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Continent

A **continent** is a large landmass that may consist of one or more continents. The word *continent* is derived from the Latin *continere* "to contain", which is the source of the word *continent* in English. The word *continent* is also used to refer to a large landmass that is not a continent, such as a large island or a group of islands.

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Colour coded continents

Very large landmass, defined by convention For other purposes, see the continent (clarification). An animated, colorful map showing different continents. Depending on the convention and model, some continents can be consolidated or subdivided: for example, Eurasia is most often subdivided into Asia and Europe (red hues), while the Americas are sometimes recognized as one American continent (green hues) Continent is one of several large land masses. Generally accepted by convention, up to seven areas are generally considered continents. Ranked by the largest in the field of the smallest, these seven regions are: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe and Australia. [1] Some of them may merge with variants on fewer continents, for example, some systems include Eurasia or America as single continents. Geologically, the continents correspond to areas of the continental crust that are located on continental plates, but include continental fragments such as Madagascar, which are not often called continents. Some geological continents are largely covered with water, such as Zealandia (see underwater continents). The continental crust is known only on Earth. Ocean islands are often grouped with the neighboring continent to divide the entire land of the world into regions. Under this scheme, most island states and territories in the Pacific are grouped together with the Australian continent to form a region called Oceania. Definitions and Annex Additional information: Island § Differentiation from the continents By convention, continents are understood as large, continuous, discreet masses of land, ideally separated by water. [3] In modern schemes with five or more recognized continents, at least one pair of continents somehow join by land. The large criterion leads to arbitrary classification: Greenland with an area of 2166 086 square kilometers (836 330 sq km) is considered the largest island in the world, and Australia, at 7 617 930 square kilometers (2 941 300 sq km) is considered the smallest continent. All major terrestrial areas on Earth have the shores of a single, continuous World Ocean, which is divided into a number of major ocean components of the continents and different geographical criteria. [4] [5] The extent to which the continent is most often used is the continuous area of land or land, with the coastline and all the land borders that form the end of the continent. In this sense, the term continental Europe (sometimes referred to in the UK as the continent) is used to refer to continental Europe, excluding islands such as the UK, Iceland, Ireland and Malta, while the term mainland Australia, with the exception of New Guinea, Tasmania and other nearby islands. Similarly The United States refers to 48 neighboring states and the District of Columbia and may include Alaska in the northwest of the continent (the two are separated by Canada), with the exception of Hawaii in the Pacific. In terms of geology or physical geography, the continent can be extended beyond continuous drought to include the shallow, submerged adjacent part (continental shelf)[7] and the shelf islands (continental islands) as they are structurally part of the continent. From this point of view, the end of the continental shelf is the true end of the continent, since the shores differ from changes in sea level. In this sense, the islands of Great Britain and Ireland are part of Europe, and Australia and the island of New Guinea together form a continent. Map of island countries: these countries are often geographically grouped with neighboring mainland land As a cultural construction, the concept of a continent can go beyond the continental shelf to include ocean islands and continental fragments. Thus, Iceland is considered part of Europe and Madagascar part of Africa. Extrapolating the concept to its extreme, some geographers grouped the Australian mainland with other islands in the Pacific Ocean into a quasi-continent called Oceania. This divides the entire earth on Earth into continents or quasi-continents. [10] Main article on separation: The boundaries between continents on Earth See also: List of transcontinental countries The ideal criterion that each continent is discreet land is often eased due to historical conventions. Of the seven most recognized continents, only Antarctica and Australia are completely separated from the other continents from the ocean. Several continents are defined not as absolutely distinct bodies, but as more or less separate masses of land. [11] Asia and Africa joined the Islamic Islam of Suez and the Americas from Panama Ischia Islam. In both