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# THE WORLD

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## The World

### Continents of the World

The Earth's landmass is divided into seven continents, each distinct in its geography, culture, history, and significance. These continents are not only defined by their size or location but also by their diverse environments, populations, and economic roles. The continents, from the vast and resource-rich lands of Asia and Africa to the icy, uninhabited expanse of Antarctica, each contribute uniquely to the global system. Their interaction, through trade, politics, culture, and environmental challenges, shapes much of human history and contemporary life.



#### 1. Asia

- **Largest continent by both area and population:** Covers about 30% of Earth's land area and home to over 4.5 billion people, which is about 60% of the world's total population.
- **Diverse geography:** Ranges from the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest, in the Himalayas, to the vast Gobi Desert and tropical rainforests in Southeast Asia.
- **Major rivers:** Includes some of the longest rivers, like the Yangtze, Ganges, and the Mekong.

- **Key countries:** China and India, the two most populous countries globally, as well as economic giants like Japan, South Korea, and the rapidly growing economies of Southeast Asia.
- **Cultural and economic powerhouse:** Asia holds significant geopolitical influence, with major global trade hubs like Hong Kong, Singapore, and Tokyo. It is also a cultural center with diverse languages, religions (e.g., Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism), and histories.

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## 2. Africa

- **Second-largest continent:** It covers about 20% of Earth's land area and has a population exceeding 1.4 billion people.
- **Geographic diversity:** From the Sahara Desert in the north to the tropical rainforests of Central Africa and the savannahs of East Africa, Africa's environment is as varied as its people.

- **Major rivers:** Nile (the longest river), Congo, Niger, and Zambezi are key for transport and agriculture.
- **Key countries:** Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- **Resource-rich yet challenged:** Africa is rich in minerals and natural resources like oil, gold, and diamonds, but many countries face poverty, political instability, and health crises (such as malaria and HIV/AIDS). It is also a focal point of global attention for conservation and biodiversity.

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### 3. North America

- **Third-largest continent:** Comprising Canada, the United States, Mexico, and smaller countries in Central America and the Caribbean.



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- **Major landforms:** Known for the Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, Appalachian Mountains, and the Grand Canyon. It is also home to extensive forests, lakes, and rivers, such as the Mississippi and St. Lawrence.
- **Key countries:** The United States (world's largest economy), Canada (vast natural resources), and Mexico (important cultural and economic ties with both North and South America).

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## 4. South America

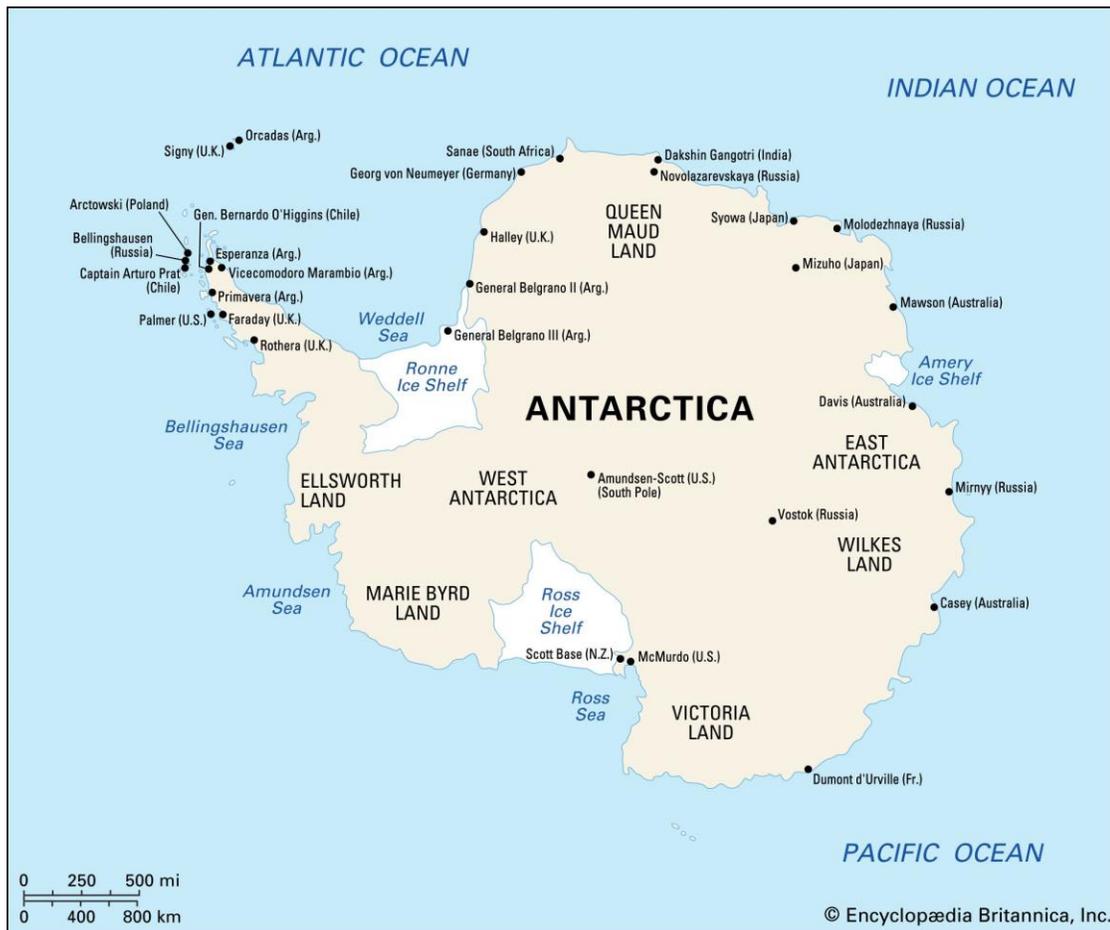
- **Diverse landscapes and ecosystems:** From the Amazon Rainforest (the largest tropical rainforest) to the Andes Mountains, the continent has one of the most varied ecosystems on Earth.
- **Key countries:** Brazil (largest country, with both Amazon and major economic influence), Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Chile, and Venezuela.
- **Historical and cultural significance:** The continent is home to ancient civilizations such as the Incas, whose ruins, like Machu Picchu.

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## 5. Antarctica

- **Southernmost continent:** About 98% covered by ice, making it the coldest, driest, and windiest continent.
- **No permanent human population:** Only scientists and researchers live there temporarily in research stations, governed by the Antarctic Treaty.
- **Scientific importance:** Antarctica plays a critical role in global climate systems and research related to environmental science, astronomy, and glaciology.
- **Unique wildlife:** Home to species adapted to extreme cold, such as penguins, seals, and various seabirds, but with no native human or terrestrial mammals.



## 6. Europe

- **Relatively small yet highly influential:** Europe is the second-smallest continent but has historically been the center of world politics, culture, and commerce.
- **Historical significance:** Birthplace of modern civilization, democracy, and the Renaissance, with countries like Greece, Italy, France, and the UK shaping Western philosophy, arts, and governance.
- **Geography:** From the icy tundras of Scandinavia to the Mediterranean coasts, and from the Alps to the plains of Russia, Europe has diverse landscapes.
- **Key countries:** Germany, France, the UK, Italy, and Russia. The European Union (EU) represents a unique experiment in political and economic integration.



## 7. Australia (Oceania)

- **Smallest continent but vast island nation:** Australia, the only country to occupy an entire continent, along with Oceania, which includes numerous small islands and nations in the Pacific.
- **Distinct ecosystems:** Known for unique wildlife such as kangaroos, koalas, and the Great Barrier Reef, the world’s largest coral reef system.
- **Key countries:** Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and other island nations in the Pacific.
- **Economic and cultural influence:** Australia is a major economic player in the Southern Hemisphere, while New Zealand has a strong cultural presence, especially in sports and film (e.g., the *Lord of the Rings* series).



## Asia

The world's largest and most populous continent, Asia is a mesmerizing tapestry of ancient civilizations and hyper-modern economies. It is the cradle of all major world religions and home



to dramatic contrasts—from the frozen tundra of Siberia to the tropical islands of Southeast Asia. Economic powerhouses like **China**, **Japan**, and **India** drive global trade and technology, while the oil-rich nations of the Middle East, such as **Saudi Arabia** and the **UAE**, wield significant geopolitical influence. In South Asia, **Pakistan** stands as a key nation with a rich history, a large population, and a strategically important location. With landscapes encompassing the Himalayas, the Gobi Desert, and bustling megacities, Asia's cultural and economic diversity is unparalleled.

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## East Asia

Sr.	Country / Territory	Capital	Currency	Currency Code & Notes
1	China	Beijing	Chinese Yuan	CNY (Also known as Renminbi - RMB)
2	Japan	Tokyo	Japanese Yen	JPY
3	Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar	Mongolian Tögrög	MNT
4	North Korea (DPRK)	Pyongyang	North Korean Won	KPW
5	South Korea (ROK)	Seoul	South Korean Won	KRW
6	Taiwan	Taipei	New Taiwan Dollar	TWD

## Southeast Asia

Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
7	Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan	Brunei Dollar	BND



8	Cambodia	Phnom Penh	Cambodian Riel	KHR (USD is widely used)
9	Indonesia	Jakarta	Indonesian Rupiah	IDR
10	Laos	Vientiane	Lao Kip	LAK
11	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysian Ringgit	MYR
12	Myanmar (Burma)	Naypyidaw	Myanmar Kyat	MMK
13	Philippines	Manila	Philippine Peso	PHP
14	Singapore	Singapore	Singapore Dollar	SGD
15	Thailand	Bangkok	Thai Baht	THB
16	Timor-Leste (East Timor)	Dili	United States Dollar	USD
17	Vietnam	Hanoi	Vietnamese Đồng	VND

### South Asia

Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
18	Afghanistan	Kabul	Afghan Afghani	AFN
19	Bangladesh	Dhaka	Bangladeshi Taka	BDT



20	Bhutan	Thimphu	Bhutanese Ngultrum	BTN (Indian Rupee is also legal tender)
21	India	New Delhi	Indian Rupee	INR
22	Maldives	Malé	Maldivian Rufiyaa	MVR
23	Nepal	Kathmandu	Nepalese Rupee	NPR
24	Pakistan	Islamabad	Pakistani Rupee	PKR
25	Sri Lanka	SriJayawardenepura Kotte (Admin), Colombo (Commercial)	Sri Lankan Rupee	LKR

### Central Asia

Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
26	Kazakhstan	Nur-Sultan	Kazakhstani Tenge	KZT
27	Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek	Kyrgyzstani Som	KGS
28	Tajikistan	Dushanbe	Tajikistani Somoni	TJS
29	Turkmenistan	Ashgabat	Turkmenistan Manat	TMT
30	Uzbekistan	Tashkent	Uzbekistani Som	UZS

### West Asia (The Middle East)



Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
31	Armenia	Yerevan	Armenian Dram	AMD
32	Azerbaijan	Baku	Azerbaijani Manat	AZN
33	Bahrain	Manama	Bahraini Dinar	BHD
34	Cyprus	Nicosia	Euro	EUR
35	Georgia	Tbilisi	Georgian Lari	GEL
36	Iran	Tehran	Iranian Rial	IRR
37	Iraq	Baghdad	Iraqi Dinar	IQD
38	Israel	Jerusalem (Status disputed)	Israeli New Shekel	ILS
39	Jordan	Amman	Jordanian Dinar	JOD
40	Kuwait	Kuwait City	Kuwaiti Dinar	KWD
41	Lebanon	Beirut	Lebanese Pound	LBP
42	Oman	Muscat	Omani Rial	OMR
43	Palestine (Observer State)	Ramallah (Admin), East Jerusalem (claimed)	Israeli Shekel, Jordanian Dinar	ILS, JOD
44	Qatar	Doha	Qatari Riyal	QAR
45	Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Saudi Riyal	SAR



46	Syria	Damascus	Syrian Pound	SYP
47	Turkey	Ankara	Turkish Lira	TRY
48	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Abu Dhabi	UAE Dirham	AED
49	Yemen	Sana'a (De facto), Aden (Temporary)	Yemeni Rial	YER

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### Important Exceptions:

1. **Sri Lanka:** Has two capitals: **Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte** is the administrative capital, while **Colombo** is the commercial capital.
2. **Israel / Palestine:** The status of **Jerusalem** as a capital is highly disputed. Most countries maintain embassies in Tel Aviv.
3. **Myanmar:** The capital was moved from Yangon (Rangoon) to **Naypyidaw** in 2006.
4. **Turkey & Russia:** These are transcontinental countries. This list includes Turkey in West Asia. Russia is generally considered a European country for political/cultural reasons.
5. **Currency Pegs:** Several Gulf countries peg their currencies to the US Dollar (e.g., Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia).
6. **Dual Currency Use:** In places like Bhutan, Cambodia, and Palestine, a foreign currency (like the Indian Rupee or US Dollar) circulates widely alongside the local currency.

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### Africa

The cradle of humanity, Africa is a continent of staggering diversity and immense potential. It is the second-largest and second-most populous continent, home to 54 sovereign nations speaking over a thousand languages. From the ancient pyramids of **Egypt** and the vibrant markets of **Morocco** in the north, to the wildlife-rich savannas of **Kenya** and **Tanzania**, and the economic hubs of **Nigeria** and **South Africa**, Africa's landscapes and cultures are vast and varied. Rich in natural resources like oil, diamonds, and cobalt, it is a continent of rapid growth and youthful population, facing challenges but brimming with resilience and opportunity.

