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Geography (Greek *Geo* (γη) or *Gaea* (γαία), meaning "**Earth**", and *graphein* (γράφειν) meaning "to describe" or "to write") is the study of the earth and its features, inhabitants, and phenomena. A literal translation would be "to describe or write about the Earth". The first person to use the word "geography" was Eratosthenes (275-195 B.C.).



Four historical traditions in geographical research are the spatial analysis of natural and human phenomena (geography as a study of distribution), area studies (places and regions), study of man-land relationship, and research in earth sciences. Nonetheless, modern geography is an all-encompassing discipline that foremost seeks to understand the world and all of its human and natural complexities — not merely where objects are, but how they have changed and come to be. As "the bridge between the human and physical sciences," geography is divided into two main branches — human geography and physical geography.

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Overviews
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Branches of Geography – [Physical geography](#) ([Climatology](#), [Hydrology](#)) · [Human geography](#) · [Regional geography](#)

Natural geographical features

Landforms – [Badlands](#) · [Canyon](#) · [Cave](#) · [Cliff](#) · [Coast](#) · [Continent](#) · [Coral reef](#) · [Crater](#) · [Desert](#) · [Forest](#) · [Geyser](#) · [Glacier](#) · [Gully](#) · [Grassland](#) · [Highland](#) · [Hill](#) · [Island](#) · [Mesa](#) · [Mountain](#) · [Mountain range](#) · [Plain](#) · [Prairie](#) · [Peninsula](#) · [Reef](#) · [Ridge](#) · [Savanna](#) · [Shoal](#) · [Steppe](#) · [Tundra](#) · [Valley](#) · [Volcano](#) · [Wetland](#)

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By cultural region – [English-speaking world](#) • [Arab world](#) • [Chinese world \(Sinosphere\)](#) • [Indosphere](#) • [Sub-Saharan Africa](#) • [Europe](#) • [Latin America](#) • [Oceania](#)

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Countries and polar regions of the world:



Countries of Africa



Countries of Asia



Countries of Europe



Countries of North America



Countries of Oceania



Countries of South America

AntarcticArctic

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Outlines
 (see for all subject areas)

Geography

Continents and major geopolitical regions (non-continent are *italicized*)

Africa • Antarctica • Asia • Europe • North America • Oceania (includes Australia) • South America

Political divisions of the World, arranged by continent or major geopolitical region

Africa

West Africa



Benin • Burkina Faso • Cape Verde • Gambia • Ghana • Guinea • Guinea-Bissau • Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire) • Liberia • Mali • Mauritania • Niger •

Nigeria

Rivers State • Senegal • Sierra Leone • Togo

North Africa



Algeria • Egypt (Cairo) • Libya • Mauritania • Morocco • Sudan • South Sudan • Tunisia • Western Sahara

Central Africa



Angola • Burundi • Cameroon • Central African Republic • Chad • The Democratic Republic of the Congo • Equatorial Guinea • Gabon • Republic of the Congo • Rwanda • São Tomé and Príncipe

East Africa



Burundi • Comoros • Djibouti • Eritrea • Ethiopia • Kenya • Madagascar • Malawi • Mauritius • Mozambique • Rwanda • Seychelles • Somalia • Tanzania • Uganda • Zambia • Zimbabwe

Southern Africa

Botswana • Eswatini (Swaziland) • Lesotho • Namibia • South Africa (Cape Town)

Dependencies

Mayotte (France) • St. Helena (UK) • Puntland • Somaliland • Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic

Antarctica

None

Asia**Central Asia**

Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan • Tajikistan • Turkmenistan • Uzbekistan

East Asia

China

Tibet

Hong Kong • Macau

Japan (Kyoto) • North Korea • South Korea • Mongolia • Taiwan

North Asia

Russia

Southeast Asia

Brunei • Cambodia • East Timor (Timor-Leste) • Indonesia (Jakarta) • Laos • Malaysia • Myanmar (Burma) • Philippines (Metro Manila) • Singapore • Thailand (Bangkok) • Vietnam