cases, there is no complete separation of these earthmasses on water (ignoring the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal, which are both narrow and shallow, as well as man-made). Both isthmus are very narrow compared to the vast majority of earthly masses that unite. North America and South America are treated as separate continents in seven model continents. However, they can be seen as a continent known as America. This view was common in the United States until World War II and remained prevalent in some Asian models on six continents. [12] The model of the single American continental network remains more prevalent in the countries of France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Latin America. The criterion of discrete land mass is not taken into account if the continuous drought of Eurasia is classified as two separate continents: Europe and Asia. Europe and South Asia are peninsulas of the Eurasian lands. However, Europe is widely regarded as a continent with a relatively large area of 10,180,000 square kilometers (3,930,000 sq km), while South Asia, with less than half that area, is considered a subcontinent. The alternative view – in geology and geography – that Eurasia is a single continent leads to six continents of the world. Some see the secession of Eurasia of Asia and Europe as a remnant of Eurocentrism: In the physical, cultural and historical differences, China and India are comparable to the entire European drought, not to a single European country. [...]. [13] However, for historical and cultural reasons, the view of Europe as a separate continent continues in several categorizations. If the continents are strictly defined as discreet earthmasses covering the entire adjacent land of an organ, then Africa, Asia and Europe form a continent that can be called Afro-Eurasia. [14] Combined with the consolidation of the Americas, this will create four continents of a model consisting of Afro-Eurasia, America, Antarctica and Australia. When sea levels were lower across the Pleistocene glaciers, larger areas of the continental shelf were exposed as terrestrial, forming land bridges between Tasmania and mainland Australia. In those days, Australia and New Guinea was a single, continuous continent. [15] Similarly, the North and South America and Afro-Eurasia were joined by bering land. Other islands such as Britain have joined the continents of the continents. At that time, there were only three discreet continents: Afro-Eurasia-America, Antarctica and Australia-New Guinea. Number There are several ways to distinguish continents: Models with color encoding showing different continents. Such nuances indicate areas that can be consolidated or subdivided. 7 Continents Africa Asia Europe North America South America South America Antarctica Australia [16] Six Continents Africa Asia Europe Antarctica [23] Five Continents Africa Europe America Antarctica Australia [26] [28] Four continents Afro-Eurasia (14) 37] The seven continental model is usually taught in most English-speaking countries, including the US. United Kingdom and Australia [39] and also in China, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and parts of Western Europe. The model on six continents combined Eurasia is mainly used in Russia, Eastern Europe and Japan. 1. The combined America model is often used in Latin America.[40] Greece and countries that speak Romanesque languages. The description of the United Nations Olympic flag[24] and the description of the Olympic flag produce five continental models from the United States model, excluding Antarctica as uninhabited. As already mentioned, some geographers use the name Oceania for a region, including most island countries and territories in the Pacific, as well as on mainland Australia. Area and population This section probably contains a synthesis of material that is not mentioned or related to the main topic. A relevant discussion can be found at the talk. (November 2017) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) For a more comprehensive list, see List of continents by population. The table below summarises the regions and populations of continental regions used by the United Nations. [41] These regions differ from physical continents in different ways as explained in the notes. Continent Area (km2)[failed inspection] Area (sq mi)[failed inspection] Percentage ground floats[failed inspection] Population Percentage pop. Most density (correct) Africa [note 1] 30,370,000 11,730,000 20.4% 1,287,920,000 16.9% Lagos, Nigeria Antarctica [Note 2] 14,000,000 5.9% 5.9% 400,000 9.2% 4,490[42] 0.0% McMurdo Station Asia [Note 3] 44,579,000 17,212,000 29.5% 4,545 133,000 59.5% Shanghai, China Europe [note 4] 10,180,000 3,930,000 6.8% 742,648,000 9.7% Moscow, Russia [43] North America [Note 5] 24 709 000 9 540 000 16.5% 587 615 000 7.7% Mexico City , Mexico South America 17,840,000 6,890,000 12.0% 428,240,000 5.6% Sao Paulo , Brazil Australia [note 6] 8,600,000 3,300,000 5.9% 41,261,000 0.5% Sydney, Australia ^ Includes the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. ^ Population is