### Northern Africa



Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
1	Algeria	Algiers	Algerian Dinar	DZD
2	Egypt	Cairo	Egyptian Pound	EGP
3	Libya	Tripoli	Libyan Dinar	LYD
4	Morocco	Rabat	Moroccan Dirham	MAD
5	Sudan	Khartoum	Sudanese Pound	SDG
6	Tunisia	Tunis	Tunisian Dinar	TND
7	Western Sahara (Disputed Territory)	El Aaiún (Claimed)	Moroccan Dirham	MAD (De facto)

## West Africa

Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
8	Benin	Porto-Novo (Official), Cotonou (Seat of government)	West African CFA Franc	XOF
9	Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou	West African CFA Franc	XOF
10	Cabo Verde	Praia	Cabo Verdean Escudo	CVE
11	Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	Yamoussoukro (Official), Abidjan (Administrative)	West African CFA Franc	XOF
12	The Gambia	Banjul	Gambian Dalasi	GMD
13	Ghana	Accra	Ghanaian Cedi	GHS

14	Guinea	Conakry	Guinean Franc	GNF
15	Guinea-Bissau	Bissau	West African CFA Franc	XOF
16	Liberia	Monrovia	Liberian Dollar	LRD
17	Mali	Bamako	West African CFA Franc	XOF
18	Mauritania	Nouakchott	Mauritanian Ouguiya	MRU
19	Niger	Niamey	West African CFA Franc	XOF
20	Nigeria	Abuja	Nigerian Naira	NGN
21	Senegal	Dakar	West African CFA Franc	XOF
22	Sierra Leone	Freetown	Sierra Leonean Leone	SLL
23	Togo	Lomé	West African CFA Franc	XOF

### Central Africa

Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
24	Angola	Luanda	Angolan Kwanza	AOA
25	Cameroon	Yaoundé	Central African CFA Franc	XAF
26	Central African Republic	Bangui	Central African CFA Franc	XAF



27	Chad	N'Djamena	Central African CFA Franc	XAF
28	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kinshasa	Congolese Franc	CDF
29	Republic of the Congo	Brazzaville	Central African CFA Franc	XAF
30	Equatorial Guinea	Malabo	Central African CFA Franc	XAF
31	Gabon	Libreville	Central African CFA Franc	XAF
32	São Tomé and Príncipe	São Tomé	São Tomé and Príncipe Dobra	STN

### East Africa

Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
33	Burundi	Gitega (Political), Bujumbura (Economic)	Burundian Franc	BIF
34	Comoros	Moroni	Comorian Franc	KMF
35	Djibouti	Djibouti	Djiboutian Franc	DJF
36	Eritrea	Asmara	Eritrean Nakfa	ERN
37	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	Ethiopian Birr	ETB
38	Kenya	Nairobi	Kenyan Shilling	KES
39	Madagascar	Antananarivo	Malagasy Ariary	MGA



40	Malawi	Lilongwe	Malawian Kwacha	MWK
41	Mauritius	Port Louis	Mauritian Rupee	MUR
42	Mozambique	Maputo	Mozambican Metical	MZN
43	Rwanda	Kigali	Rwandan Franc	RWF
44	Seychelles	Victoria	Seychellois Rupee	SCR
45	Somalia	Mogadishu	Somali Shilling	SOS
46	South Sudan	Juba	South Sudanese Pound	SSP
47	Tanzania	Dodoma (Official), Dar es Salaam (Administrative)	Tanzanian Shilling	TZS
48	Uganda	Kampala	Ugandan Shilling	UGX
49	Zambia	Lusaka	Zambian Kwacha	ZMW

### Southern Africa

Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
50	Botswana	Gaborone	Botswana Pula	BWP
51	Eswatini (formerly Swaziland)	Mbabane (Administrative), Lobamba (Royal & Legislative)	Swazi Lilangeni	SZL (South African Rand is also legal tender)



52	Lesotho	Maseru	Lesotho Loti	LSL (South African Rand is also legal tender)
53	Malawi	Lilongwe	Malawian Kwacha	MWK
54	Namibia	Windhoek	Namibian Dollar	NAD (South African Rand is also legal tender)
55	South Africa	Pretoria (Administrative), Cape Town (Legislative), Bloemfontein (Judicial)	South African Rand	ZAR
56	Zambia	Lusaka	Zambian Kwacha	ZMW
57	Zimbabwe	Harare	Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG)	ZWL

### Important Exceptions:

#### 1. Multiple Capitals:

- **South Africa** has three capitals: **Pretoria** (administrative), **Cape Town** (legislative), and **Bloemfontein** (judicial).
- **Eswatini** has two: **Mbabane** (administrative) and **Lobamba** (legislative).
- **Tanzania's** official capital is **Dodoma**, but most government functions remain in **Dar es Salaam**.
- **Benin** and **Côte d'Ivoire** have official political capitals separate from their economic/administrative centers.

#### 2. Currency Unions:



- **West African CFA Franc (XOF):** Used by 8 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo).
- **Central African CFA Franc (XAF):** Used by 6 countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon).
- The **South African Rand (ZAR)** is also legal tender in Namibia, Lesotho, and Eswatini, which have their own currencies pegged at 1:1 with the Rand.

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### 3. Disputed Territory:

- **Western Sahara** is a disputed territory. The majority is administered by Morocco, which uses the Moroccan Dirham.

### 4. Recent Changes:

- **Burundi** officially moved its political capital from Bujumbura to **Gitega**.
- **Zimbabwe** has a history of hyperinflation and frequently introduces new currencies. The current currency is the **Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG)**, introduced in 2024.

## Europe

A continent steeped in history yet at the forefront of modern political and social integration, Europe's influence on global art, science, and politics is profound. Comprising around 50 countries, it ranges from the Nordic fjords of **Norway** to the Mediterranean coasts of **Greece** and **Spain**. The **European Union**, a unique political and economic union, binds much of the continent together, facilitating seamless trade and travel. Home to industrial powerhouses like **Germany**, fashion capitals like **Italy**, and historic empires like the **United Kingdom** and **France**, Europe's dense network of nations boasts some of the world's highest standards of living.

### Northern Europe

Sr.	Country / Territory	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
1	Denmark	Copenhagen	Danish Krone	DKK
2	Estonia	Tallinn	Euro	EUR
3	Finland	Helsinki	Euro	EUR



4	Iceland	Reykjavik	Icelandic Króna	ISK
5	Ireland	Dublin	Euro	EUR
6	Latvia	Riga	Euro	EUR
7	Lithuania	Vilnius	Euro	EUR
8	Norway	Oslo	Norwegian Krone	NOK
9	Sweden	Stockholm	Swedish Krona	SEK
10	United Kingdom	London	British Pound Sterling	GBP

## Western Europe

Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
11	Austria	Vienna	Euro	EUR
12	Belgium	Brussels	Euro	EUR
13	France	Paris	Euro	EUR
14	Germany	Berlin	Euro	EUR
15	Liechtenstein	Vaduz	Swiss Franc	CHF
16	Luxembourg	Luxembourg City	Euro	EUR
17	Monaco	Monaco	Euro	EUR
18	Netherlands	Amsterdam (Official), The Hague (Government)	Euro	EUR
19	Switzerland	Bern (De facto)	Swiss Franc	CHF



## Southern Europe

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Sr.	Country / Territory	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
20	Albania	Tirana	Albanian Lek	ALL
21	Andorra	Andorra la Vella	Euro	EUR (Not an EU member, but uses Euro)
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo	Convertible Mark	BAM
23	Croatia	Zagreb	Euro	EUR (Adopted Euro in 2023)
24	Cyprus	Nicosia	Euro	EUR
25	Greece	Athens	Euro	EUR
26	Italy	Rome	Euro	EUR
27	Kosovo (Partially recognized)	Pristina	Euro	EUR (Unilaterally adopted)
28	Malta	Valletta	Euro	EUR
29	Montenegro	Podgorica	Euro	EUR (Unilaterally adopted)
30	North Macedonia	Skopje	Macedonian Denar	MKD
31	Portugal	Lisbon	Euro	EUR
32	San Marino	San Marino	Euro	EUR
33	Serbia	Belgrade	Serbian Dinar	RSD
34	Slovenia	Ljubljana	Euro	EUR



35	Spain	Madrid	Euro	EUR
36	Vatican City	Vatican City	Euro	EUR

## Eastern Europe

Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
37	Belarus	Minsk	Belarusian Rubel	BYN
38	Bulgaria	Sofia	Bulgarian Lev	BGN
39	Czech Republic	Prague	Czech Koruna	CZK
40	Hungary	Budapest	Hungarian Forint	HUF
41	Moldova	Chişinău	Moldovan Leu	MDL
42	Poland	Warsaw	Polish Złoty	PLN
43	Romania	Bucharest	Romanian Leu	RON
44	Russia	Moscow	Russian Ruble	RUB
45	Slovakia	Bratislava	Euro	EUR
46	Ukraine	Kyiv	Ukrainian Hryvnia	UAH

## Transcontinental States (Europe & Asia)

Sr.	Country	Capital (European side)	Currency	Currency Code
47	Armenia	Yerevan	Armenian Dram	AMD (Culturally/politically linked to Europe)

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48	Azerbaijan	Baku	Azerbaijani Manat	AZN
49	Georgia	Tbilisi	Georgian Lari	GEL (Culturally/politically linked to Europe)
50	Turkey	Ankara	Turkish Lira	TRY

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## North America

A continent defined by its vast geographic and economic scale, North America is anchored by three major nations: **Canada**, the **United States**, and **Mexico**. It features some of the world's most influential global cities and a highly diversified economy. The continent also includes the lush rainforests and vibrant cultures of Central American nations like **Costa Rica** and **Guatemala**, as well as the picturesque island nations of the Caribbean, such as **Jamaica** and **Cuba**. Its landscapes are equally diverse, spanning Arctic wilderness, the Rocky Mountains, the Great Plains, and tropical beaches.

### Mainland North America (Continental)

Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
1	Canada	Ottawa	Canadian Dollar	CAD
2	Mexico	Mexico City	Mexican Peso	MXN
3	United States of America	Washington, D.C.	United States Dollar	USD

### Caribbean Island Nations & Territories

Sr.	Country / Territory	Capital	Currency	Currency Code
4	Antigua and Barbuda	Saint John's	East Caribbean Dollar	XCD
5	The Bahamas	Nassau	Bahamian Dollar	BSD



6	Barbados	Bridgetown	Barbadian Dollar	BBD
7	Cuba	Havana	Cuban Peso	CUP
8	Dominica	Roseau	East Caribbean Dollar	XCD
9	Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo	Dominican Peso	DOP
10	Grenada	Saint George's	East Caribbean Dollar	XCD
11	Haiti	Port-au-Prince	Haitian Gourde	HTG
12	Jamaica	Kingston	Jamaican Dollar	JMD
13	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Basseterre	East Caribbean Dollar	XCD
14	Saint Lucia	Castries	East Caribbean Dollar	XCD
15	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Kingstown	East Caribbean Dollar	XCD
16	Trinidad and Tobago	Port of Spain	Trinidad and Tobago Dollar	TTD

### Other Caribbean & Atlantic Territories

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Sr.	Country / Territory	Sovereign State	Capital	Currency
17	Puerto Rico	United States	San Juan	United States Dollar (USD)
18	U.S. Virgin Islands	United States	Charlotte Amalie	United States Dollar (USD)
19	Guadeloupe	France	Basse-Terre	Euro (EUR)



20	Martinique	France	Fort-de-France	Euro (EUR)
21	Curaçao	Netherlands	Willemstad	Netherlands Antillean Guilder (ANG)
22	Aruba	Netherlands	Oranjestad	Aruban Florin (AWG)
23	Cayman Islands	United Kingdom	George Town	Cayman Islands Dollar (KYD)
24	Bermuda	United Kingdom	Hamilton	Bermudian Dollar (BMD)
25	Turks and Caicos Islands	United Kingdom	Cockburn Town	United States Dollar (USD)
26	British Virgin Islands	United Kingdom	Road Town	United States Dollar (USD)

### Central America

Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code & Notes
27	Belize	Belmopan	Belize Dollar	BZD
28	Costa Rica	San José	Costa Rican Colón	CRC
29	El Salvador	San Salvador	United States Dollar	USD (Bitcoin is also legal tender)
30	Guatemala	Guatemala City	Guatemalan Quetzal	GTQ
31	Honduras	Tegucigalpa	Honduran Lempira	HNL



32	Nicaragua	Managua	Nicaraguan Córdoba	NIO
33	Panama	Panama City	Panamanian Balboa	PAB (USD is also legal tender and widely used)

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## Important Exceptions:

### 1. Currency Unions:

- The **East Caribbean Dollar (XCD)** is used by eight members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS): Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

### 2. Use of the US Dollar (USD):

- Two sovereign nations, **El Salvador** and **Panama**, use the US Dollar as their official currency alongside their own (Bitcoin in El Salvador's case, Balboa in Panama's).
- Several British Overseas Territories, including the **British Virgin Islands** and the **Turks and Caicos Islands**, also use the USD.

### 3. Dependent Territories:

- North America has numerous dependent territories, primarily of the United States, United Kingdom, France, and the Netherlands. They are included in the list above.

### 4. Central America:

- While geographically part of the North American continent, the seven nations of Central America are often considered a distinct subregion.

## South America

A continent of fiery passion, breathtaking landscapes, and rhythmic cultures, South America is dominated by the Amazon River basin—the planet's largest tropical rainforest—and the towering Andes Mountain range. Its 12 nations, including continental giant **Brazil**, European-influenced **Argentina**, and Pacific-facing **Peru**, share a history shaped by indigenous empires,



Spanish and Portuguese colonization, and a vibrant blend of these influences. Known for its incredible biodiversity, mineral wealth, and iconic celebrations like Brazil's Carnival, South America pulses with energy and natural wonder.

### South American Sovereign Nations

Sr.	Country	Capital	Currency	Currency Code & Notes
1	Argentina	Buenos Aires	Argentine Peso	ARS
2	Bolivia	Sucre (Constitutional), La Paz (Administrative)	Boliviano	BOB
3	Brazil	Brasília	Brazilian Real	BRL
4	Chile	Santiago	Chilean Peso	CLP
5	Colombia	Bogotá	Colombian Peso	COP
6	Ecuador	Quito	United States Dollar	USD (Adopted in 2000)
7	Guyana	Georgetown	Guyanese Dollar	GYD
8	Paraguay	Asunción	Paraguayan Guaraní	PYG
9	Peru	Lima	Peruvian Sol	PEN
10	Suriname	Paramaribo	Surinamese Dollar	SRD
11	Uruguay	Montevideo	Uruguayan Peso	UYU
12	Venezuela	Caracas	Venezuelan Bolívar Digital	VES (Suffers from hyperinflation)

### Dependent Territories

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Sr.	Territory	Sovereign State	Capital	Currency
13	French Guiana	France	Cayenne	Euro (EUR)
14	Falkland Islands	United Kingdom	Stanley	Falkland Islands Pound (FKP)
15	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	United Kingdom	King Edward Point (Admin.)	Falkland Islands Pound (FKP)

### Important Exceptions:

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1. **Two Capitals:** **Bolivia** is the most notable case, with **Sucre** as the constitutional capital and **La Paz** as the seat of government and administrative capital.
2. **Dollarization:** **Ecuador** does not have its own currency and has used the **US Dollar (USD)** as its official currency since the year 2000.
3. **Dependent Territory:** **French Guiana** is an overseas department of **France**, making it an integral part of the European Union. Its currency is the **Euro**.
4. **Currency Peg:** The **Falkland Islands Pound (FKP)** is pegged at a 1:1 value with the British Pound Sterling (GBP).
5. **Currency Instability:** **Venezuela** has experienced extreme hyperinflation and has undergone multiple currency redenominations. The current currency is the **Bolívar Digital**.

