq. miles
South America	6,883,000 sq. miles
Antarctica	5,100,000 sq. miles
Europe	4,063,000 sq. miles
Australia	2,966,000 sq. miles

## **AREA – COUNTRIES**

### **FIVE LARGEST COUNTRIES**

Russia	6,592,818 sq. miles
Canada	3,849,000 sq. miles
China	3,696,100 sq. miles
U.S.	3,618,770 sq. miles
Brazil	3,286,470 sq. miles

### **FIVE SMALLEST COUNTRIES**

Vatican City State	108.7 acres
Monaco	0.7 sq. mi
Nauru	8.0 sq. mi
Tuvalu	10.0 sq. mi
San Marino	24.0 sq. mi

## **POPULATION**

Total Population	6,609,823,425
Population Doubling Time (at current rate)	46 years
Male Population	2,980,000,000
Female Population	2, 940,000,000
Population Under Age 15	32%
Population Age 65 and Over	7%
Life expectancy at Birth	64 YEARS - MALE 68 YEARS - FEMALE
Number of Independent Countries	192

## **WORLD POPULATION**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL</b>
1000	254,000,000
1500	460,000,000
1600	579,000,000
1700	679,000,000
1800	954,000 000
1900	1,094,000,000
1950	2,515,312,000
1960	3,019,376,000
1970	3,697,918,000
1980	4,450,210,000
1985	4,853,848,000
1998	5,920,000,000
2007	6,609,823,425

## **FIVE MOST POPULATED COUNTRIES**

China	1,321,851,000
India	1,129,866,000
U.S.	301,139,000
Indonesia	234,693,000
Brazil	190,010,000

## **FIVE LEAST POPULATED COUNTRIES**

Vatican City	738
Falkland Islands	1,916
Nauru	8,100
Tuvalu	8,229
Wallis and Fortuna	14,800

## **THE 10 LARGEST CITIES (POPULATION)**

<b>URBAN AREA</b>	<b>POPULATION (IN MILLIONS OF PEOPLE)</b>
Tokyo – Yokohama	31.2
Mexico City, Mexico	21.5
Sao Paulo, Brazil	19.9
New York, U.S.	18.0
Bombay, India	17.3
Los Angeles, U.S.	16.7
Calcutta, India	14.3
Shanghai, China	13.9
Lagos Nigeria	13.4
Buenos Aires, Argentina	13.2

## **WEALTH**

### **HIGHEST GDP PER CAPITA (in U.S. dollars): 2006**

1. Luxembourg	\$68,800
2. Equatorial Guinea	\$50,200
3. United Arab Emirates	\$49,700
4. Norway	\$47,800
5. Ireland	\$43,600
6. United States	\$43,500
7. Iceland	\$38,100
8. Denmark	\$37,000
9. Canada	\$35,200
10. San Marino	\$34,600

### **LOWEST GDP PER CAPITA (in U.S. dollars): 2006**

1. Comoros	\$600
2. Somalia	\$600
3. Malawi	\$600
4. Burundi	\$700
5. Congo, Democratic Rep	\$700
6. East Timor	\$800
7. Tanzania	\$800
8. Afghanistan	\$800
9. Madagascar	\$900
10. Guinea-Bissau	\$900
11. Sierra Leone	\$900
12. Yemen	\$900

## **CHILD SURVIVAL**

### **HIGHEST INFANT MORTALITY RATE (deaths per 1,000 births): 2006**

1. Angola	185.4
2. Sierra Leone	160.4.
3. Afghanistan	160.2
4. Liberia	155.8
5. Mozambique	129.2
6. Niger	118.2
7. Somalia	114.9
8. Mali	107.6
9. Tajikistan	106.5
10. Guinea-Bissau	105.2

### **LOWEST INFANT MORTALITY RATE (deaths per 1,000 births): 2006**

1. Singapore	2.3
2. Sweden	2.8
3. Japan	3.2
4. Iceland	3.3
5. Finland	3.5
6. Norway	3.7
7. Czech Republic	3.9
8. Malta	3.9
9. Andorra	4.0
10. Germany	4.1

### **HIGHEST LIFE EXPECTANCY (in years): 2006**

1. Andorra	83.5
2. San Marino	81.7
3. Singapore	81.7
4. Japan	81.2
5. Australia	80.5
5. Sweden	80.5
5. Switzerland	80.5
8. Iceland	80.3
9. Canada	80.2
10. Italy	79.8

### **LOWEST LIFE EXPECTANCY (in years): 2006**

1. Swaziland	32.6
2. Botswana	33.7
3. Lesotho	34.4
4. Angola	38.6
5. Zimbabwe	39.3
6. Liberia	39.6
7. Mozambique	39.8
8. Zambia	40.0
9. Sierra Leone	40.2
10. Malawi	41.7