South Asia

Afghanistan • Bangladesh • Bhutan • Maldives • Nepal • Pakistan • Sri Lanka
India

States of India: Andhra Pradesh • Arunachal Pradesh • Assam • Bihar • Chhattisgarh • Goa • Gujarat • Haryana • Himachal Pradesh • Jammu and Kashmir • Jharkhand • Karnataka • Kerala • Madhya Pradesh • Maharashtra • Manipur • Meghalaya • Mizoram • Nagaland • Odisha • Punjab • Rajasthan • Sikkim • Tamil Nadu • Telangana • Tripura • Uttar Pradesh • Uttarakhand • West Bengal

West Asia

Armenia • Azerbaijan • Bahrain • Cyprus (including disputed Northern Cyprus) • Georgia • Iran • Iraq • Israel • Jordan • Kuwait • Lebanon • Oman • State of Palestine • Qatar • Saudi Arabia • Syria • Turkey (Istanbul) • United Arab Emirates (Dubai) • Yemen

Caucasus (a region considered to be in both Asia and Europe, or between them)

North Caucasus

Parts of Russia (Chechnya, Ingushetia, Dagestan, Adyghea, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachai-Cherkessia, North Ossetia, Krasnodar Krai, Stavropol Krai)

South Caucasus

Georgia (including disputed Abkhazia, South Ossetia) • Armenia • Azerbaijan (including disputed Republic of Artsakh)

Europe



Akrotiri and Dhekelia • Åland • Albania • Andorra • Armenia • Austria (Vienna) • Azerbaijan • Belarus • Belgium • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Bulgaria • Croatia • Cyprus • Czech Republic (Prague) • Denmark • Estonia • Faroe Islands • Finland • France • Georgia • Germany (Dresden, Munich) • Gibraltar • Greece (Athens) • Guernsey • Hungary • Iceland • Ireland • Isle of Man • Italy (Florence, Milan, Palermo, Rome, Turin) • Jersey • Kazakhstan • Kosovo • Latvia • Liechtenstein • Lithuania • Luxembourg • Malta • Moldova (including disputed Transnistria) • Monaco • Montenegro • Netherlands • North Macedonia • Poland • Portugal • Romania • Russia (Saint Petersburg) • San Marino • Serbia • Slovakia • Slovenia • Norway

Svalbard

Spain

Autonomous communities of Spain: Catalonia (Barcelona)

Sweden (Stockholm) • Switzerland (Geneva) • Turkey • Ukraine
United Kingdom

England (Cornwall, London) • Northern Ireland • Scotland (Edinburgh) • Wales

Vatican City
European Union

North America

Canada



Provinces of Canada: • Alberta • British Columbia • Manitoba • New Brunswick • Newfoundland and Labrador • Nova Scotia • Ontario (Toronto) • Prince Edward Island • Quebec • Saskatchewan
Territories of Canada: Northwest Territories • Yukon

Greenland • Saint Pierre and Miquelon

United States



Alabama • Alaska • Arizona • Arkansas • California • Colorado • Connecticut • Delaware • Florida • Georgia • Hawaii • Idaho • Illinois • Indiana • Iowa • Kansas • Kentucky • Louisiana • Maine • Maryland • Massachusetts (Boston) • Michigan • Minnesota • Mississippi • Missouri • Montana • Nebraska • Nevada • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New Mexico • New York (New York City) • North Carolina • North Dakota • Ohio • Oklahoma • Oregon • Pennsylvania (Philadelphia) • Rhode Island • South Carolina • South Dakota • Tennessee • Texas • Utah • Vermont • Virginia • Washington • West Virginia • Wisconsin • Wyoming
District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.)