### Australia (Oceania)

This vast, island-scattered continent is the smallest by land area but the most widespread across the globe. It is dominated by the island nation of Australia, known for its unique wildlife and expansive Outback, and New Zealand, renowned for its dramatic fjords and Maori culture. The continent is organized into subregions: Melanesia (e.g., Fiji, Papua New Guinea), Micronesia (e.g., Kiribati), and Polynesia (e.g., Samoa, Tonga). It encompasses highly developed nations alongside smaller island states and territories whose lives are intimately connected to the Pacific Ocean.

### Australasia



Sr.	Country / Territory	Capital	Currency	Currency Code & Notes
1	Australia	Canberra	Australian Dollar	AUD
2	New Zealand	Wellington	New Zealand Dollar	NZD

## Melanesia

Sr.	Country / Territory	Capital	Currency	Currency Code & Notes
3	Fiji	Suva	Fiji Dollar	FJD
4	Papua New Guinea	Port Moresby	Papua New Guinean Kina	PGK
5	Solomon Islands	Honiara	Solomon Islands Dollar	SBD
6	Vanuatu	Port Vila	Vanuatu Vatu	VUV

## Micronesia

Sr.	Country / Territory	Capital	Currency	Currency Code & Notes
7	Federated States of Micronesia	Palikir	United States Dollar	USD
8	Guam (U.S. Territory)	Hagåtña	United States Dollar	USD
9	Kiribati	South Tarawa	Australian Dollar	AUD (Kiribati also has its own coinage)
10	Marshall Islands	Majuro	United States Dollar	USD

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11	Nauru	Yaren (De facto capital)	Australian Dollar	AUD
12	Northern Mariana Islands (U.S. Commonwealth)	Saipan	United States Dollar	USD
13	Palau	Ngerulmud	United States Dollar	USD

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## Polynesia

Sr.	Country / Territory	Capital	Currency	Currency Code & Notes
14	American Samoa (U.S. Territory)	Pago Pago	United States Dollar	USD
15	Cook Islands (In Free Association with NZ)	Avarua	New Zealand Dollar	NZD (Cook Islands also issues its own coins)
16	French Polynesia (France)	Papeete	CFP Franc	XPF
17	Niue (In Free Association with NZ)	Alofi	New Zealand Dollar	NZD
18	Samoa	Apia	Samoan Tālā	WST
19	Tonga	Nuku'alofa	Tongan Pa'anga	TOP
20	Tuvalu	Funafuti	Australian Dollar	AUD (Tuvalu also has its own coinage)

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### Important Exceptions:

1. **De Facto Capital:** Nauru, one of the world's smallest republics, does not have an official capital city. The government offices are located in the **Yaren** district, which is considered the de facto capital.



## 2. Use of Major Currencies:

- The **United States Dollar (USD)** is the official currency for several countries and territories in Micronesia due to historical associations and compact agreements with the U.S.
- The **Australian Dollar (AUD)** is used by **Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu**. These nations also issue their own collector coins, but the AUD is the circulating currency.
- The **New Zealand Dollar (NZD)** is used by the **Cook Islands** and **Niue**.

3. **Currency Union:** The **CFP Franc (XPF)** is used in the French overseas territories of **French Polynesia**, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna. It is pegged to the Euro.

4. **Political Status:** Many of the islands are not fully sovereign states. They are territories of the **United States** (e.g., Guam, American Samoa), in free association with **New Zealand** (Cook Islands, Niue), or part of **France** (French Polynesia).

### Antarctica

Antarctica has **no sovereign countries, no permanent civilian population**, and therefore **no official capitals**. It is governed by the **Antarctic Treaty System**, which sets the continent aside for peaceful scientific research.

Since there are no cities or traditional governments, the major **research stations** function as the primary human settlements. Similarly, there is **no official currency**. The currency used is that of the operating country or the US Dollar for international transactions.

Let's try to memorize it other way

### Phase 1: The Foundation

#### Group 1: South Asia & Immediate Neighbors

Country	Capital	Currency (Code)	IMPORTANT NOTES
<b>Pakistan</b>	Islamabad	Pakistani Rupee (PKR)	<b>Capital:</b> Purpose-built city (like Brasília, Canberra). <b>Currency:</b> Rupee.

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<b>India</b>	New Delhi	Indian Rupee (INR)	<b>Capital:</b> New Delhi is a district within the NCT of Delhi. <b>Currency:</b> Rupee (Code is INR, not to be confused with PKR).
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Dhaka	Bangladeshi Taka (BDT)	"Dhaka" is the capital. Currency is "Taka".
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte	Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR)	<b>TRICK: Commercial capital</b> is Colombo, but the <b>official administrative &amp; legislative capital</b> is Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte.
<b>Nepal</b>	Kathmandu	Nepalese Rupee (NPR)	<b>HQ</b> of SAARC is in Kathmandu.
<b>Bhutan</b>	Thimphu	Ngultrum (BTN)	Indian Rupee is also legal tender.
<b>Maldives</b>	Malé	Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR)	
<b>Afghanistan</b>	Kabul	Afghan Afghani (AFN)	Currency: Afghani (AFN).
<b>China</b>	Beijing	Renminbi (Yuan) (CNY)	<b>TRICK:</b> Currency has two names: <b>Renminbi</b> (the currency system) and <b>Yuan</b> (the unit). CNY is the code. A common question.
<b>Iran</b>	Tehran	Iranian Rial (IRR)	<b>Note:</b> In daily life, Iranians use "Toman" (1 Toman = 10 Rials), but the official currency is the <b>Rial</b> .

## Group 2: The Muslim World & Middle East



Country	Capital	Currency (Code)	IMPORTANT NOTES
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Riyadh	Saudi Riyal (SAR)	<b>HQ</b> of OIC is in <b>Jeddah</b> (not the capital). <b>GCC</b> member.
<b>Turkey</b>	Ankara	Turkish Lira (TRY)	<b>TRICK:</b> Capital is <b>Ankara</b> , not Istanbul. A classic question.
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	Abu Dhabi	UAE Dirham (AED)	<b>Capital:</b> Abu Dhabi (not Dubai). <b>GCC</b> member.
<b>Qatar</b>	Doha	Qatari Riyal (QAR)	<b>GCC</b> member.
<b>Kuwait</b>	Kuwait City	Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD)	<b>Currency:</b> The <b>Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD)</b> is the <b>highest-valued currency unit in the world</b> . A very frequent GK question.
<b>Oman</b>	Muscat	Omani Rial (OMR)	<b>GCC</b> member. Omani Rial is a high-value currency.
<b>Bahrain</b>	Manama	Bahraini Dinar (BHD)	<b>GCC</b> member.
<b>Malaysia</b>	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysian Ringgit (MYR)	<b>TRICK:</b> <b>Administrative capital</b> is Putrajaya, but the <b>official and royal capital</b> is Kuala Lumpur.
<b>Indonesia</b>	Jakarta	Indonesian Rupiah (IDR)	<b>Note:</b> Indonesia is planning to move its capital to <b>Nusantara</b> (on Borneo island) in the future.
<b>Egypt</b>	Cairo	Egyptian Pound (EGP)	<b>HQ</b> of the Arab League.

### Group 3: Major World Powers & Economic Hubs

Country	Capital	Currency (Code)	IMPORTANT NOTES
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<b>United States</b>	Washington D.C.	US Dollar (USD)	<b>Capital:</b> Washington D.C. (District of Columbia). <b>HQ</b> of World Bank and IMF.
<b>United Kingdom</b>	London	Pound Sterling (GBP)	<b>Currency:</b> Pound Sterling (£). Code is GBP (Great British Pound).
<b>Russia</b>	Moscow	Russian Ruble (RUB)	Largest country by area.
<b>Japan</b>	Tokyo	Japanese Yen (JPY)	Yen is a major world currency.
<b>Germany</b>	Berlin	Euro (EUR)	Largest economy in Europe. Part of the Eurozone.
<b>France</b>	Paris	Euro (EUR)	<b>HQ</b> of OECD and UNESCO.
<b>Canada</b>	Ottawa	Canadian Dollar (CAD)	<b>TRICK:</b> Capital is <b>Ottawa</b> , not Toronto or Vancouver.
<b>Australia</b>	Canberra	Australian Dollar (AUD)	<b>TRICK:</b> Capital is <b>Canberra</b> , a planned city, not Sydney or Melbourne.
<b>Brazil</b>	Brasília	Brazilian Real (BRL)	<b>TRICK:</b> Capital is <b>Brasília</b> , a planned city, not Rio de Janeiro or São Paulo.

## Phase 2: Mastering the Exceptions & Advanced Concepts

### Group 4: Special Administrative Capitals & Unique Cases

This group is dedicated to countries that do not have a single, simple capital city.

Country	Capitals & Their Roles	Currency (Code)	IMPORTANT NOTES
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>Three Capitals:</b> 1. <b>Pretoria</b> (Administrative) 2. <b>Cape Town</b> (Legislative) 3. <b>Bloemfontein</b> (Judicial)	South African Rand (ZAR)	<b>The most famous example.</b> If asked for "THE capital," the administrative (Pretoria) is often accepted,



			but be ready for any specific question.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>Two Capitals:</b> 1. <b>Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte</b> (Official Administrative & Legislative) 2. <b>Colombo</b> (Commercial <i>De Facto</i> )	Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR)	A very close second to South Africa in terms of importance
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Two Capitals:</b> 1. <b>Kuala Lumpur</b> (Official, Royal, and Legislative) 2. <b>Putrajaya</b> (Administrative and Judicial)	Malaysian Ringgit (MYR)	Putrajaya is the purpose-built federal administrative center.
<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>Two Capitals:</b> 1. <b>Amsterdam</b> (Constitutional Capital) 2. <b>The Hague</b> (Seat of Government, Parliament, and Supreme Court)	Euro (EUR)	<b>The Hague</b> is the real seat of power and also hosts the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
<b>Chile</b>	<b>Two Capitals:</b> 1. <b>Santiago</b> (Official Constitutional Capital) 2. <b>Valparaíso</b> (Seat of the National Congress)	Chilean Peso (CLP)	
<b>Bolivia</b>	<b>Two Capitals:</b> 1. <b>Sucre</b> (Constitutional Capital, seat of Judiciary) 2. <b>La Paz</b> (Administrative Capital, seat of Government)	Boliviano (BOB)	<b>La Paz</b> is the world's highest administrative capital.
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>De Facto Capital:</b> <b>Bern</b> (Seat of Government)	Swiss Franc (CHF)	<b>TRICK:</b> Switzerland has no <i>official</i> capital declared in its constitution. <b>Bern</b> is the de facto capital, not Zurich or Geneva.



<b>Ivory Coast</b> (Côte d'Ivoire)	<b>Two Capitals:</b> 1. <b>Yamoussoukro</b> (Official Political Capital) 2. <b>Abidjan</b> (Administrative Center & Former Capital)	West African CFA Franc (XOF)	
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### Group 5: Recent Changes & Planned Changes

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Country	Capital	Currency (Code)	IMPORTANT NOTES
<b>Eswatini</b>	Mbabane (Admin), Lobamba (Royal & Legislative)	Lilangeni (SZL)	<b>CRITICAL UPDATE:</b> The country changed its name from <b>Swaziland</b> to <b>Eswatini</b> in 2018.
<b>Turkey</b>	Ankara	Turkish Lira (TRY)	The UN recognized the country's name change to <b>Türkiye</b> in 2022. Be aware of both names.
<b>Myanmar</b>	Naypyidaw	Kyat (MMK)	<b>TRICK:</b> The capital was moved from <b>Yangon (Rangoon)</b> to the purpose-built city of <b>Naypyidaw</b> in 2005.
<b>Egypt</b>	Cairo (Currently)	Egyptian Pound (EGP)	<b>FUTURE UPDATE:</b> Egypt is building a <b>New Administrative Capital</b> east of Cairo. This is a potential current affairs question.
<b>Indonesia</b>	Jakarta (Currently)	Indonesian Rupiah (IDR)	<b>FUTURE UPDATE:</b> Planning to move the capital to <b>Nusantara</b> on the island of Borneo.

### Group 6: Important Geopolitical & Economic Groupings

Organization / Grouping	Headquarters / Key Capital	Member Countries (Examples) & Notes
<b>European Union (EU)</b>	<b>Brussels, Belgium</b>	<b>Key Members:</b> Germany, France, Italy, Spain, etc. <b>Currency:</b> Euro (EUR) is used by



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		the <b>Eurozone</b> members. <b>Note:</b> The UK is no longer a member (Brexit).
<b>United Nations (UN)</b>	<b>New York City, USA</b>	<b>Other Main Offices:</b> Geneva (Switzerland), Vienna (Austria), Nairobi (Kenya).
<b>North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)</b>	<b>Brussels, Belgium</b>	A political and military alliance.
<b>World Bank &amp; IMF</b>	<b>Washington D.C., USA</b>	Both are Bretton Woods Institutions.
<b>Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)</b>	<b>Jeddah, Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>Note:</b> The headquarters is in <b>Jeddah</b> , not the capital Riyadh.
<b>Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)</b>	<b>Riyadh, Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>Members:</b> Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain.
<b>SAARC</b>	<b>Kathmandu, Nepal</b>	<b>Members:</b> Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Afghanistan.
<b>BRICS</b>	(Rotating Presidency)	<b>Members:</b> Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa + (New from 2024): Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia. <b>Note:</b> A key economic bloc.

### Phase 3: Consolidation, Connections, and Application

#### Group 7: Mastering Currency Groupings & Codes

Grouping countries by currency name or type is a powerful way to memorize-

Currency Name / Type	Countries Using It (Examples)	Key Notes
<b>Dollar (Various Codes)</b>	USA (USD), Canada (CAD), Australia (AUD), New Zealand (NZD), Singapore (SGD), Taiwan	<b>Note:</b> "Dollar" is used by many, but the codes are different. Don't confuse AUD with CAD, etc.