intermittent and varies. It also includes Eastern Thrace (Turkey) and Western New Guinea (Indonesia), which exclude European Russia and Egypt. ^ Do not swirl in Asia, russia is not in the country. † Includes Central America and the Caribbean. ^ Indonesia. Comparison of the area (with tens of millions of square kilometers) and the population (by billions of people) Graph, showing the population by continent as a percentage of the world population (1750-2005) The total area of all continents is 148 647 00 57 393 000 sq miles or 29.1% of the earth's surface (510 065 600 km2 or 196 937 400 sq miles). Other divisions Supercontinents Main article: Supercontinent Apart from the current continents, the scope and meaning of the concept continent includes past geological ones. Supercontinents, largely attesting earlier in the geological register, are earthly curlers that contain more than one craton or continental nucleus. These include Lorasía, Gondwana, Railbara, Kenorland, Colombia, Born and Pangea. Over time, these supercontinents disintegrated into great earthly the current continents. Subcontinents Additional information: Indian subcontinent and Arabian Peninsula Some parts of continents are recognized as subcontinents, especially large peninsulas separated from the main mainland landmass by geographical features. The most notable examples are the Indian subcontinent and the Arabian Peninsula. [44] The Southern Horse of South America and the Alaska Peninsula in North America are other examples. In many of these cases, the subcontinents are on different tectonic plates from the rest of the continent, which gives geological justification for terminology. Greenland, considered the largest island in the world in northeastern North America, is sometimes called a subcontinent. [46] [47] This is a significant deviation from the more conventional point of view of the subcontinent, which is a very large peninsula on the border of the continent. When America is seen as a single continent (America), it is divided into two subcontinents (North America and South America)[48][40][50] or three (Central America is the third). [51] When Eurasia was seen as a single continent, Europe was regarded as a subcontinent. [44] Submerged continents Main article: Submerged continent Additional information: Zealandia Some areas of the continent are largely covered by the sea and can be considered submerged continents. Notable examples are Zealand, emerging from the sea mainly in New Zealand and New Caledonia [53] and almost completely submerged Kerguel Plateau in the southern Indian Ocean. [54] Microcontinents Additional information: continental fragment See also: Madagascar Some islands are located in sections of the continental crust that have passed away and are separated from the main continental landmass. Although they are not considered continents due to their relatively small size, they can be considered microcontinents. Madagascar, the greatest example, is generally considered an island of Africa, but its heterogeneous evolution has hinted it at as the eighth continent from a biological point of view. [55] History of continental configurations Main article: Geological history of earth history of the concept Ancient Greek geographer Strabo, which holds a globe showing Europe and Asia Early concepts of the continents of the Old World The term continent translates greek ήπειρος, correctly landmass, terra firma, the correct name of Epirus and later used by Asia (i.e. Asia Minor), the first distinction between continents was made by ancient Greek sailors , which gave the names of Europe and Asia to the lands on both sides of the Aegean, Dardanelles Strait, Marmara Sea, Bosphorus Strait and The Black Sea. [57] The names are for the first time only for land off the coast and only later expanded to But the division was carried only to the end of the waterways, and ... Beyond this moment, Greek geographers have never been able to put a finger on every inner feature in the physical landscape that can offer a convincing line to divide into indivisible Eurasia ... [57] Ancient Greek thinkers subsequently discussed whether Africa (then called Libya) should be regarded as part of Asia or part three of the world. The division into three parts eventually became overwhelming. From the Greek point of view, the Aegean Sea is the center of the world; Asia lay in the east, north and Europe, and Africa to the south. [60] The boundaries between continents are not fixed. In the beginning, the Border of Europe-Asia was taken to flow from the Black Sea along the Rioni River (also known as Fазis) in Georgia. It was later seen as a run from the Black Sea through the Kerchen Strait, the Azov Sea and along the Don River (then known as Tanais) in Russia. The border between Asia and Africa is more widespread as the Nile River. Herodot in the 5th century BC disputes the division of the whole of Egypt between Asia and Africa (Libya) and occupies the border to lie along the western border of Egypt, in relation to Egypt as part of Asia. He also questioned the separation of three of the earth's mass,[63] a