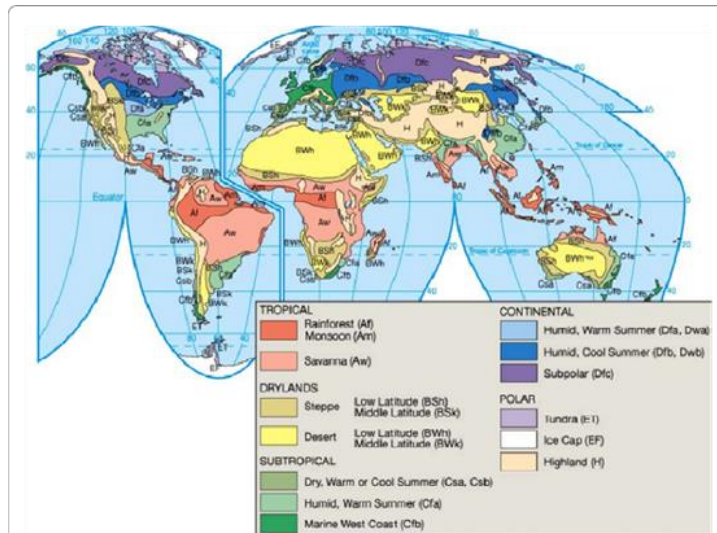




THE PHYSICAL WORLD



CLIMATE



Dimensions of Planet Earth

- Surface Area – 510.072 million sq km
- Land surface – 148.94 million sq km (29.1% of Earth's surface)
- Water surface – 361.9 million sq km (70.9% of Earth's surface)
- Equatorial circumference – 40,075 km
- Polar circumference – 40,008 km
- Equatorial diameter – 12,756 km
- Polar diameter – 12,714 km
- Mean elevation – 840 m

Earth Superlatives

- Greatest tidal range – 16.3 m Bay of Fundy, Canada
- Deepest gorge – 4,360 m Colca river, Peru
- Longest gorge – 350 km Grand Canyon, US
- Deepest lake – 1,742 m Lake Baikal, Russia
- Highest navigable lake – 3,810 m Lake Titicaca, Peru/Bolivia
- Longest cave system – 650 km Mammoth Cave, US
- Longest glacier – 515 km Lambert-Fisher Ice Passage, Antarctica
- Deepest depression – -403 m Dead Sea, Israel/Jordan
- Highest point: Mount Everest 8,849 m
- Lowest point:
 - Land - Denman Glacier (Antarctica) more than -3,500 m
 - Ocean - Challenger Deep -10,924 m, Mariana Trench, (Pacific Ocean)

Seven Continental Landmasses

- Asia 44,568,500 sq km;
- Africa 30,065,000 sq km;
- North America 24,473,000 sq km;
- South America 17,819,000 sq km;
- Antarctica 14,200,000 sq km;
- Europe 9,948,000 sq km;
- Australia 7,741,220 sq km

Ten Largest Islands

1. Greenland 2,166,086 sq km;
2. New Guinea (Indonesia, Papua New Guinea) 785,753 sq km;
3. Borneo (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia) 751,929 sq km;
4. Madagascar 587,713 sq km;
5. Baffin Island (Canada) 507,451 sq km;
6. Sumatra (Indonesia) 472,784 sq km;
7. Honshu (Japan) 227,963 sq km;
8. Victoria Island (Canada) 217,291 sq km;
9. Great Britain (United Kingdom) 209,331 sq km;
10. Ellesmere Island (Canada) 196,236 sq km

Five Driest Places on Earth (Average Annual Precipitation)

1. McMurdo Dry Valleys, Antarctica 0 mm (0 in)
2. Arica, Chile 0.76 mm (0.03 in)
3. Al Kufrah, Libya 0.86 mm (0.03 in)
4. Aswan, Egypt 0.86 mm (0.03 in)
5. Luxor, Egypt 0.86 mm (0.03 in)

Five Wettest Places on Earth (Average Annual Precipitation)

1. Mawsynram, India 11,871 mm (467.4 in)
2. Cherrapunji, India 11,777 mm (463.7 in)
3. Tutunendo, Colombia 11,770 mm (463.4 in)
4. Cropp River, New Zealand 11,516 mm (453.4 in)
5. San Antonia de Ureca, Equatorial Guinea 10,450 mm (411.4 in)

Five Coldest Places on Earth (Lowest Average Monthly Temperature)

1. Verkhoyansk, Russia (Siberia) -47°C (-53°F) January
2. Oymyakon, Russia (Siberia) -46°C (-52°F) January
3. Eureka, Canada -38.4°C (-37.1°F) February
4. Isachsen, Canada -36°C (-32.8°F) February
5. Alert, Canada -34°C (-28°F) February

Five Hottest Places on Earth (Highest Average Monthly Temperature)