	(TWD), Hong Kong (HKD), Namibia (NAD)	
<b>Euro (EUR)</b>	<b>Eurozone Members:</b> Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, Austria, Portugal, Greece, Finland, etc.	Not all EU members use the Euro (e.g., Poland, Hungary, Sweden use their own).
<b>Pound</b>	United Kingdom (GBP), Egypt (EGP), Sudan (SDG), Syria (SYP)	<b>GBP (Pound Sterling)</b> is the most important. Don't confuse the names.
<b>Franc</b>	<p><b>1. Swiss Franc (CHF):</b> Switzerland, Liechtenstein.</p> <p><b>2. CFA Franc:</b> Two different currencies!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>XOF (West African):</b> Used by Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Senegal, etc.</li> <li>- <b>XAF (Central African):</b> Used by Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, etc.</li> </ul>	The CFA Franc zones are a complex but potential question. Focus on knowing they exist and are used in Africa.
<b>Riyal/Rial</b>	Saudi Arabia (SAR), Qatar (QAR), Oman (OMR), Iran (IRR), Yemen (YER)	Spellings differ: Saudi, Qatari, Omani use <b>Riyal</b> ; Iran uses <b>Rial</b> .
<b>Dinar</b>	Kuwait (KWD), Bahrain (BHD), Jordan (JOD), Algeria (DZD), Tunisia (TND)	<b>Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD)</b> is the world's highest-valued currency unit.
<b>Rupee</b>	Pakistan (PKR), India (INR), Sri Lanka (LKR), Nepal (NPR), Mauritius (MUR), Seychelles (SCR)	Another important grouping. Codes are different.
<b>Ruble</b>	Russia (RUB), Belarus (BYN)	The Russian Ruble is the primary one to know.

## Practice MCQS - The World

1. What is the capital of France?

- A. Berlin
- B. Madrid
- C. Paris
- D. Rome

**Correct answer: Paris**

D. Montreal

**Correct answer: Ottawa**

7. What is the capital of India?

- A. Mumbai
- B. New Delhi
- C. Kolkata
- D. Chennai

**Correct answer: New Delhi**

8. What is the capital of China?

- A. Shanghai
- B. Beijing
- C. Guangzhou
- D. Shenzhen

**Correct answer: Beijing**

9. What is the capital of Russia?

- A. St. Petersburg
- B. Moscow
- C. Kiev
- D. Minsk

**Correct answer: Moscow**

10. What is the capital of South Africa?

- A. Cape Town
- B. Pretoria
- C. Johannesburg
- D. Bloemfontein

**Correct answer: Pretoria**

11. What is the capital of Egypt?

- A. Alexandria
- B. Cairo
- C. Giza
- D. Luxor

**Correct answer: Cairo**

12. What is the capital of Mexico?

- A. Guadalajara

**M** 2. What is the currency of Japan?

- A. Yen
- B. Won
- C. Yuan
- D. Dollar

**P** **Correct answer: Yen**

**R** 3. What is the capital of Germany?

- A. Vienna
- B. Bern
- C. Berlin
- D. Brussels

**P** **Correct answer: Berlin**

**A** 4. What is the capital of Australia?

- A. Sydney
- B. Melbourne
- C. Canberra
- D. Perth

**T** **Correct answer: Canberra**

**I** 5. What is the capital of Brazil?

- A. Rio de Janeiro
- B. São Paulo
- C. Brasília
- D. Buenos Aires

**O** **Correct answer: Brasília**

**N** 6. What is the capital of Canada?

- A. Toronto
- B. Vancouver
- C. Ottawa

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- B. Mexico City
- C. Monterrey
- D. Puebla

**Correct answer: Mexico City**

**13. What is the currency of the United Kingdom?**

- A. Euro
- B. Pound Sterling
- C. Dollar
- D. Franc

**Correct answer: Pound Sterling**

**14. What is the currency of Switzerland?**

- A. Euro
- B. Swiss Franc
- C. Lira
- D. Krone

**Correct answer: Swiss Franc**

**15. What is the currency of Saudi Arabia?**

- A. Dinar
- B. Riyal
- C. Dirham
- D. Pound

**Correct answer: Riyal**

**16. What is the currency of Turkey?**

- A. Lira
- B. Euro
- C. Pound
- D. Dinar

**Correct answer: Lira**

**17. What is the currency of South Korea?**

- A. Yen
- B. Won
- C. Yuan
- D. Dollar

**Correct answer: Won**

**18. What is the currency of Thailand?**

- A. Baht
- B. Ringgit
- C. Peso
- D. Dong

**Correct answer: Baht**

**19. What is the currency of Argentina?**

- A. Peso
- B. Dollar
- C. Real
- D. Boliviano

**Correct answer: Peso**

**20. What is the currency of Nigeria?**

- A. Cedi
- B. Naira
- C. Franc
- D. Pound

**Correct answer: Naira**

**21. What is the capital of Italy?**

- A. Milan
- B. Naples
- C. Rome
- D. Florence

**Correct answer: Rome**

**22. What is the capital of Spain?**

- A. Barcelona
- B. Valencia
- C. Seville
- D. Madrid

**Correct answer: Madrid**

**23. What is the capital of Portugal?**

- A. Porto
- B. Lisbon
- C. Coimbra

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D. Braga

**Correct answer: Lisbon**

**24. What is the capital of Greece?**

A. Thessaloniki

B. Athens

C. Patras

D. Heraklion

**M Correct answer: Athens**

**K 25. What is the capital of Netherlands?**

A. Rotterdam

B. The Hague

C. Amsterdam

D. Utrecht

**P Correct answer: Amsterdam**

**E 26. What is the capital of Belgium?**

A. Antwerp

B. Ghent

C. Brussels

D. Bruges

**A Correct answer: Brussels**

**R 27. What is the capital of Sweden?**

A. Gothenburg

B. Malmö

C. Stockholm

D. Uppsala

**A Correct answer: Stockholm**

**O 28. What is the capital of Norway?**

A. Bergen

B. Oslo

C. Trondheim

D. Stavanger

**S Correct answer: Oslo**

**29. What is the capital of Denmark?**

A. Aarhus

B. Copenhagen

C. Odense

D. Aalborg

**Correct answer: Copenhagen**

**30. What is the capital of Finland?**

A. Espoo

B. Tampere

C. Helsinki

D. Turku

**Correct answer: Helsinki**

**31. What is the currency of Sweden?**

A. Euro

B. Danish Krone

C. Norwegian Krone

D. Swedish Krona

**Correct answer: Swedish Krona**

**32. What is the currency of Norway?**

A. Euro

B. Danish Krone

C. Norwegian Krone

D. Swedish Krona

**Correct answer: Norwegian Krone**

**33. What is the currency of Denmark?**

A. Euro

B. Danish Krone

C. Norwegian Krone

D. Swedish Krona

**Correct answer: Danish Krone**

**34. What is the currency of Finland?**

A. Euro

B. Danish Krone

C. Norwegian Krone

D. Swedish Krona

**Correct answer: Euro**



**35. What is the currency of Italy?**

- A. Lira
- B. Euro
- C. Pound
- D. Franc

**Correct answer: Euro**

**36. What is the currency of Spain?**

- A. Peseta
- B. Euro
- C. Pound
- D. Franc

**Correct answer: Euro**

**37. What is the currency of Portugal?**

- A. Escudo
- B. Euro
- C. Pound
- D. Franc

**Correct answer: Euro**

**38. What is the currency of Greece?**

- A. Drachma
- B. Euro
- C. Pound
- D. Lira

**Correct answer: Euro**

**39. What is the capital of Argentina?**

- A. Buenos Aires
- B. Córdoba
- C. Rosario
- D. Mendoza

**Correct answer: Buenos Aires**

**40. What is the capital of Chile?**

- A. Valparaíso
- B. Santiago
- C. Concepción

D. Antofagasta

**Correct answer: Santiago**

**41. What is the capital of Peru?**

- A. Lima
- B. Arequipa
- C. Trujillo
- D. Cusco

**Correct answer: Lima**

**42. What is the capital of Colombia?**

- A. Medellín
- B. Bogotá
- C. Cali
- D. Barranquilla

**Correct answer: Bogotá**

**43. What is the capital of Venezuela?**

- A. Caracas
- B. Maracaibo
- C. Valencia
- D. Barquisimeto

**Correct answer: Caracas**

**44. What is the capital of Pakistan?**

- A. Karachi
- B. Lahore
- C. Islamabad
- D. Rawalpindi

**Correct answer: Islamabad**

**45. What is the capital of Bangladesh?**

- A. Chittagong
- B. Dhaka
- C. Khulna
- D. Rajshahi

**Correct answer: Dhaka**

**46. What is the capital of Nepal?**

- A. Pokhara

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- B. Kathmandu
- C. Lalitpur
- D. Bharatpur

**Correct answer: Kathmandu**

**47. What is the capital of Sri Lanka?**

- A. Colombo
- B. Kandy
- C. Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- D. Galle

**Correct answer: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte**

**48. What is the capital of Afghanistan?**

- A. Kandahar
- B. Herat
- C. Kabul

- D. Mazar-i-Sharif

**Correct answer: Kabul**

**49. What is the capital of Iran?**

- A. Tehran
- B. Mashhad
- C. Isfahan
- D. Tabriz

**Correct answer: Tehran**

**50. What is the capital of Iraq?**

- A. Basra
- B. Mosul
- C. Baghdad
- D. Erbil

**Correct answer: Baghdad**

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**PREPARATIONS**  
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# **COMPARATIVE WORLD GEOGRAPHY**

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## Comparative World Geography

### Understanding Nations Through Data

Studying countries through categorized rankings transforms abstract statistics into meaningful patterns. These lists reveal stories about human settlement, economic power, environmental adaptation, and cultural diversity. By comparing nations across specific metrics—from raw population size to unique geopolitical traits—we gain a multidimensional understanding of our world's organization, challenges, and interconnectedness.

These notes begin with the most fundamental metric: human population.

### Category 1: The 10 Most Populated Countries

This category highlights where humanity is concentrated. The rankings are dynamic, with significant shifts expected this decade. These nations collectively house over 60% of the world's population, making their policies, economies, and resource use globally influential.

Sr.	Country	Estimated Population (2024)	Capital	Notable Detail & Trend
1	<b>India</b>	~1.44 Billion	New Delhi	<b>Recently surpassed China</b> to become the world's most populous nation. Has a very young median age (~28 years).
2	<b>China</b>	~1.42 Billion	Beijing	Population has <b>peaked and begun to decline</b> due to decades of the One-Child Policy and changing demographics.
3	<b>United States</b>	~341 Million	Washington, D.C.	The <b>most populous developed nation</b> and the third-largest, with growth driven largely by immigration.
4	<b>Indonesia</b>	~279 Million	Jakarta	The <b>4th most populous</b> and the <b>largest Muslim-majority country</b> , with most people living on Java.

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				a <b>predominantly rural, agrarian population</b> living on mountainous terrain, with rapid urban growth in Kigali.
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**Summary Insight:** This list presents a stark contrast to the "Largest by Area" category. It is dominated by **microstates, city-states, islands, and small nations**. The key takeaway is that **high density is not inherently correlated with poverty or crisis**; it is managed with varying degrees of success, from the immense wealth and planning of Singapore to the profound challenges in Gaza. Bangladesh is the notable exception—a large, predominantly rural nation with an overall density that rivals many city-states.

#### Category 4: The 10 Least Densely Populated Countries

This category examines the opposite extreme of human settlement: vast territories where the population is small and scattered. Extremely low density typically results from a combination of **inhospitable environments**—such as deserts, Arctic tundra, dense rainforests, or remote islands—and, in some cases, very recent human colonization. These countries often possess **abundant natural resources** (minerals, oil, timber) relative to their population, but face significant challenges in providing infrastructure, connectivity, and services across great distances.

Sr.	Country	Density (people/km <sup>2</sup> )	Capital	Notable Detail & Context
1	<b>Mongolia</b>	~2.2	Ulaanbaatar	The <b>most sparsely populated sovereign country</b> in the world. Over a quarter of its population is nomadic or semi-nomadic, living on the vast steppes and the Gobi Desert.
2	<b>Namibia</b>	~3.2	Windhoek	Dominated by the <b>Namib and Kalahari Deserts</b> . Population is concentrated in a few urban centers and the more fertile north, leaving most of the country empty.
3	<b>Australia</b>	~3.4	Canberra	Despite being a highly urbanized nation (most live in coastal cities), its <b>massive interior (the Outback)</b> is extremely arid and virtually uninhabited, pulling the average density down dramatically.

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massive population. The gap between the U.S./China and the rest is substantial, indicating a bipolar economic world order.

### Category 8: Top 10 GDP per Capita (Standard of Living)

This category shifts focus from the total size of an economy to the **average economic output per person**, measured by **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita**. It is the primary metric used to gauge and compare **average standards of living, economic well-being, and prosperity** across nations. A high GDP per capita generally indicates greater access to goods and services, higher incomes, and more developed infrastructure for the average resident. It's crucial to note that this is an **average** and does not reflect how wealth is distributed within a country (income inequality).

The following table presents the **Top 10 by Nominal GDP per capita (2023/24 estimates)**, dominated by small, wealthy nations, financial hubs, and resource-rich states.

Sr.	Country / Territory	Nominal GDP per Capita (USD)	Key Drivers of Wealth	Notable Detail & Economic Profile
1	Luxembourg	~\$135,000	Global financial hub, investment funds, private banking, EU institutions.	A small, landlocked nation whose prosperity is built on a sophisticated financial sector, a stable political environment, and a highly skilled, multilingual workforce that attracts EU agencies and multinationals.
2	Ireland	~\$112,000	Multinational corporate tax domicile (tech & pharma HQs), exports, foreign direct investment.	Its remarkably high figure is partially distorted by the massive profits of multinational corporations (like Apple, Google) booked in Ireland but generated globally. However, it also reflects a genuine, strong domestic economy.