debate that lasted almost two and a half millennia later. Eratosten, in the 3th century BC, noted that some geographers separated the continents from rivers (The Niel and Don), thus considering them islands. Others divide the continents with mues, calling the continents peninsulas. The last geographers put the border between Europe and Asia on a muchacha between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, and the border between Asia and Africa on the Muslim border between the Red Sea and the mouth of Lake Bardawil on the Mediterranean Sea. [64] The medieval T and O map shows the three continents as areas of Noah's sons – Asia to the Ses, Europe to Afitheth (Jaffet) and Africa to Hamm. During the Roman era and the Middle Ages, several writers accepted the Isthmus of Suez as a border between Asia and Africa, but most writers continued to regard it as the Niel or the western border of Egypt (Gibbon) as necessary. In the Middle Ages, the world was usually depicted on T and O maps, with T representing the waters separating the three continents. By the middle of the 18th century, the fashion of dividing Asia and Africa in the Niel, or the Great Catabatmus (the border between Egypt and Libya) further west, even then it barely got away. [65] The arrival of Europe in the American continent, Christopher Columbus, crossed the Atlantic Ocean to the West Indies in 1492, triggering a period of European exploration of the Americas. But despite four trips to America, Columbus has never been to America. he had reached a new continent—he always thought he was part of Asia. In 1501, Amerigo Vespucci and Gonzalo Coelu tried to sail around what they believed was the southern tip of the Asian continent in the Indian Ocean, passing through Fernando de Noronha. After reaching the shores of Brazil, they sail farther south along the southern part of South America, confirming that it is a continental continental region and that it also stretches much further south than Asia is known. [66] On his return to Europe, a story about the journey called Mundus Novus (The New World) was published under the name Vespucci in 1502 or 1503.[67], although there appeared to be additions or changes from another writer. [68] Regardless of who wrote the words, Mundus Novus attributed to Vespucci saying: I found a continent in the southern regions that was inhabited by more people and animals from our Europe, Asia or Africa, the first known clear identification of part of America like the other three. Within a few years, the name New World began to appear as a name for South America on world maps, such as the Map of Oliverian (Pesaro) from 1504–1505. However, the maps show that North America is connected to Asia and shows South America as a separate land. [18] Universal Cosmographia, Waldseemüller's World Map 1507, the first to show the Americas separately from Asia In 1507, Martin Waldssemüller published a world map, Universalis Cosmographia, which was the first to show the Americas as separate from Asia and surrounded by water. A small map above the main map showed for the first time that America is east of Asia and separated from Asia from the ocean, as opposed to simply placing the Americas at the left end of the map and Asia at the right end. In the accompanying book Cosmographiae Introductio, Waldseemüller notes that the land is divided into four parts, Europe, Asia, Africa and part four, which he calls America after Amerigo Vespucci by the first name. On the map, the word America is placed in a part of South America. The word continent Since the 16th century the English noun was derived from the term mainland land, which means continuous or connected land[71] and translated from the Latin terrain continents. The noun was used to mean a connected or continuous land or continent. [71] It did not apply only to very large areas of land, in the 17th century, references to the continents (or continents) of the Isle of Man, Ireland and Wales and in 1745 to Sumatra. [71] The word continent was used to translate Greek and Latin writings for the three parts of the world, although the original languages did not use a word of the same meaning as the continent. [73] While the continent was used on the one hand for relatively small areas on the other hand, geographers have once again raised Herodote's question about why a large landmass should be divided into separate continents. In the mid-17th century, Peter Heilin wrote in his Cosmographie that the Continent is a large amount of land, not separated from the sea from the rest of the world, such as the entire Continent of Europe, Asia, Africa. In 1727, Ephraim Chambers wrote in his Cyclopaedia: The World is divided into two great continents: the old and the new. And in his 1752 atlas, Emmanuel Bowen defined the continent as a large space on land, understanding many countries, all connected to each other, without separating themselves from water. Thus, Europe, Asia and Africa are one great continent, as America is another. [74] However, the old idea of Europe, Asia and Africa as parts of the world ultimately continues to be considered