## **QUALITY HEALTH CARE**

1. France
2. Italy
3. San Marino
4. Andorra
5. Malta
6. Singapore
7. Spain
8. Oman
9. Austria
10. Japan

Source: World Health Organization

## **LOWEST LITERACY RATES**

- |                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. Burkina Faso | 18% |
| 2. Eritrea      | 20% |
| 3. Sierra Leone | 21% |
| 4. Benin        | 23% |
| 5. Guinea       | 24% |
| 6. Somalia      | 24% |
| 7. Sudan        | 27% |
| 8. Gambia       | 27% |
| 9. Ethiopia     | 28% |
| 10. Niger       | 28% |



## **WORLD'S TEN MOST SPOKEN LANGUAGES**

1. Chinese (Mandarin)	1,075,000,000
2. English	514,000,000
3. Hindustani*	496,000,000
4. Spanish	425,000,000
5. Russian	275,000,000
6. Arabic	256,000,000
7. Bengali	215,000,000
8. Portuguese	194,000,000
9. Malay-Indonesian	176,000,000
10. French	129,000,000

\*Includes many dialects, including Hindu and Urdu  
Source: Ethnologue

## **TOP TEN ORGANIZED RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD**

1. Christianity	2.1 billion
2. Islam	1.3 billion
3. Hinduism	851 million
4. Buddhism	375 million
5. Sikhism	25 million
6. Judaism	15 million
7. Baha'ism	7.5 million
8. Confucianism	6.4 million
9. Jainism	4.5 millio
10. Shintoism	2.8 million

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

## **Top Energy Producers (% of Total World Energy Produced)**

1. U.S.	16%
2. Russia	13%
3. China	12%
4. Saudi Arabia	5%
5. Canada	4%

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## **Top Energy Consumers (% of Total World Energy Consumed)**

1. U.S.	25%
2. China	13%
3. Russia	7%
4. Japan	5%
5. India	3%

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## **Top Carbon Dioxide Emitters**

1. U.S.
2. China
3. Russia
4. India
5. Japan
6. Germany
7. Canada
8. United Kingdom
9. South Korea
10. Italy

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## Math and Science Results

### Math

<b>Fourth Grade</b>	<b>Ave. Score</b>
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1. Singapore	594
2. Hong Kong	575
3. Japan	565
4. Taiwan	564
5. Belgium	551
12. U.S.	518

<b>Eighth Grade</b>	<b>Ave. Score</b>
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1. Singapore	605
2. South Korea	589
3. Hong Kong	586
4. Taiwan	585
5. Japan	570
15. U.S.	504

### Science

<b>Fourth Grade</b>	<b>Ave. Score</b>
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1. Singapore	565
2. Taiwan	551
3. Japan	543
4. Hong Kong	542
5. England	540
6. U.S.	536

<b>Eighth Grade</b>	<b>Ave. Score</b>
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1. Singapore	578
2. Taiwan	571
3. South Korea	558
4. Hong Kong	556
5. Estonia	552
9. U.S.	527

Source: International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement

## **Most Internet Users**

1. U.S.	197,800,000
2. China	119,500,000
3. Japan	86,300,000
4. India	50,600,000
5. Germany	46,300,000
6. United Kingdom	35,800,000
7. South Korea	33,900,000
8. Italy	28,800,000
9. France	28,800,000
10. Brazil	25,900,000

Source: Computer Industry Almanac

## **Highest Mountains in the World**

### **Everest**

Range: Himalayas

Location: Nepal-Tibet

Feet: 29,028

### **K2 (Godwin Austen)**

Range: Karakoram

Location: Kashmir

Feet: 28,250

### **Kanchenjunga**

Range: Himalayas

Location: Nepal-India

Feet: 28,208

## **Elevation Extremes (Highest)**

### **Asia: Mount Everest**

Location: Nepal/Tibet

Height: 29,028 feet

### **South America: Mount Aconcagua**

Location: Argentina

Height: 22,834 feet

### **North America: Mount McKinley**

Location: Alaska, U.S.

Height: 20,320 feet

### **Africa: Kilimanjaro**

Location: Tanzania

Height: 19,340 feet

**Europe: Mount Elbrus**

Location: Russia

Height: 18,519 feet

**Antarctica: Vinson Massif**

Height: 16,864 feet

**Australia: Mount Kosciuszko**

Location: New South Wales

Height: 7,310 feet

**Elevation Extremes (Lowest)**

**Asia: Dead Sea**

Location: Israel-Jordan

Height: 1312 feet below sea level

**Africa: Lake Assal**

Location: Djibouti

Height: 512 feet below sea level

**North America: Death Valley**

Location: California, U.S.