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## G20 Members (19 Countries + 2 Entities)

*Note: All G7 members are also in the G20.*

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Country	Capital	Regional/ Economic Bloc & Role
<b>Argentina</b>	Buenos Aires	Represents South America (alongside Brazil).
<b>Australia</b>	Canberra	Represents the developed economies of Oceania.
<b>Brazil</b>	Brasília	Major voice for Latin America and emerging economies.
<b>Canada</b>	Ottawa	(See G7)
<b>China</b>	Beijing	The group's largest economy by PPP; a central player on trade, debt, and climate.
<b>France</b>	Paris	(See G7)
<b>Germany</b>	Berlin	(See G7)
<b>India</b>	New Delhi	A leading voice for the Global South and developing nations.
<b>Indonesia</b>	Jakarta	Represents Southeast Asia and the Muslim-majority world.
<b>Italy</b>	Rome	(See G7)
<b>Japan</b>	Tokyo	(See G7)
<b>Mexico</b>	Mexico City	Bridges North and Latin America.
<b>Russia</b>	Moscow	Currently suspended from proceedings due to the war in Ukraine, but technically still a member.
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Riyadh	A leading voice for the Arab world and a major energy power.
<b>South Africa</b>	Pretoria	The sole African member, representing the continent.
<b>South Korea</b>	Seoul	An advanced Asian economy and technological power.



**Outlier Note: Monaco** has an extremely high median age (~55+), but this is heavily influenced by wealthy retirees migrating to the city-state, not just natural demographics.

### Lowest Median Age: The Youthful Nations

These countries are in the early or middle stages of the demographic transition. High fertility rates, driven by factors like limited access to education/contraception and cultural norms, create a broad-based population pyramid.

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### Top 10 Countries with the Lowest Median Age (Estimates 2024)

Rank	Country	Median Age	Key Drivers & Implications
1	<b>Niger</b>	~14.8 years	<b>The world's youngest population.</b> Has the highest fertility rate (~6.7 births per woman). Faces immense pressure to provide education, food, and future jobs.
2	<b>Uganda</b>	~15.7 years	A classic example of high fertility in East Africa. Over 75% of the population is under 30, offering a potential demographic dividend if jobs can be created.
3	<b>Angola</b>	~15.9 years	High fertility persists post-civil war. Youthfulness is an asset for reconstruction but a challenge for a resource-dependent economy needing diversification.
4	<b>Mali</b>	~16.0 years	High fertility rates and significant poverty contribute to its very young population and associated pressures on social systems.
5	<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>	~16.1 years	Enormous population size with very high fertility. The youth bulge is a source of both potential economic energy and instability if opportunities are lacking.

## Practice MCQs - Comparative World Geography

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1. Which country is currently the most populous in the world?

- A. China
- B. United States
- C. India
- D. Indonesia

**Correct answer: India**

2. What is the capital of Brazil?

- A. Buenos Aires
- B. Rio de Janeiro
- C. São Paulo
- D. Brasília

**Correct answer: Brasília**

3. Which country is the largest by land area?

- A. China
- B. Canada
- C. United States
- D. Russia

**Correct answer: Russia**

4. Which currency is used in Japan?

- A. Yuan
- B. Won
- C. Yen
- D. Dollar

**Correct answer: Yen**

5. What is the capital of South Africa?

- A. Pretoria (Administrative)
- B. Cape Town (Legislative)
- C. Bloemfontein (Judicial)
- D. All of the above

**Correct answer: All of the above**

6. Which country is the most densely populated sovereign state?

- A. Singapore
- B. Monaco
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Vatican City

**Correct answer: Monaco**

7. Which country is the most sparsely populated sovereign state?

- A. Australia
- B. Namibia
- C. Mongolia
- D. Canada

**Correct answer: Mongolia**

8. Russia shares land borders with how many countries?

- A. 10
- B. 12
- C. 14
- D. 16

**Correct answer: 14**

9. Which South American country borders every other nation on the continent except Chile and Ecuador?

- A. Argentina
- B. Colombia
- C. Peru
- D. Brazil

**Correct answer: Brazil**

10. Which of these is a doubly landlocked country?

- A. Uzbekistan
- B. Kazakhstan



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# **FAMOUS PLACES AROUND THE WORLD**

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## Famous Places around the World

### 1. The Great Wall of China

- **Location:** Northern China.
- **Key Objective Facts:**
  - Built over centuries, with the most famous sections built by the **Ming Dynasty (1368–1644 AD)**.
  - Primary purpose: **Defense against Mongol and other nomadic invasions.**
  - **Not visible from space with the naked eye** (a common myth).
  - **UNESCO World Heritage Site (1987).**
  - **Longest man-made structure** in the world (approx. 21,196 km).

### 2. The Taj Mahal, India

- **Location:** Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- **Key Objective Facts:**
  - Built by **Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan** in memory of his wife **Mumtaz Mahal**.
  - Construction Period: **1632 – 1653 AD.**
  - Architectural Style: **Mughal architecture** (a blend of Persian, Islamic, and Indian styles).
  - Made primarily of **white marble**.
  - **UNESCO World Heritage Site (1983).** A UNESCO World Heritage Site (1983).
  - Designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1983.

### 3. The Pyramids of Giza, Egypt

- **Location:** Giza Plateau, near Cairo, Egypt.
- **Key Objective Facts:**



- Purpose is debated (astronomical observatory, religious site, burial ground).
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site (1986).**

## 22. The Great Barrier Reef, Australia

- **Location:** Coral Sea, off the coast of Queensland, Australia.
- **Key Objective Facts:**
  - **World's largest coral reef system**, composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands.
  - Visible from space. It is the **world's biggest single structure made by living organisms** (coral polyps).
  - Extreme biodiversity: home to thousands of marine species.
  - **UNESCO World Heritage Site (1981).** Listed as "in danger" due to **climate change, coral bleaching, and pollution.**

## 23. Victoria Falls, Zambia/Zimbabwe

- **Location:** On the Zambezi River at the border between **Zambia** and **Zimbabwe** (Africa).
- **Key Objective Facts:**
  - Locally known as **Mosi-oa-Tunya** ("The Smoke That Thunders").
  - **World's largest sheet of falling water** (based on combined width of 1,708m and height of 108m).
  - Discovered for the Western world by **Scottish missionary and explorer David Livingstone** (1855), who named it after Queen Victoria.
  - **UNESCO World Heritage Site (1989)** - shared by both nations.

## 24. The Kremlin & Red Square, Russia

- **Location:** Moscow, Russia.
- **Key Objective Facts:**



- **Destroyed in c. 1200 CE** by an army under **Bakhtiyar Khalji**, a Turko-Afghan military general.
- The ruins are a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** (2016).
- A modern **Nalanda University** was re-established nearby in 2014.

#### 40. Panamá Canal, Panamá

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- **Location:** Isthmus of Panamá, Central America.
- **Key Objective Facts:**
  - An **artificial 82 km waterway** connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, revolutionizing global maritime trade.
  - First attempted by **France (led by Ferdinand de Lesseps)** in the 1880s but failed due to disease and engineering challenges.
  - Completed by the **United States (1904-1914)** after supporting Panamá's independence from Colombia.
  - Control was transferred from the US to **Panamá on December 31, 1999**, under the Torrijos–Carter Treaties.
  - Recently expanded in **2016** to allow for larger "Neopanamax" ships.

#### 41. The Grand Canyon, USA

- **Location:** Arizona, USA.
- **Key Objective Facts:**
  - Carved over millions of years by the **Colorado River**.
  - Notable for its **visually overwhelming size and intricate landscape** and its **horizontal strata** which serve as a visible geological timeline of Earth's history.
  - **Grand Canyon National Park** was established in **1919**. It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** (1979).
  - The **South Rim** is the most accessible and visited part.

- It represents the **pinnacle of classical Ottoman architecture.**

## 50. Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib), India

- **Location:** Amritsar, Punjab, India.
- **Key Objective Facts:**
  - The **holiest Gurudwara and spiritual center of Sikhism.**
  - Built in the **16th century** by Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh Guru. The **foundation stone was laid by Sufi saint Sai Mir Mian Mohammed.**
  - Key architectural features: **Gilded exterior**, surrounded by the **Amrit Sarovar (pool of nectar)**, with four entrances symbolizing openness to all.
  - It houses the **Guru Granth Sahib**, the Sikh scripture, and operates the world's largest **free community kitchen (Langar)**, serving thousands daily regardless of faith or background.

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## Comparative Table of 50 Famous World Landmarks

Sr.	Site Name	Location	Key Feature / Built By	Era / Built	Notable Fact
1	<b>Great Wall of China</b>	China	Longest man-made structure; defense wall	Ming Dynasty (most famous parts)	Myth: Not visible from space with naked eye.
2	<b>Taj Mahal</b>	Agra, India	Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan for Mumtaz Mahal	1632-1653 AD	Symbol of love; blend of Persian, Islamic, Indian styles.
3	<b>Pyramids of Giza</b>	Egypt	Tomb of Pharaoh Khufu (Great Pyramid)	c. 2560 BC (Old Kingdom)	Only surviving Ancient Wonder; tallest man-made

## Practice MCQs - Famous Places Around the World

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**1. Which of the following is the longest man-made structure in the world?**

- A. The Great Wall of China
- B. The Panama Canal
- C. The Great Pyramid of Giza
- D. The Colosseum

**Correct answer: The Great Wall of China**

**2. The Taj Mahal was built by which Mughal Emperor?**

- A. Akbar
- B. Aurangzeb
- C. Shah Jahan
- D. Babur

**Correct answer: Shah Jahan**

**3. The only surviving structure of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World is:**

- A. The Lighthouse of Alexandria
- B. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- C. The Statue of Zeus
- D. The Pyramids of Giza

**Correct answer: The Pyramids of Giza**

**4. What was the original name of the Colosseum in Rome?**

- A. Roman Arena
- B. Circus Maximus
- C. Flavian Amphitheatre
- D. Theatre of Pompey

**Correct answer: Flavian Amphitheatre**

**5. Machu Picchu is often referred to by what name?**

- A. The Sun City
- B. The Golden City
- C. The Lost City of the Incas

D. The Mountain Citadel

**Correct answer: The Lost City of the Incas**

**6. The Eiffel Tower was built for which event?**

- A. 1900 Summer Olympics
- B. 1889 Exposition Universelle (World's Fair)
- C. Coronation of Napoleon III
- D. Centennial of the French Republic

**Correct answer: 1889 Exposition Universelle (World's Fair)**

**7. The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the United States from which country?**

- A. United Kingdom
- B. France
- C. Italy
- D. Spain

**Correct answer: France**

**8. The ancient city of Petra in Jordan is famous for its architecture carved into what material?**

- A. Granite
- B. Limestone
- C. Sandstone
- D. Marble

**Correct answer: Sandstone**

**9. The design of the Sydney Opera House is meant to resemble:**

- A. Seashells
- B. Waves
- C. Sails
- D. Mountains

**Correct answer: Sails**



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# **WORLD ORGANIZATIONS**

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## World Organizations: United Nations System & Key Organs

### 1. UNITED NATIONS (UN) - MAIN BODY

#### Basic Identification & Origin

- **Full Name:** United Nations (UN)
- **Established:** 24 October 1945 (UN Charter came into force).
- **Preceded by:** League of Nations (1920–1946).
- **Headquarters:** New York City, USA.
- **Official Languages:** Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.
- **Founding Charter:** UN Charter, signed on 26 June 1945 in San Francisco.
- **Historical Context:** Founded after WWII to prevent future conflicts, maintain peace and security, and promote international cooperation.

#### Objectives & Functions

- **Primary Objectives (Preamble):**
  1. Maintain international peace and security.
  2. Develop friendly relations among nations.
  3. Achieve international cooperation.
  4. Be a centre for harmonizing actions of nations.
- **Key Functions:**
  - Peacekeeping and conflict prevention.
  - Humanitarian aid and disaster relief.
  - Promotion of human rights.
  - Sustainable development goals (SDGs).

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- **Key Engagement:** Active in commissions under ECOSOC, especially the **Commission on Population and Development** and **Commission on the Status of Women**. Presents its **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** on SDG progress at the HLPF.
- **Focus Areas:** Advocates for development financing, climate finance for vulnerable countries, and bridging digital divides.

## Recent Developments

- **Key 2024 Theme:** "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions."
- **2024 HLPF:** July 2024, New York.

Organization	Acronym	Established	Headquarters	Head/Lead
United Nations	UN	1945	New York, USA	Secretary-General: <b>António Guterres</b>
United Nations Security Council	UNSC	1945	New York, USA	Presidency rotates monthly
United Nations General Assembly	UNGA	1945	New York, USA	President elected annually
International Court of Justice	ICJ	1945	The Hague, Netherlands	President: <b>Nawaf Salam</b>
United Nations Economic and Social Council	ECOSOC	1945	New York, USA	President elected annually

## II. UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

### 1. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

#### Basic Identification & Origin

- **Full Name:** World Health Organization (WHO)
- **Established:** 7 April 1948 (constitution came into force).

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- Publish research (e.g., *World Employment and Social Outlook*).

## Membership & Governance

- **Members:** 187 Member States.
- **Governance:**
  - **International Labour Conference (ILC):** "World parliament of labour," meets annually.
  - **Governing Body:** 56 titular members (28 govt, 14 employer, 14 worker).
  - **Administrative Head: Director-General (DG)**
    - **Current (11th): Gilbert F. Hougbo** (Togo). Term: 2022-present.
  - **First DG:** Albert Thomas (France, 1919-1932).

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## Pakistan's Role & Relationship

- **Pakistan's Membership:** Joined on **14 August 1947** (the day of its independence).
- **Pakistan's Contribution/Engagement:**
  - Has ratified **37 ILO Conventions**, including the 8 Fundamental Conventions (e.g., on forced labour, child labour, discrimination).
  - Hosts ILO Country Office in Islamabad.
  - Collaborates on projects for skills development, occupational safety, elimination of child labour, and promoting social dialogue.
- **Key Issues/Pakistan's Stance:** Faces ILO scrutiny on issues of **forced labour**, **child labour** (especially in brick kilns and agriculture), and **freedom of association**. Regularly reviewed by ILO's Committee on Application of Standards.

## Recent Developments

- **Current Priorities:** Just transition to a green economy, future of work, social protection floors.
- **Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work (2019).**



• **Pakistan's Contribution/Engagement:**

- **Frequent Borrower:** Pakistan has been a recurrent user of IMF resources, with **23 completed programs** (as of 2024). This reflects chronic balance of payments issues.
- **Current Program:** A **\$3 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA)** was approved in July 2023 and successfully completed in April 2024. Negotiations for a new, larger **Extended Fund Facility (EFF)** are ongoing.
- **Quota and Voting Share:** Pakistan's quota is 0.43%, giving it a proportionally small voice. It is part of the **Constituency represented by Afghanistan** in the Executive Board.

- **Key Issues:** IMF programs in Pakistan typically involve conditions on fiscal consolidation (tax reforms, subsidy reductions), energy sector reforms, privatization, and monetary policy tightening.

