

# The Seven Continents

by Katie Clark

Science tells us that most of the earth's surface is made up of water. Only a small portion is made up of land! This land mass is broken up into seven major continents. A continent is a piece of land that is very large. For instance, North America is one of the large land masses, or continents.



The state of Hawaii is a small island mass. This means it is not a continent.

The seven major continents are North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and Antarctica.

Some of these continents are connected. South America and North America are connected. Europe and Africa are connected. Asia and Australia are connected. Antarctica is not connected to any other continent.

Many people live on each land mass. The population of each one relates largely to its size. Asia has the most people. Australia has the least people. Antarctica has no people at all!

Some of these large land masses have many countries held within. Others have only a few. North America is made up of Canada and the United States of America. The African continent has 54 countries and Asia accounts for 48 countries!

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Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Most of earth's seven continents are in the Northern Hemisphere. This means they are above the equator. Only Antarctica and Australia are completely below the equator. Some parts of South America, Asia, and Africa are below the equator, too.

Scientists have been trying to figure out how the land formed for many years. They have lots of theories, or ideas about it. Some of them think there used to be one large land mass. Over time, chunks of land broke away. The world ended up with the seven continents we have today.

Others believe that the continents are where they are. They believe the land masses have shifted in the earth's crust caused the land masses we see today.

Some people believe that the continents were together. Matter how the land masses came together, every continent has a core, or center. This core is the center of the continent.

The ocean was surrounded by the Americas. The Americas are surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, and the Southern Ocean. The American continents are North America, South America, Africa, and Australia. Antarctica is surrounded by the Southern Ocean.

We know the land is made of continents. There is more water than land. We know a large land mass is called a continent. But do you know on which continent you live?

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Name : \_\_\_\_\_

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1) What is a continent? List out the continents mentioned in the passage.

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2) Antarctica and \_\_\_\_\_ are they?

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3) Write two facts \_\_\_\_\_

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4) Name the ocean \_\_\_\_\_

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5) On which continent do you live? Make a list of three interesting facts about your continent.

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