Height: 282 feet below sea level

**South America: Valdes Peninsula**

Location: Argentina

Height: 131 feet below sea level

**North America: Death Valley**

Location: California, U.S.

Height: 282 feet below sea level

**Europe: Caspian Sea**

Location: Russia

Height: 92 feet below sea level

**Australia: Lake Eyre**

Location: South Australia

Height: 52 feet below sea level

**Antarctica: Unknown**

Height: 16,864 feet

**Oceans****Pacific Ocean**

Square miles: 60,060,700

**Atlantic Ocean**

Square miles: 29,637,900

**Indian Ocean**

Square miles: 26,469,500

**Southern Ocean**

Square miles: 7,848,300

**The World's Newest Ocean - The Southern Ocean**

In 2000, the International Hydrographic Organization created the fifth world ocean - the Southern Ocean - from the southern portions of the Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, and Pacific Ocean. The Southern Ocean completely surrounds Antarctica. The Southern Ocean extends from the coast of Antarctica north to 60 degrees south latitude.

**Arctic Ocean**

Square miles: 5,427,000

## **Seas and Gulfs**

### **Mediterranean**

965,000 square miles (separates Europe and Africa)

### **South China Sea**

895,000 square miles (surrounded by the Philippines, Indonesia and the Indo-Chinese Peninsula)

### **Bering**

878,000 square miles (separates Alaska and Asia)

### **Caribbean**

750,000 square miles (surrounded by Cuba, Central America and South America)

### **Gulf of Mexico**

700,000 square miles (between southern U.S. and eastern Mexico)

### **Okhotsk**

590,000 square miles (bordered by northeastern Asia and the Kamchatka Peninsula)

## **Rivers**

### **Nile**

Length: 4180 miles

### **Amazon**

Length: 3912 miles

### **Mississippi-Missouri-Red Rock**

Length: 3880 miles

### **Yangtze**

Length: 3601 miles



## **Lakes**

### **Caspian Sea**

Location: southwestern Asia

Area: 143,244 square miles

### **Lake Superior**

Location: U.S. and Canada

Area: 31,700 square miles

### **Lake Victoria**

Location: Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya, Africa

Area: 26,828 square miles

## **Islands**

### **Greenland**

Location: Atlantic Ocean

Area: square miles: 838,999

### **New Guinea**

Location: Pacific Ocean

Area: 316,000 square miles

### **Borneo**

Location: Pacific Ocean

Area: 288,151 square miles

### **Madagascar**

Location: Indian Ocean

Area: 226,657 square miles

## **Waterfalls**

### **Angel**

Location: Venezuela

Height: 3281 feet

### **Tugela**

Location: South Africa

Height: 3000 feet

### **Cuquenán**

Location: Venezuela

Height: 2000 feet

### **Sutherland**

Location: New Zealand

Height: 1904 feet

## **Deserts**

### **Sahara**

3,500,000 square miles

Location: North Africa, extending westward to the Atlantic Ocean

### **Gobi**

500,000 square miles

Location: Mongolia

### **Libyan**

450,000 square miles

Location: covers part of Libya, Egypt and Sudan

## **Climate Extremes (Hottest)**

**World: Africa: El Azizia, Libya**

Date: 9/13/1922

Temperature: 136°F

**North America: Death Valley, California**

Date: 7/10/1913

Temperature: 134°F

**Asia: Tirat, Tsvi, Israel**

Date: 6/21/1942

Temperature: 129°F

**Australia: Cloncurry, Queensland**

Date: 1/16/1889

Temperature: 128°F

**Europe: Seville, Spain**

Date: 8/4/1881

Temperature: 122°F

**South America: Rivadavia, Argentina**

Date: 12/11/1905

Temperature: 120°F

**Antarctica: Vanda Station**

Date: 1/5/1974

Temperature: 59°F

## **Climate Extremes (Coldest)**

### **World: Antarctica: Vostok**

Date: 7/21/1983

Temperature: -129°F

### **Asia: Verkhoyansk/Oimekon**

Date: 2/6/1933

Temperature: -90°F

### **North America: Northice, Greenland**

Date: 1/9/1954

Temperature: -87°F

### **Europe: Ust 'Shchugor, Russia**

Date: Not Available

Temperature: -67°F

### **South America: Sarmiento, Argentina**

Date: 1/1/1907

Temperature: -27°F

### **Africa: Ifrane, Morocco**

Date: 2/11/1935

Temperature: -11°F

### **Australia: Charlotte Pass, N.S.W.**

Date: 7/22/1947

Temperature: -8°F