**Recent Developments**

- **Current Priorities:** Global inflation, debt vulnerabilities, climate change financing, reviewing surcharges on large loans.
- **Key Reports:** *World Economic Outlook (WEO)* (twice yearly), *Global Financial Stability Report*.

Organization	Acronym	Established	Headquarters	Head/Lead
World Health Organization	WHO	1948	Geneva, Switzerland	DG: <b>Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus</b>
Food and Agriculture Organization	FAO	1945	Rome, Italy	DG: <b>Dr. Qu Dongyu</b>
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UNESCO	1945	Paris, France	DG: <b>Audrey Azoulay</b>



<b>United Nations Development Programme</b>	UNDP	1965	New York, USA	Administrator: <b>Achim Steiner</b>
<b>United Nations Children's Fund</b>	UNICEF	1946	New York, USA	Executive Director: <b>Catherine M. Russell</b>
<b>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</b>	UNHCR	1950	Geneva, Switzerland	High Commissioner: <b>Filippo Grandi</b>
<b>United Nations Environment Programme</b>	UNEP	1972	Nairobi, Kenya	Executive Director: <b>Inger Andersen</b>
<b>World Food Programme</b>	WFP	1961	Rome, Italy	Executive Director: <b>Cindy McCain</b>

#### IV. FINANCIAL & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS

##### 1. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

###### Basic Identification & Origin

- **Full Name:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- **Established:** 19 December 1966 (began operations in 1967).
- **Headquarters:** Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- **Founding Purpose:** To foster economic growth and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Membership:** 68 members (49 from Asia-Pacific, 19 from outside).

###### Objectives & Functions

- **Primary Objective:** To promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific.
- **Key Functions:**
  - Provides loans, technical assistance, and grants for development projects.



## Governance Structure

- **Members:** 73 members from 5 continents (including the EU and the EIB).
- **Board of Governors:** Ultimate authority.
- **Board of Directors:** 23 directors representing members.
- **Administrative Head: President**
  - **Current (5th): Odile Renaud-Basso** (France). Term: 2020-present (First female president).
  - **First President:** Jacques Attali (France, 1991-1993).

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## Pakistan's Role & Relationship

- **Pakistan's Membership: Not a member.** The EBRD's geographical mandate initially covered Central and Eastern Europe, but has expanded to include the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) region and Central Asia. **Pakistan is outside its current countries of operations.**
- **Pakistan's Engagement:** Minimal to none. Pakistan's potential engagement would require a decision by the Bank's shareholders to extend operations to Pakistan, which has not occurred.

## Recent Developments

- **Current Priorities:** Supporting Ukraine's real economy, green transition (over 50% of investments are green), digitalization, and inclusion.
- **Geographical Expansion:** Now operates in over 30 economies across three continents (Europe, Asia, Africa).

Organization	Acronym	Established	Headquarters
Asian Development Bank	ADB	1966	Manila, Philippines

- **Accession Talks:** Several countries are in accession discussions (e.g., Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Peru, Romania).

### 3. G20, G7, BRICS

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Grouping	Full Name & Origin	Members	Key Objectives & Functions	Recent Developments & Leadership (2024/25)
G20	<b>Group of Twenty</b> Established: 1999 (Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors), elevated to Leader level in 2008 after the financial crisis.	19 countries + European Union. Members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, UK, USA, EU.	- Premier forum for international economic cooperation. - Addresses global economic and financial issues, climate change, sustainable development, health, etc. - Decisions are non-binding but influential.	<b>2024</b> <b>Presidency:</b> Brazil. Theme: "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet." <b>2025</b> <b>Presidency:</b> South Africa.
G7	<b>Group of Seven</b> Origins: 1975 as G6 (France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA), Canada joined in 1976. EU is a non-enumerated member.	Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA. EU participates.	- Informal forum of advanced economies to coordinate global economic policy, security, and foreign policy. - Addresses geopolitical challenges,	<b>2024</b> <b>Presidency:</b> Italy. Summit held in Apulia (June 2024). Focus on Africa, migration, Indo-Pacific, AI. <b>2025</b> <b>Presidency:</b> Canada.



- **Current Priorities:** Regional security (especially Afghanistan), connectivity, digital economy, alternative financial systems (reducing dependence on USD), and energy cooperation.
- **2023 Expansion:** Iran became a full member at the New Delhi Virtual Summit (hosted by India).
- **Belarus** is on track to become the 10th full member in 2024.

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Organization	Acronym	Established	Headquarters	Head/Lead
North Atlantic Treaty Organization	NATO	1949	Brussels, Belgium	Secretary-General: <b>Jens Stoltenberg</b> (until Oct 2024)
European Union	EU	1993	Brussels, Belgium	Commission President: <b>Ursula von der Leyen</b>
African Union	AU	2002	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Chairperson of Commission: <b>Moussa Faki Mahamat</b>
Association of Southeast Asian Nations	ASEAN	1967	Jakarta, Indonesia	Secretary-General: <b>Dr. Kao Kim Hourn</b>
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation	SAARC	1985	Kathmandu, Nepal	Secretary-General: <b>Golam Sarwar</b>
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation	SCO	2001	Beijing, China (Secretariat)	Secretary-General: <b>Zhang Ming</b>

## VII. ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CONVENTIONS

### 1. UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

<b>77th Session</b>	Sep 2022 - Sep 2023	New York, USA	<b>Csaba Kőrösi</b> (Hungary)	"A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges" • Focus on water sustainability • Emergency special session on Ukraine
<b>76th Session</b>	Sep 2021 - Sep 2022	New York, USA	<b>Abdulla Shahid</b> (Maldives)	"Building resilience through hope" • High-level meeting on 20th anniversary of Durban Declaration • Focus on pandemic recovery
<b>75th Session</b>	Sep 2020 - Sep 2021	Hybrid (NY/Virtual)	<b>Volkan Bozkır</b> (Turkey)	"The future we want, the UN we need" • 75th anniversary of UN • High-level meeting on COVID-19
<b>74th Session</b>	Sep 2019 - Sep 2020	New York, USA	<b>Tijjani Muhammad-Bande</b> (Nigeria)	"Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion" • Climate Action Summit • High-level dialogue on financing for development

## 2. G20 SUMMITS

Summit	Date	Location	Host Country	Key Outcomes
<b>G20 New Delhi Summit</b>	Sep 9-10, 2023	New Delhi, India	India	Adoption of <b>New Delhi Leaders' Declaration</b> • Inclusion of African Union as permanent member • Global Biofuels Alliance • Consensus on Ukraine paragraph
<b>G20 Bali Summit</b>	Nov 15-16, 2022	Bali, Indonesia	Indonesia	<b>G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration</b> • Strong condemnation of war in Ukraine • Commitment to 1.5°C climate goal • Pandemic Fund established



## Practice MCQs - The World Organizations

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1. Which organ of the United Nations has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security?

A. The General Assembly  
B. The Economic and Social Council  
C. The Secretariat  
D. The Security Council

**Correct answer: The Security Council**

2. How many permanent members are there in the United Nations Security Council?

A. 5  
B. 10  
C. 15  
D. 20

**Correct answer: 5**

3. Which UN principal organ serves as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative body of the United Nations?

A. The Security Council  
B. The International Court of Justice  
C. The General Assembly  
D. The Trusteeship Council

**Correct answer: The General Assembly**

4. Which article of the UN Charter establishes the International Court of Justice as the principal judicial organ?

A. Article 1  
B. Article 7

C. Article 92

D. Article 100

**Correct answer: Article 92**

5. The day-to-day work of the United Nations is administered by its international staff, which forms part of which principal organ?

A. The General Assembly  
B. The Security Council  
C. The Secretariat  
D. The Economic and Social Council

**Correct answer: The Secretariat**

6. Which UN body is responsible for coordinating the economic, social, and related work of the 15 UN specialized agencies?

A. The Security Council  
B. The General Assembly  
C. The International Court of Justice  
D. The Economic and Social Council

**Correct answer: The Economic and Social Council**

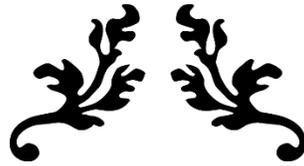
7. Where are the permanent headquarters of the International Court of Justice located?

A. New York, USA  
B. Geneva, Switzerland  
C. The Hague, Netherlands  
D. Vienna, Austria

**Correct answer: The Hague, Netherlands**

8. What is the term length for a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council?

A. 1 year



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## **RELIGIONS OF WORLD**

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## World Religions

### 1. Christianity

- **Founder: Jesus Christ** (c. 4 BC - c. 30/33 AD).
- **Holy Book:** The **Bible**, consisting of the **Old Testament** and the **New Testament**.
- **Core Belief:** Salvation through faith in **Jesus Christ** as the Son of God and his resurrection.
- **Major Sects/Denominations:**
  - **Catholicism** (Head: The Pope in Vatican City).
  - **Eastern Orthodoxy** (Patriarchs in various ancient sees).
  - **Protestantism** (Lutheranism, Calvinism, Anglican Communion, Baptists, etc.).
- **Place of Worship:** Church, Chapel, Cathedral.
- **Key Festivals:** **Christmas** (Birth of Jesus), **Easter** (Resurrection of Jesus).
- **Symbol:** The Cross.
- **World Population:** ~2.4 billion (Largest religion). **Major Countries:** USA, Brazil, Russia, Philippines, across Europe & Americas.

### 2. Islam

- **Founder: Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)** (570–632 AD) in Mecca.
- **Holy Book:** The **Qur'an** (revealed in Arabic). **Hadith** are collections of the Prophet's sayings and actions.
- **Core Belief:** Monotheism (**Tawhid**). "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger." Follow **Five Pillars**.
- **Major Sects:**
  - **Sunni** (~85-90% of Muslims). Succession after Prophet: Chosen Caliph.

- **Key Concepts:** Asha (truth/order), good thoughts, good words, good deeds. Fire is a sacred symbol of purity.
- **Place of Worship:** Fire Temple.
- **Disposal of Dead: Towers of Silence** (Dakhma), where bodies are exposed to the elements.
- **World Population:** ~200,000. **Major Communities: India** (Parsis in Mumbai, Gujarat), Iran, diaspora.

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Religion	Founder	Holy Book(s)	Core Belief / Goal	Place of Worship	Major Festival
Christianity	Jesus Christ	Bible (Old & New Testament)	Salvation through Christ	Church	Christmas, Easter
Islam	Prophet Muhammad	Qur'an, Hadith	Monotheism, Five Pillars	Mosque	Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha
Hinduism	No single founder	Vedas, Upanishads, Gita	Dharma, Karma, Moksha	Temple (Mandir)	Diwali, Holi
Buddhism	Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)	Tripitaka	Four Noble Truths, Nirvana	Temple, Stupa	Vesak / Buddha Purnima
Sikhism	Guru Nanak Dev	Guru Granth Sahib	Monotheism, Equality, Seva	Gurdwara	Guru Nanak Jayanti, Vaisakhi
Judaism	Abraham (Patriarch)	Tanakh (Torah), Talmud	Covenant with God	Synagogue	Passover, Yom Kippur
Jainism	Mahavira	Agamas	Ahimsa, Liberation of Soul	Derasar	Mahavir Jayanti, Paryushan
Zoroastrianism	Prophet Zoroaster	Avesta (Gathas)	Cosmic Dualism (Good vs Evil)	Fire Temple	Nowruz (New Year)

## Practice MCQs- World Religions

1. Which religion is the largest in the world by number of adherents?

- A. Islam
- B. Hinduism
- C. Christianity
- D. Buddhism

**Correct answer: Christianity**

2. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the founder of Islam, was born in which city?

- A. Medina
- B. Jerusalem
- C. Mecca
- D. Baghdad

**Correct answer: Mecca**

3. What is the holy book of Sikhism called?

- A. The Vedas
- B. The Granth Sahib
- C. The Guru Granth Sahib
- D. The Adi Granth

**Correct answer: The Guru Granth Sahib**

4. In which religion are the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path central teachings?

- A. Jainism
- B. Buddhism
- C. Hinduism
- D. Taoism

**Correct answer: Buddhism**

5. The festival of Diwali is most prominently celebrated by followers of

which religion?

- A. Sikhism
- B. Jainism
- C. Hinduism
- D. Buddhism

**Correct answer: Hinduism**

6. Which of the following is one of the Five Pillars of Islam?

- A. Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj)
- B. Reading the Torah
- C. Belief in reincarnation
- D. Baptism

**Correct answer: Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj)**

7. The Torah is the central reference of the religious Judaic tradition. What does it consist of?

- A. The Psalms and Proverbs
- B. The first five books of the Hebrew Bible
- C. The teachings of the prophets
- D. The Talmudic commentaries

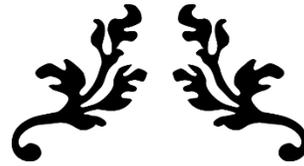
**Correct answer: The first five books of the Hebrew Bible**

8. The principle of "Ahimsa," or non-violence towards all living beings, is most strongly emphasized in which religion?

- A. Zoroastrianism
- B. Sikhism
- C. Jainism
- D. Shinto

**Correct answer: Jainism**

9. Which religion follows the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev?



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# **NOBEL PRIZE**

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## Nobel Prize

### I. INTRODUCTION & KEY FACTS

- **Founder:** Alfred Nobel (1833-1896) - Swedish chemist, engineer, inventor (Dynamite).
- **Will Signed:** 27 November 1895 in Paris.
- **First Award Year:** 1901 (Prizes first awarded on 10 December 1901, the 5th death anniversary of Alfred Nobel).
- **Categories (6):** Physics, Chemistry, Physiology/Medicine, Literature, Peace, **Economic Sciences** (added in 1968).
- **Awarding Bodies & Location:**
  - **Physics, Chemistry, Economic Sciences:** Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (Stockholm)
  - **Physiology/Medicine:** The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet (Stockholm)
  - **Literature:** Swedish Academy (Stockholm)
  - **Peace:** Norwegian Nobel Committee (awarded in **Oslo, Norway**)
- **Not Awarded Posthumously:** With rare exceptions (e.g., **Dag Hammarskjöld**, Peace 1961; **Erik Axel Karlfeldt**, Literature 1931; **Ralph M. Steinman**, Medicine 2011 - awarded unaware of his death).
- **Prize Components:** Gold Medal, Diploma, Monetary Award (can be split among up to 3 recipients per category).

