



# Science Fun!

## The Earth's Seven Continents

### ASIA

- Asia is the largest of the continents covering about one third of the world's land area.
- The highest point and the lowest point of the Earth's surface is found in Asia. The highest point is Mount Everest at 2,935 feet and the lowest is the shore of the Dead Sea which is 1,385 feet below sea level.
- Asia is the largest continent in populations. It is over half of the entire Earth's population. This population is mostly in China.
- The Great Wall of China is in Asia. The Great Wall is the only man made super structure that can be seen from space.

### AFRICA

- Africa covers 22% of the world's land area.
- The Sahara, which is the world's largest desert, is in this continent.
- Africa is home to the Nile - the longest river on Earth.
- Africa is made up of 53 nations.
- This continent includes plains, swampy coastal regions, lush tropical forests with savannahs and hilly plateaus inland.
- It is home to many exotic large mammals. This includes zebras, giraffes, gazelles, elephants, hippopotamuses, rhinoceroses, and antelopes. Also carnivores such as lions, leopards, hyenas and panthers.
- Africa is famous for its diamond, gold, uranium and copper mining.

### NORTH AMERICA

- The third largest continent stretches from the Arctic cold regions in the north to the tropical heat of Central America. It's area is 9,355,000 square miles.
- Included here is Greenland - the largest island in the world.
- North America is home to the second and third largest countries in the world, Canada and the United States of America.
- The hottest place in North America is Death Valley, California.
- North America has large deposits of many important minerals, including iron ore, copper, nickel and uranium. Coal is also found in Eastern and Western Canada and the United States. The world's greatest deposits of petroleum and natural gas are in Mexico.

### SOUTH AMERICA

- South America is the fourth largest continent of the world, but it contains less than 12% of the world's population.
- The Andes Mountains are the world's second largest mountain range.

- The second largest river in the world, the Amazon, runs through South America.
- The lowland consists mainly of the Amazon Basin. These areas are a wet, tropical climate and have a dense cover of rain forest.

The largest forest area in the world is part of South America.

- South America has diverse mineral resources, like gold, silver, iron, bauxite, tin, lead and zinc.

### ANTARCTICA

- Antarctica is ice bound through out the year. Penguins and seals, accompanied by a few invertebrates such as mites and ticks are the only land animals that can tolerate the low temperatures.
- The marine life is rich and includes krill, a shrimp like organism that is a food source for large numbers of whales in the surrounding waters.
- Antarctica has no trees, flowering plants, or grasses.
- Antarctica is a true desert due to its extreme cold climate, making it the coldest, windiest, and driest continent. It's average temperature is around -58 degrees F.
- This continent has no native civilization due to the climate.

### EUROPE

- Europe has about 3,800 square miles.
- One seventh of the world's population live in the 49 countries that make up this continent.
- 50 different languages are spoken in Europe
- Mineral resources that are found in Europe include coal, petroleum, natural gas, copper, lead and tin.

### AUSTRALIA

- Australia is the smallest of the seven continents.
- This continent is known for it's vast wildlife with rare species.
- Australia is known as the land of the kangaroos.
- Aborigines are the original inhabitants of Australia.
- The Great Barrier Reef, which is the world's largest coral reef, is part of this continent.