1. Death Valley, US (California) 39°C (101°F) July
2. Iranshahr, Iran 38.3°C (100.9°F) June
3. Ouallene, Algeria 38°C (100.4°F) July
4. Kuwait City, Kuwait 37.7°C (100°F) July
5. Medina, Saudi Arabia 36°C (97°F) July



THE PHYSICAL WORLD



TERRAIN

Highest point on each continent

- Asia - Mount Everest (China-Nepal) 8,849 m;
- South America - Cerro Aconcagua (Argentina) 6,960 m;
- North America - Denali (Mount McKinley) (United States) 6,190 m;
- Africa - Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) 5,895 m;
- Europe - El'brus (Russia) 5,633 m;
- Antarctica - Vinson Massif 4,897 m;
- Australia - Mount Kosciuszko 2,229 m

Lowest point on each continent

- Antarctica - Denman Glacier more than -3,500 m;
- Asia - Dead Sea (Israel-Jordan) -431 m;
- Africa - Lac Assal (Djibouti) -155 m;
- South America - Laguna del Carbon (Argentina) -105 m;
- North America - Death Valley (United States) -86 m;
- Europe - Caspian Sea (Azerbaijan-Kazakhstan-Russia) -28 m;
- Australia - Lake Eyre -15 m

Ten Largest Natural Lakes:

1. Caspian Sea (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan) 374,000 sq km;
2. Lake Superior (Canada, United States) 82,100 sq km;
3. Lake Victoria (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda) 62,940 sq km;
4. Lake Huron (Canada, United States) 59,600 sq km;
5. Lake Michigan (United States) 57,750 sq km;
6. Lake Tanganyika (Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Zambia) 32,000 sq km;
7. Great Bear Lake (Canada) 31,328 sq km;
8. Lake Baikal (Russia) 31,500 sq km;
9. Lake Malawi (Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania) 22,490 sq km;
10. Great Slave Lake (Canada) 28,568 sq km

Ten Longest Rivers:

1. Nile (Africa) 6,650 km;
2. Amazon (South America) 6,436 km;
3. Yangtze (Asia) 6,300 km;
4. Mississippi-Missouri (North America) 6,275 km;
5. Yenisey-Angara (Asia) 5,539 km;
6. Huang He/Yellow (Asia) 5,464 km;
7. Ob-Irtysh (Asia) 5,410 km;
8. Congo (Africa) 4,700 km;
9. Amur (Asia) 4,444 km;
10. Lena (Asia) 4,400 km

FIVE OCEANS OF THE WORLD

Area (% of total World Ocean area)

- Pacific – 168,723,000 sq km (46.6%)
- Atlantic – 85,133,000 sq km (23.5%)
- Indian – 70,560,000 sq km (19.5%)
- Southern – 21,960,000 sq km (6.1%)
- Arctic – 15,558,000 sq km (4.3%)

Volume (% of total World Ocean volume)

- Pacific – 669,880,000 cu km (50.1%)
- Atlantic – 310,410,000 cu km (23.3%)
- Indian – 264,000,000 cu km (19.8%)
- Southern – 71,800,000 cu km (5.4%)
- Arctic – 18,750,000 cu km (1.4%)

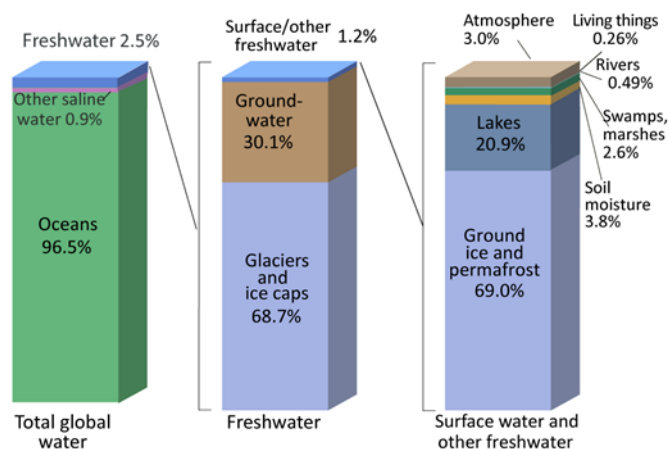
Average Depth

- Pacific – 4,080 m
- Indian – 3,741 m
- Atlantic – 3,646 m
- Southern – 3,270 m
- Arctic – 1,205 m

Deepest Points

- Pacific – Mariana Trench -10,924 m Challenger Deep
- Indian – Java Trench -7,192 m unnamed deep
- Atlantic – Puerto Rico Trench -8,605 m unnamed deep
- Southern – South Sandwich Trench -7,434 m unnamed deep
- Arctic – Molloy Deep -5,577 m

Where is Earth's Water?



Source: Igor Shiklomanov's chapter "World fresh water resources" in Peter H. Gleick (editor), 1993, *Water in Crisis: A Guide to the World's Fresh Water Resources*. (Numbers are rounded).