### II. CATEGORY-WISE DETAILED NOTES

#### 1. PHYSICS

- **First Winner (1901):** Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (Germany) – "Discovery of X-rays".
- **Key Indian Winner:** Sir C.V. Raman (1930) – "Scattering of light and discovery of the Raman Effect". (First Asian in Science Nobel).

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- **Recent Winner (2023): Claudia Goldin (USA)** – "For having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes." (Only 3rd woman to win).

### III. INDIAN & SOUTH ASIAN NOBEL LAUREATES

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Name	Category	Year	Contribution (Brief)	Key Fact
<b>Rabindranath Tagore</b>	Literature	1913	<i>Geetanjali</i> (poetry)	First Asian/Non-European in Literature. Knighted but renounced after Jallianwala Bagh.
<b>C.V. Raman</b>	Physics	1930	Raman Effect (light scattering)	First Asian in Sciences. Founded <i>Indian Journal of Physics</i> .
<b>Har Gobind Khorana</b>	Medicine	1968	Interpretation of genetic code	Indian-born, US citizen. Shared prize.
<b>Mother Teresa</b>	Peace	1979	Charity work in Calcutta	Albanian-born, Indian citizen. Canonized as St. Teresa.
<b>Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar</b>	Physics	1983	Structure & evolution of stars (Chandrasekhar Limit)	Indian-born, US citizen. Nephew of C.V. Raman.
<b>Amartya Sen</b>	Economic Sciences	1998	Welfare economics & social choice theory	First Asian in Economic Sciences.
<b>Venkatraman Ramakrishnan</b>	Chemistry	2009	Structure & function of ribosome	US/UK citizen of Indian origin.
<b>Kailash Satyarthi</b>	Peace	2014	Child rights & education	Shared with Malala Yousafzai.
<b>Abhijit Banerjee</b>	Economic Sciences	2019	Experimental approach to alleviating global poverty	Shared with Esther Duflo (spouse) & Michael Kremer. Indian-born, US citizen.
<b>Ronald Ross (UK, born India)</b>	Medicine	1902	Malaria transmission	Born in Almora, India.

## Practice MCQs - Nobel Prize

**1. Who was the first recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1901?**

- A. Albert Einstein
- B. Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen
- C. Marie Curie
- D. Niels Bohr

**Correct answer: Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen**

**2. In which field did Marie Curie win her first Nobel Prize in 1903?**

- A. Chemistry
- B. Physics
- C. Physiology or Medicine
- D. Peace

**Correct answer: Physics**

**3. Which Nobel Prize category was established in 1968 and is officially called the "Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel"?**

- A. Nobel Prize in Social Sciences
- B. Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences
- C. Nobel Prize in Economics
- D. Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences

**Correct answer: Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences**

**4. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?**

- A. Mother Teresa
- B. Bertha von Suttner
- C. Marie Curie

D. Selma Lagerlöf

**Correct answer: Marie Curie**

**5. The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in which city?**

- A. Stockholm, Sweden
- B. Oslo, Norway
- C. Geneva, Switzerland
- D. Copenhagen, Denmark

**Correct answer: Oslo, Norway**

**6. Which Indian poet won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913?**

- A. Sarojini Naidu
- B. Rabindranath Tagore
- C. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
- D. Mirza Ghalib

**Correct answer: Rabindranath Tagore**

**7. Who is the only person to have won Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields?**

- A. John Bardeen
- B. Frederick Sanger
- C. Linus Pauling
- D. Marie Curie

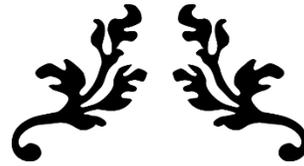
**Correct answer: Marie Curie**

**8. Which organization has won the Nobel Peace Prize three times?**

- A. United Nations
- B. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- C. Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières)
- D. UNICEF

**Correct answer: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**

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# **INTERNATIONAL OBSERVANCES**

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## International Observances

### I. PEACE, SECURITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

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Date	Name of Observance	Established (Year)	2024/2025 Theme
21 September	International Day of Peace	UNGA (1981)	2024: "Cultivating a Culture of Peace" 2025: TBA
10 December	Human Rights Day	UNGA (1950)	2024: "Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All" 2025: TBA
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day	UNGA (2003)	2024: "Uniting the World Against Corruption" 2025: TBA
2 October	International Day of Non-Violence	UNGA (2007)	2024/2025: Same name
20 February	World Day of Social Justice	UNGA (2007)	2024: "Global Coalition for Social Justice: Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances" 2025: TBA
30 July	International Day of Friendship	UNGA (2011)	No annual theme
23 August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	UNESCO (1998)	No annual theme
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	UNGA (1999)	2024: "UNiTE! Invest to Prevent Violence against Women & Girls!" 2025: TBA
1 December	World AIDS Day	WHO (1988)	2024: "Let Communities Lead" 2025: TBA



<b>3 December</b>	<b>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</b>	UNGA (1992)	2024: "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities" 2025: TBA
<b>20 March</b>	<b>International Day of Happiness</b>	UNGA (2012)	2024/2025: "Be Mindful. Be Grateful. Be Kind."

### M III. ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE & NATURE

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of Observance</b>	<b>Established (Year)</b>	<b>2024/2025 Theme</b>
<b>5 June</b>	<b>World Environment Day</b>	UNGA (1972)	2024: "Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience" 2025: TBA
<b>22 April</b>	<b>International Mother Earth Day</b>	UNGA (2009)	2024: "Planet vs. Plastics" 2025: TBA
<b>22 May</b>	<b>International Day for Biological Diversity</b>	UNGA (1993)	2024: "Be part of the Plan" 2025: TBA
<b>17 June</b>	<b>World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought</b>	UNGA (1994)	2024: "United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future." 2025: TBA
<b>16 September</b>	<b>International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer</b>	UNGA (1994)	2024/2025: Same name
<b>3 March</b>	<b>World Wildlife Day</b>	UNGA (2013)	2024: "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation" 2025: TBA
<b>21 March</b>	<b>International Day of Forests</b>	UNGA (2012)	2024: "Forests and Innovation" 2025: TBA
<b>23 March</b>	<b>World Meteorological Day</b>	WMO (1950)	2024: "At the frontline of climate action" 2025: TBA



<b>UN Decade of Family Farming</b>	2019-2028	Support family farmers.	FAO/IFAD	To eradicate poverty and hunger.
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## VIII. INDIA-SPECIFIC LINKAGES

- 21 June - International Day of Yoga:** UNGA (2014). Proposed by India (PM Modi). 2024 Theme: "Yoga for Self and Society".
- 2 October - International Day of Non-Violence:** Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.
- International Year of Millets (2023):** Proposed by India.
- 21 February - International Mother Language Day:** Based on Bangladesh's proposal, but relevant to India's linguistic diversity.
- International Solar Alliance:** While not a UN day, ISA's founding day (30 Nov) is often linked.

## VIII. TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE & INNOVATION

Date	Name of Observance	Established (Year)	2024/2025 Theme
11 February	<b>International Day of Women and Girls in Science</b>	UNGA (2015)	2024: "Women in Science Leadership: A New Era for Sustainability" 2025: TBA
13 February	<b>World Radio Day</b>	UNESCO (2011)	2024: "Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating" 2025: TBA
21 March	<b>World Poetry Day</b>	UNESCO (1999)	No annual theme
20 May	<b>World Bee Day</b>	UNGA (2017)	2024: "Bee engaged with Youth" 2025: TBA
16 May	<b>International Day of Light</b>	UNESCO (2017)	2024: "Light in Our Lives" 2025: TBA



- 11: International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 13: World Radio Day
- 20: World Day of Social Justice
- 21: International Mother Language Day

## MARCH

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- 1: Zero Discrimination Day (UNAIDS)
- 3: World Wildlife Day
- 8: International Women's Day
- 15: World Consumer Rights Day (Non-UN)
- 20: International Day of Happiness
- 21: International Day of Forests, World Poetry Day, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 22: World Water Day
- 23: World Meteorological Day
- 24: World Tuberculosis Day

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## APRIL

- 2: World Autism Awareness Day
- 5: International Day of Conscience
- 7: World Health Day
- 12: International Day of Human Space Flight
- 18: International Day for Monuments and Sites
- 21: World Creativity and Innovation Day
- 22: International Mother Earth Day



## Practice MCQs - World Observances

1. When is World Health Day observed annually?

- A. April 5
- B. April 7
- C. April 22
- D. June 5

**Correct answer: April 7**

2. International Day of Non-Violence is observed on October 2 to mark the birthday of which leader?

- A. Nelson Mandela
- B. Martin Luther King Jr.
- C. Mahatma Gandhi
- D. Dalai Lama

**Correct answer: Mahatma Gandhi**

3. Which day, observed on June 5, is known as the "People's Day" for environmental action?

- A. Earth Day
- B. World Environment Day
- C. International Day of Forests
- D. World Wildlife Day

**Correct answer: World Environment Day**

4. International Women's Day is celebrated on which date?

- A. March 8
- B. March 21
- C. April 4
- D. May 8

**Correct answer: March 8**

5. The International Day of Yoga was established by the UNGA and is

celebrated on which date?

- A. June 21
- B. July 21
- C. May 21
- D. April 21

**Correct answer: June 21**

6. World AIDS Day, observed on December 1, was the first ever global health day. In which year was it first observed?

- A. 1985
- B. 1988
- C. 1990
- D. 1992

**Correct answer: 1988**

7. Which international day is observed on September 21 and is also the start of the UN General Assembly session?

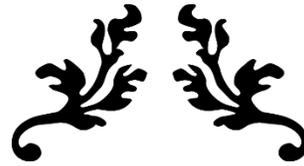
- A. International Day of Democracy
- B. International Day of Peace
- C. International Day of Happiness
- D. International Day of Friendship

**Correct answer: International Day of Peace**

8. Human Rights Day is observed on December 10 to commemorate the adoption of which document?

- A. UN Charter
- B. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- C. Geneva Conventions
- D. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

**Correct answer: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**



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## **FAMOUS BOOKS & AUTHORS**

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## Famous Books & Authors

Here is a comprehensive table of world-renowned books and their authors, categorized for systematic study, with emphasis on Nobel laureates, foundational texts, and frequently referenced works in competitive exams.

### I. CLASSICS & FOUNDATIONAL LITERATURE

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Book Title	Author	Author's Nationality	Published	Key Facts
<b>The Iliad &amp; The Odyssey</b>	Homer	Ancient Greek	c. 8th century BC	Epic poems; foundation of Western literature.
<b>The Republic</b>	Plato	Ancient Greek	c. 375 BC	Philosophical dialogue on justice, order, and the ideal state.
<b>Divine Comedy</b>	Dante Alighieri	Italian	1320	Epic poem: Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso. Foundation of Italian language.
<b>Don Quixote</b>	Miguel de Cervantes	Spanish	1605 (Part 1)	Often called the first modern novel.
<b>Hamlet</b>	William Shakespeare	English	c. 1600	Famous tragedy; "To be, or not to be" soliloquy.
<b>Paradise Lost</b>	John Milton	English	1667	Epic poem on the biblical Fall of Man (Satan, Adam & Eve).
<b>Robinson Crusoe</b>	Daniel Defoe	English	1719	Considered one of the first English novels.
<b>Gulliver's Travels</b>	Jonathan Swift	Anglo-Irish	1726	Satire on human nature and travel narratives.

Book Title	Author	Author's Details	Published	Key Facts
<b>Gitanjali</b>	Rabindranath Tagore	Indian (Bengali)	1910	Collection of poems; won him the <b>Nobel Prize in Literature (1913)</b> .
<b>The God of Small Things</b>	Arundhati Roy	Indian	1997	Booker Prize winner (1997). Set in Kerala.
<b>Midnight's Children</b>	Salman Rushdie	Indian-British	1981	Booker Prize (1981), Booker of Bookers (1993), Best of Booker (2008). Magical realism, post-colonial India.
<b>Malgudi Days</b>	R.K. Narayan	Indian	1943	Fictional South Indian town of Malgudi.
<b>The Guide</b>	R.K. Narayan	Indian	1958	Sahitya Akademi Award (1960). Story of a tourist guide.
<b>Train to Pakistan</b>	Khushwant Singh	Indian	1956	Historical novel on Partition of India.
<b>The Room on the Roof</b>	Ruskin Bond	Indian (British descent)	1956	John Llewellyn Rhys Prize (1957). Set in Dehradun.
<b>A Suitable Boy</b>	Vikram Seth	Indian	1993	One of the longest novels in English.
<b>The White Tiger</b>	Aravind Adiga	Indian-Australian	2008	Booker Prize winner (2008). Satire on Indian class struggle.
<b>Interpreter of Maladies</b>	Jhumpa Lahiri	Indian-American	1999	Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (2000). Short story collection.



