



Importing shapefiles



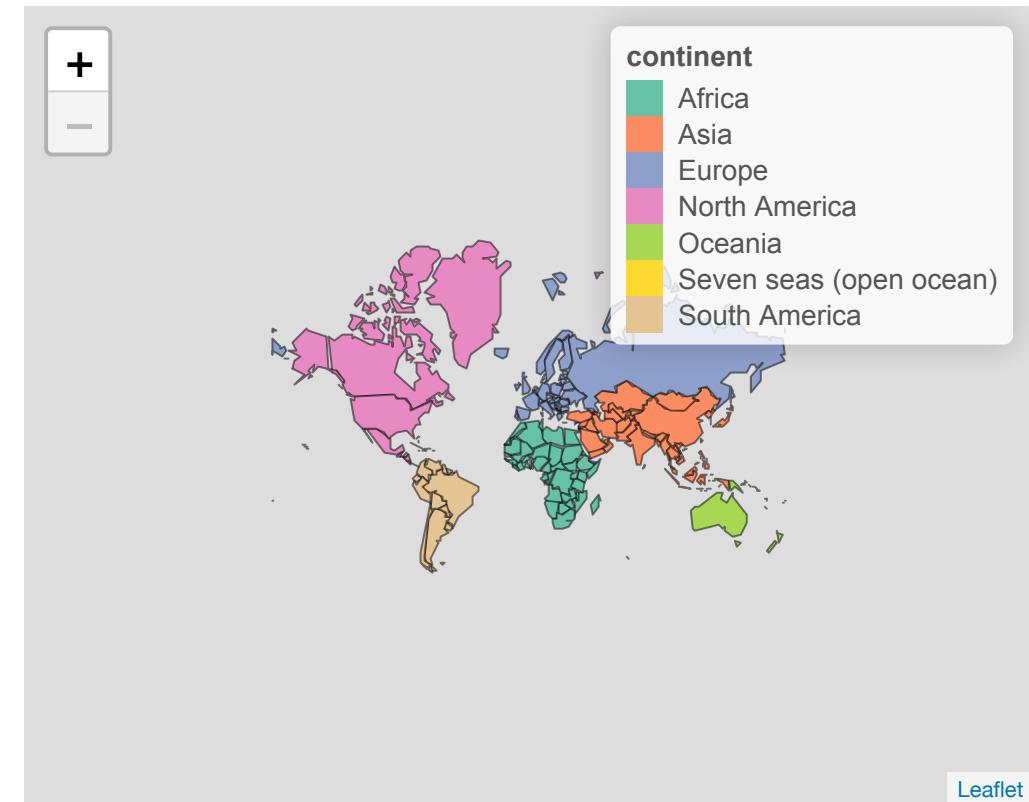
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Shapefiles and choropleth

The data that give choropleth (and other maps) their shapes come from **shapefiles**.

You can't start building a choropleth before you find appropriate shapefiles.