separate continents. Holanda Nova, a 1659 map drawn up by Joan Blair, based on the travels of Abel Tasman and Willem Yannis, this image shows a French edition of 1663 Beyond four continents Since the late 18th century, some geographers began to view North America and South America as two parts of the world, making a total of five parts. Overall, however, the four-time division prevailed well in the 19th century. [75] The Europeans discovered Australia in 1606, but for a while it was taken as part of Asia. By the end of the 18th century, some geographers considered it a continent, making it the sixth (or fifth for those who still accept America as one continent). In 1813, Samuel Butler wrote about Australia as New Holland, a vast island that some geographers valued by the name of another continent, and the Oxford English Dictionary was just as e-mailed a few decades later. In the 1950s, the concept of oceania as a great divide of the world was considered to be replaced by the concept of Australia as a continent. In 1820, Antarctica was spotted in 1820 during the First Russian Antarctic Expedition and was described as a continent by Charles Wilkes on the US expedition in 1838, with the last continent identified, although a large Antarctic (antipodian) land was expected for millennia. The 1849 Atlas was designated as a continent, but few atlases did so until the second world war. [78] Since the mid-19th century, atlases published in the United States have been more often treated as separate continents, while atlases published in Europe generally consider them to be one continent. However, it is still not uncommon for American atlases to treat them as one continent until World War II. [79] Since the 1950s, most American geographers have divided the Americas into two continents. [79] With the addition of Antarctica, this makes seven continents a model. This divide of America never appeals to Latinos who see their region a américa as a single land, and there the concept of six continents remains dominant, as it does in scattered other countries. [the reference is necessary] Some geographers consider Europe and Asia together to be a single continent called Eurasia. In this model, the world is divided into six continents, with North America and South America considered to be separate continents. Geology This section needs additional quotes to check. Please help to improve this article by adding quotes to trusted sources. Non-material can be challenged and removed. (May 2015) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) Additional information: Continental crusts and Platt tectonics geologists use the term continent differently than geographers. In geology, the continent is defined by the continent, which is a platform of metamorphic and magma rocks, largely of granite. The continental crust is less dense and much thicker than the ocean crust, causing it to swim higher than the ocean crust of the dense heed. This explains why continents form high platforms surrounded by deep ocean basins. [81] Some geologists limited the term continent to parts of the crust built around stable regions called kratthoni. Kratons have largely been unaffected by mountain-building events (orogenites) since Precambriana. Craton usually consists of a continental shield surrounded by a continental platform. The shield is a region where the ancient crystal basement rock (usually 1.5 to 3.8 billion years old) is widely exposed to the surface. The platform around the shield also consists of an ancient underground rock, but with a coating of a younger sedimentary rock. [82] The continents are mature and wire, which, unlike the denser basal crust of ocean basins, are not subjected to destruction by the tectonic subduction process. This represents the great era of the rocks that make up the continental kratthons. [83] The boundaries of geological continents are characterized by active or relatively recently active mobile belts and deep troughs of accumulated marine or delta sludge. Beyond the borders there is either a continental shelf and to stop by the main ocean basin or on the border of another continent, depending on the current tectonic environment of the continent. There doesn't have to be water. By this definition, Eastern Europe, India and some other regions can be regarded as continental masses other than the rest of Eurasia, since they have separate ancient shields (i.e. Eastern European craton and Indian craton). Younger mobile belts (such as the Ural Mountains and the Himalayas) mark the boundaries between these regions and the rest of Eurasia. [the reference is necessary] Tectonics of tectonics is another way of determining continents. Today, Europe and Asia represents the single Eurasia Plate, which roughly coincides with the geographical Eurasian continent, with the exception of India, Arabia and far eastern Russia. India contains a central shield, and the geological recently Himalayas mobile belt forms its northern border. North America and South America are separate continents, and the connecting isthmus is

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