Mexico



Central America

Belize • Costa Rica • El Salvador • Guatemala • Honduras • Nicaragua • Panama

Caribbean

Anguilla • Antigua and Barbuda • Aruba • Bahamas • Barbados • Bermuda • British Virgin Islands • Cayman Islands • Cuba • Dominica • Dominican Republic • Grenada • Haiti • Jamaica • Montserrat • Netherlands Antilles • Puerto Rico • Saint Barthélemy • Saint Kitts and Nevis • Saint Lucia • Saint Martin • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • Trinidad and Tobago • Turks and Caicos Islands • United States Virgin Islands

Oceania (includes the continent of Australia)

Australasia

Australia (Sydney)

Dependencies/Territories of Australia

Christmas Island • Norfolk Island

New Zealand

Melanesia

Fiji • Indonesia (Oceanian part only) • New Caledonia (France) • Papua New Guinea • Solomon Islands • Vanuatu •

Micronesia

Federated States of Micronesia • Guam (US) • Kiribati • Marshall Islands • Nauru • Northern Mariana Islands (US) • Palau •

Polynesia

American Samoa (US) • Cook Islands (NZ) • French Polynesia (France) • Hawaii (US) • Niue (NZ) • Pitcairn Islands (UK) • Samoa • Tokelau (NZ) • Tonga • Tuvalu • Wallis and Futuna (France)

South America

[Argentina](#) • [Bolivia](#) • [Brazil \(Rio de Janeiro\)](#) • [Chile](#) • [Colombia](#) • [Ecuador](#) • [Falkland Islands](#) • [Guyana](#) • [Paraguay](#) • [Peru](#) • [Suriname](#) • [Uruguay](#) • [Venezuela](#)

South Atlantic

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Ireland: [Kilkenny](#)

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Multinational

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Continents

[Africa](#) · [Antarctica](#) · [Asia](#) · [Europe](#) · [Australia](#)

Political divisions of World, arranged by continent or major geopolitical region:

[Africa](#):

West Africa:



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North Africa:



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Central Africa:



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Southern Africa:



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Antarctica:

Antarctica

Asia:**Central Asia:**

Kazakhstan^[1] • Kyrgyzstan • Tajikistan • Turkmenistan • Uzbekistan

East Asia:

China^[2]

Tibet

Hong Kong^[3] • Macau^[4]

Japan

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Y Z

Korea:

0-9 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X
Y Z

North Korea

South Korea

Mongolia • Taiwan^[5]

Southeast Asia:^[6]

Brunei • Burma (Myanmar) • Cambodia^[7] • East Timor (Timor-Leste)^[8] • Indonesia^[9] • Laos • Malaysia • Philippines • Singapore • Thailand • Vietnam

South Asia:

Afghanistan • Bangladesh • Bhutan • Andhra Pradesh • Iran • Maldives • Nepal • Sri Lanka

West Asia:

Armenia^[10] • Azerbaijan^[11] • Bahrain • Cyprus^[12] (including disputed Northern Cyprus) • Georgia^[13] • Iraq • Israel • Jordan • Kuwait • Lebanon • Oman • Qatar • Saudi Arabia • Syria • Turkey^[14] • United Arab Emirates • Yemen

Caucasus (a region considered to be in both Asia and Europe, or between them)

Georgia (including disputed Abkhazia) • Armenia • Azerbaijan (including disputed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic)

Europe:

Akrotiri and Dhekelia • Åland • Albania • Andorra • Armenia • Austria • Azerbaijan • Belarus • Belgium • Croatia • Cyprus • Czech Republic • Denmark • Estonia • Finland • Georgia • Germany • Greece • Guernsey • Hungary • Iceland • Ireland • Italy • Kazakhstan • Liechtenstein • Lithuania • Malta • Moldova (including disputed

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Canadian provinces

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[Aboriginal Canadian](#)

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U.S. administrative divisions

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[District of Columbia \(Washington, D.C.\)](#)
[U.S. counties](#)

[African American](#)

[Asian American](#)

Central America:

[Belize](#) • [Costa Rica](#) • [El Salvador](#) • [Guatemala](#) • [Honduras](#) • [Nicaragua](#) • [Panama](#)

Caribbean:

[Anguilla](#) • [Antigua and Barbuda](#) • [Aruba](#) • [Bahamas](#) • [Barbados](#) • [Bermuda](#) • [Cayman Islands](#) • [Cuba](#) • [Dominica](#) • [Dominican Republic](#) • [Grenada](#) • [Haiti](#) • [Jamaica](#) • [Montserrat](#) • [Netherlands Antilles](#) • [Puerto Rico](#) • [Saint Barthélemy](#) • [Saint Kitts and Nevis](#) • [Saint Lucia](#) • [Saint Martin](#) • [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#) • [Trinidad and Tobago](#) • [Turks and Caicos Islands](#) • [United States Virgin Islands](#)

Oceania: (includes the continent of [Australia](#)):

Australasia:^[15]

[Australia](#)

Dependencies/Territories of Australia:

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Melanesia:^[17]

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Micronesia:

Federated States of Micronesia • Guam (USA) • Marshall Islands • Nauru • Northern Mariana Islands (USA) • Palau •

Polynesia

American Samoa (USA) • Cook Islands (NZ) French Polynesia (France) • Hawaii (USA) • Tokelau (NZ)

South America:

Argentina • Chile • Colombia • Ecuador • Falkland Islands • Guyana • Paraguay • Peru • Suriname • Uruguay • Venezuela

South Atlantic:

Ascension Island

1. Kazakhstan is sometimes considered a transcontinental country in Central Asia and Eastern Europe; population and area figures are for Asian portion only.
2. The state is commonly known as simply "China", which is subsumed by the eponymous entity and civilization (China).
3. Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of PRC.
4. Macau is a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of PRC.
5. Under the *de facto* control of Republic of China (ROC) government, commonly referred to as Taiwan. Claimed in whole by the PRC; see political status of Taiwan.
6. Excludes Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Australian external territories in the Indian Ocean southwest of Indonesia).
7. General Population Census of Cambodia 2008 - Provisional population totals, National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, released 3rd September, 2008 (http://www.stat.go.jp/english/info/meetings/cambodia/pdf/pre_rep1.pdf)
8. East Timor is often considered a transcontinental country in Southeastern Asia and Oceania.
9. Indonesia is often considered a transcontinental country in Southeastern Asia and Oceania
10. Armenia is sometimes considered a transcontinental country: physiographically in Western Asia, it has historical and sociopolitical connections with Europe.
11. Azerbaijan is often considered a transcontinental country in Western Asia and Eastern Europe; population and area figures are for Asian portion only. Figures include Nakhchivan, an autonomous exclave of Azerbaijan bordered by Armenia, Iran, and Turkey.
12. The island of Cyprus is sometimes considered a transcontinental territory: in the Eastern Basin of Mediterranean Sea south of Turkey, it has historical and socio-political connections with Europe. However, the U.N. considers Cyprus to be in Western Asia, while the C.I.A. considers it to be in the Middle East.
13. Georgia is often considered a transcontinental country in Western Asia and Eastern Europe; population and area figures are for the Asian portion only.
14. Turkey is generally considered a transcontinental country in Western Asia and Southern Europe; population and area figures are for Asian portion only, excluding all of Istanbul.

15. The use and scope of this term varies. The UN designation for this subregion is "Australia and New Zealand."
16. Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands are Australian external territories in the Indian Ocean southwest of Indonesia.
17. Excludes parts of Indonesia, island territories in Southeast Asia (UN region) frequently reckoned in this region.
18. Indonesia is generally considered a territory of Southeastern Asia (UN region); wholly or partially, it is also frequently included in Australasia or Melanesia. Figures include Indonesian portion of New Guinea (Irian Jaya) and Maluku Islands.

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This page was last edited on 17 November 2019, at 03:11 (UTC).

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