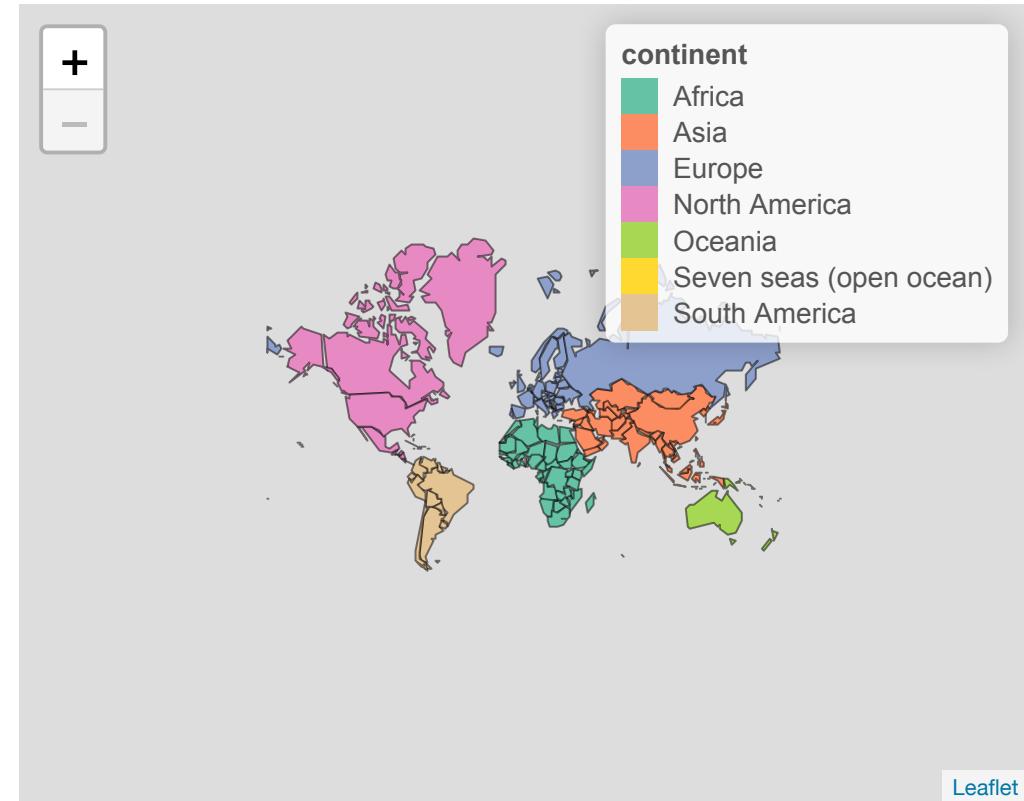


Shapefiles and {sf}

We import shapefiles into R with

```
sf::read_sf()
```

Shapefiles produce {sf} objects that contain MULTIPOLYGONS.





Shapefile formats

There are *many* different formats for storing shapefiles.

The **most common and most awkward** format you'll come across are ESRI shapefiles.



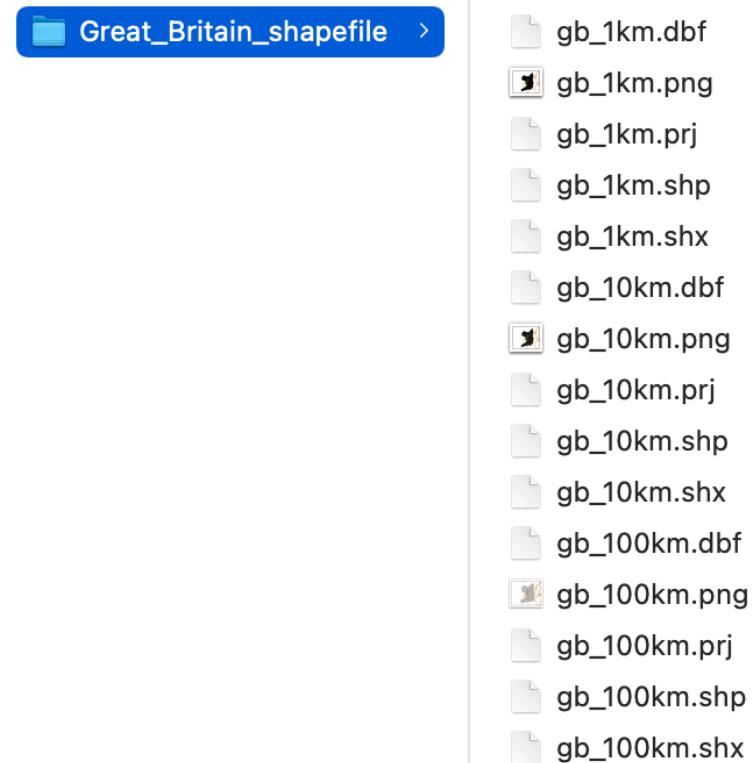
ESRI Shapefiles

ESRI shapefiles are downloaded as .zip files that you must uncompress.

ESRI shapefiles must contain at least these files:

- .shp
- .shx
- .dbf

The .zip might contain *multiple layers*.





Data sources for this video

We're going to demonstrate two sets of shapefiles in the 01_06 RStudio project.

Counties in England and Wales

This was downloaded from [here](#) and contains a **single layer**.

US 2020 Census Self-Response

This was downloaded from [here](#) and contains **multiple layers**.



(RStudio Code Slide)