## Famous Books and Authors

1. **Who is the author of the epic ancient Greek poem "The Odyssey"?**

A. Virgil  
B. Sophocles  
C. Homer  
D. Plato

**Correct answer: Homer**

2. **Which author wrote the novel "Pride and Prejudice"?**

A. Charlotte Brontë  
B. George Eliot  
C. Jane Austen  
D. Emily Brontë

**Correct answer: Jane Austen**

3. **Who wrote the dystopian novel "1984"?**

A. Aldous Huxley  
B. George Orwell  
C. Ray Bradbury  
D. H.G. Wells

**Correct answer: George Orwell**

4. **"Moby-Dick," a novel about Captain Ahab's hunt for a white whale, was written by which American author?**

A. Nathaniel Hawthorne  
B. Herman Melville  
C. Edgar Allan Poe  
D. Mark Twain

**Correct answer: Herman Melville**

5. **Who is the author of the magical realism classic "One Hundred**

**Years of Solitude"?**

A. Pablo Neruda  
B. Isabel Allende  
C. Gabriel García Márquez  
D. Jorge Luis Borges

**Correct answer: Gabriel García Márquez**

6. **Which Russian author wrote the philosophical novel "Crime and Punishment"?**

A. Leo Tolstoy  
B. Anton Chekhov  
C. Ivan Turgenev  
D. Fyodor Dostoevsky

**Correct answer: Fyodor Dostoevsky**

7. **Who created the wizarding world in the "Harry Potter" series?**

A. J.R.R. Tolkien  
B. C.S. Lewis  
C. J.K. Rowling  
D. Philip Pullman

**Correct answer: J.K. Rowling**

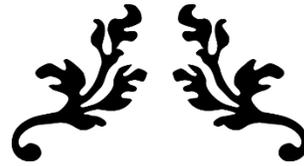
8. **Which American author penned "The Great Gatsby"?**

A. Ernest Hemingway  
B. F. Scott Fitzgerald  
C. John Steinbeck  
D. William Faulkner

**Correct answer: F. Scott Fitzgerald**

9. **"To Kill a Mockingbird," a novel about racial injustice in the American South, was written by**

**Page 285 | 594**



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# **PARLIAMENTS OF THE WORLD**

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## Parliaments Of The World

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Country	Name of Parliament	Structure	Houses (if Bicameral)	Term & Notable Facts
India	Parliament of India (Sansad)	Bicameral	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rajya Sabha</b> (Council of States)</li> <li><b>Lok Sabha</b> (House of the People)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Lok Sabha:</b> 5 years (unless dissolved).</p> <p><b>Rajya Sabha:</b> Permanent (1/3 members retire every 2 years).</p> <p><b>First sitting:</b> 1927 (Central Legislative Assembly).</p>
United Kingdom	Parliament of the United Kingdom	Bicameral	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>House of Lords</b></li> <li><b>House of Commons</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>Commons:</b> 5 years (Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 amended).</p> <p><b>Lords:</b> Appointed for life (hereditary peers &amp; life peers).</p> <p><b>Meeting place:</b> Palace of Westminster.</p>
United States	United States Congress	Bicameral	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Senate</b></li> <li><b>House of Representatives</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>Senate:</b> 6 years (1/3 elected every 2 years).</p> <p><b>House:</b> 2 years.</p> <p><b>First Congress:</b> 1789.</p>
Canada	Parliament of Canada	Bicameral	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Senate</b></li> <li><b>House of Commons</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>Commons:</b> 4 years (max).</p> <p><b>Senate:</b> Mandatory retirement at 75.</p> <p><b>Seat of Parliament:</b></p>

<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Parliament of Pakistan (Majlis-e-Shoora)</b>	Bicameral	<b>1. Senate</b> <b>2. National Assembly</b>	<b>National Assembly:</b> 5 years. <b>Senate:</b> 6 years (half every 3). <b>Building:</b> Parliament House, Islamabad.
<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>Jatiya Sangsad</b>	Unicameral	-	<b>Term:</b> 5 years. <b>Building:</b> Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban (designed by Louis Kahn).
<b>Israel</b>	<b>Knesset (הכנסת)</b>	Unicameral	-	<b>Term:</b> 4 years (but early elections common). <b>Name means "assembly" or "gathering".</b> <b>First Knesset:</b> 1949.

## UNIQUE FEATURES

### 1. India: Special Provisions

- **Joint Sitting:** Called by President to resolve deadlock between houses (Art 108). Presided by Lok Sabha Speaker. **Cannot be called for Money Bills, Constitutional Amendment Bills.**
- **Money Bill:** Defined in Art 110. Can only be introduced in Lok Sabha on President's recommendation. Rajya Sabha can only recommend changes within 14 days.
- **Anti-Defection Law:** 10th Schedule; members can be disqualified for defying party whip.
- **Parliamentary Committees:** Key ones: **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** (Chairman always from Opposition), **Estimates Committee**, **Committee on Public Undertakings.**

### 2. United Kingdom: Peculiarities



## Practice MCQs - Parliaments of World

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1. **What is the official name of the Parliament of the United States?**

- A. The National Assembly
- B. The Congress
- C. The Federal Assembly
- D. The Legislature

**Correct answer: The Congress**

2. **The Parliament of the United Kingdom, which meets at the Palace of Westminster, is often referred to by what other name?**

- A. The House of Legislature
- B. The Westminster Parliament
- C. The Crown Assembly
- D. The Union Parliament

**Correct answer: The Westminster Parliament**

3. **What is the name of the lower house of the Indian Parliament?**

- A. Rajya Sabha
- B. Lok Sabha
- C. The House of the People
- D. Both B and C

**Correct answer: Both B and C**

4. **The Parliament of Japan is known by what name?**

- A. The State Council
- B. The National People's Congress
- C. The Diet
- D. The Cortes Generales

**Correct answer: The Diet**

5. **Which country has a bicameral parliament called the**

**"Oireachtas," consisting of the Dáil and the Seanad?**

- A. Iceland
- B. Scotland
- C. Ireland
- D. Wales

**Correct answer: Ireland**

6. **What is the name of the unicameral parliament of Israel?**

- A. Majlis
- B. Knesset
- C. Saeima
- D. Sobranie

**Correct answer: Knesset**

7. **The Federal Assembly of Russia consists of two chambers. What is the name of its lower house?**

- A. Federation Council
- B. State Council
- C. State Duma
- D. Supreme Soviet

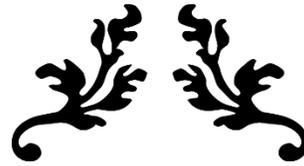
**Correct answer: State Duma**

8. **Which European country's parliament is called the "Bundestag" (with the "Bundesrat" as the upper house representing states)?**

- A. Austria
- B. Germany
- C. Switzerland
- D. Belgium

**Correct answer: Germany**

9. **What is the name of the national legislature of the People's Republic**



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## **MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS**

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## Introduction to Global Ports

Ports are critical nodes in global trade, travel, and supply chains. They are broadly categorized by function:

### 1. Seaports (Maritime Ports):

Handle cargo—including **containers** (standardized boxes for manufactured goods), **bulk** (loose material like grain or coal), and **liquid** (oil, chemicals)—as well as passengers via sea routes. They are complex industrial zones with **specialized terminals, deep-water berths for large vessels, and extensive storage yards**. Operations involve cranes (like giant gantry cranes), tugs, pilots, and customs authorities, serving as the primary entry and exit points for a nation's international trade.

### 2. Airports (Air Cargo & Passenger Hubs):

Handle global air freight and passenger travel through a network of **runways, terminals, and control towers**. They are categorized into major **international hubs** (for connecting flights), **regional airports**, and **general aviation fields**. Key functions include **security screening, baggage handling, aircraft maintenance, and refueling**. Major hubs feature extensive retail, hotels, and multimodal connections to rail and road networks, acting as critical economic engines for their regions.

### 3. Inland Ports:

Located on navigable rivers, lakes, or canals, these ports link inland regions to coastal seaports. They facilitate the **transshipment of cargo from large sea-going vessels to smaller barges or rail/truck networks**. By providing an alternative to overland transport, they help **reduce highway congestion, lower shipping costs, and open interior regions to global markets**. Examples include ports along the Mississippi River (USA), the Rhine River (Europe), and the Yangtze River (China).

### 4. Dry Ports (Inland Container Depots):

Located inland, often near major industrial or consumption centers, these facilities handle **customs clearance, inspection, storage, and consolidation of containerized cargo** destined for or arriving from seaports. They are directly connected to seaports via **dedicated freight rail lines**, streamlining logistics and **reducing port congestion by moving time-consuming paperwork and sorting activities inland**. They act as extensions of the seaport's functionality.

### 5. Cruise Ports:

Dedicated terminals designed to handle passenger cruise ships, which can carry thousands of travelers. Facilities prioritize **passenger experience and efficient flow**, featuring amenities like **baggage halls, check-in counters, customs and immigration facilities, and tourism services**. They often have dedicated **berths for mega-ships, provisioning services for food**

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## Largest Reserves in the World & Pakistan

### I. WORLD'S LARGEST RESERVES

#### A. ENERGY RESOURCES

Resource	Country/Region with Largest Reserves	Key Details / % of World Total
Crude Oil	Venezuela (Proven: ~304 billion barrels)	Heavy oil in Orinoco Belt; Saudi Arabia is 2nd.
Natural Gas	Russia (~37.4 trillion cubic meters)	Followed by Iran and Qatar.
Coal	United States (~250 billion tonnes)	Largest share of global proven reserves.
Uranium	Australia (~28% of world's total)	Kazakhstan is largest producer currently.
Oil Shale	United States (Green River Formation)	Potentially larger than global oil reserves.

#### B. METALS & MINERALS

Resource	Country with Largest Reserves	Key Details
Gold	Australia (~10,000 tonnes)	Largest mine: Muruntau (Uzbekistan).
Silver	Peru (~98,000 tonnes)	Mexico is largest producer.
Copper	Chile (~21% of global reserves)	Largest producer.
Iron Ore	Australia (~50 billion tonnes)	High quality (hematite).
Bauxite (Aluminium)	Guinea (~7.4 billion tonnes)	~25% of global reserves.

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## III. COMPARATIVE RANKINGS: PAKISTAN IN WORLD CONTEXT

### Global Standing (Top 10 Positions)

1. **Coal:** 7th largest reserves globally (Thar)
2. **Copper-Gold:** 5th largest copper-gold deposit (Reko Diq)
3. **Salt:** 2nd largest rock salt mines (Khewra)
4. **Gypsum:** Significant producer (top 10)
5. **Arable Land:** Top 10 by extent of irrigated land

### Founders of Different Countries

1. **United States: George Washington:** The first President and a key leader in the American Revolutionary War.
2. **India: Mahatma Gandhi:** A leader in the Indian independence movement against British rule, known for his philosophy of nonviolent resistance.
3. **Pakistan: Muhammad Ali Jinnah:** The founder and first Governor-General of Pakistan, advocating for the rights of Muslims in the Indian subcontinent.
4. **China: Sun Yat-sen:** A revolutionary leader who played a significant role in overthrowing the Qing Dynasty and establishing the Republic of China.
5. **Mexico: Miguel Hidalgo:** A Catholic priest who initiated the Mexican War of Independence against Spanish rule in 1810.
6. **Brazil: Dom Pedro I:** The first Emperor of Brazil, who declared independence from Portugal in 1822.
7. **South Africa: Nelson Mandela:** An anti-apartheid revolutionary and the first black President of South Africa, known for his role in ending racial segregation.
8. **Argentina: José de San Martín:** A leader in the South American struggle for independence from Spanish rule.
9. **Canada: John A. Macdonald:** The first Prime Minister of Canada and a key figure in its confederation in 1867.

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## Notable Islands of the World

### 1. Greenland

#### General Overview

- World's largest island (approx. 2.1 million sq. km).
- Politically part of the Kingdom of Denmark; autonomous government (Home Rule since 1979).
- North Atlantic and Arctic region.

#### Geography & Climate

- Approximately 80% of Greenland is covered by an **ice sheet**.
- Hosts the second-largest ice mass on Earth, after Antarctica.
- Arctic climate: long winters, extremely cold temperatures, short summers.

#### Population & Culture

- Very low population (~56,000).
- Majority Inuit (Kalaallit), descendants of Arctic indigenous peoples.
- Settlement concentrated along the southwest coast where ice-free land exists.

#### Economy

- Dominated by:
  - Fishing (shrimp, halibut)
  - Small-scale mining
  - Tourism
- Recently: interest in rare earth minerals, uranium, and hydrocarbons due to ice melt.

#### Strategic Significance

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- Endemic species: kiwi bird, alpine parrots (kea).
- Strict environmental conservation laws.

## 20. Hispaniola

### Overview

- Caribbean island shared by two countries:
  - **Dominican Republic** (east)
  - **Haiti** (west)

### Geography

- Mountainous landscapes, fertile valleys, coral shores.

### History

- Site of Columbus’s first settlement in the Americas (1492).
- **Haitian Revolution (1791–1804)** originated here—first successful slave revolt.

### Economy

- Dominican Republic: agriculture, tourism, services.
- Haiti: agriculture, remittances, aid reliance.

### Key Note

- Only major island divided by two sovereign nations besides Ireland.

### Notable Islands of the World

Sr.	Island	Location	Political Status	Key Features	Uniqueness
1	<b>Greenland</b>	Arctic / North Atlantic	Autonomous territory of Denmark	80% ice sheet, tundra climate	Largest island in the world

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## Top Universities Around the World

### 1. Harvard University (USA)

#### Overview

- Founded in 1636; oldest higher education institution in the United States.
- Private Ivy League research university.

#### Academic Strengths

- Economics, Medicine, Law, Business, Political Science, Public Policy, Computer Science.
- Harvard Business School and Harvard Law School considered world leaders.

#### Research & Resources

- Multi-billion dollar endowment (largest in the world).
- Cutting-edge research institutes (Biotech, Medicine, Public Health, AI).
- Extensive private archives & libraries (Harvard Library is largest academic library system globally).

#### Notable Alumni

- 8 U.S. Presidents (including John F. Kennedy, Barack Obama).
- Nobel Prize holders, heads of state, tech founders.

#### Global Influence

- Constantly ranked Top-3 worldwide.
- Policy-shaping and elite leadership networks.

### 2. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA

#### Overview

- Founded 1861; known for technological and scientific innovation.

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- Medicine, Neuroscience, Life Sciences, Engineering.

### Legacy

- Known as “Harvard of the North”.
- Significant Nobel-winning research.

### Top 30 Universities Around the World

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Sr.	University	Country	Main Strengths / Fields	Unique Notes
1	Harvard	USA	Law, Medicine, Economics, Business	Oldest US university; largest endowment
2	MIT	USA	AI, Robotics, Engineering, Physics	Most patents per researcher globally
3	Stanford	USA	CS, Entrepreneurship, Medicine	Silicon Valley ecosystem; founders of Google, Netflix
4	Oxford	UK	Humanities, PPE, Law	Oldest English-speaking university
5	Cambridge	UK	Mathematics, Physics, Biology	Most Nobel Prize recipients for any single university
6	Caltech	USA	Astrophysics, Space, Quantum	Operates NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
7	ETH Zurich	Switzerland	Engineering, Nanotech	Einstein alumni; EU tech hub
8	Univ. of Tokyo	Japan	Robotics, Medicine	Elite Japanese civil service pipeline
9	Univ. of Toronto	Canada	AI, Biotech, Pharmacy	Pioneer of deep learning (Geoff Hinton)
10	NUS	Singapore	Engineering, Business	ASEAN flagship university

## Top Natural Disasters in Human History

### 1. 1556 Shaanxi Earthquake (China)

#### Type

- Deadliest earthquake recorded in history.

#### M Key Facts

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- Year: 1556

- Magnitude: Estimated ~8.0

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- Casualties: ~830,000 people

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#### Causes

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- Active fault systems in Loess Plateau region.

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- Loess caves collapsed, leading to mass fatalities.

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#### Impact

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- Entire villages destroyed.

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- Urban areas turned to dust.

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- Major change in Chinese housing structures afterward.

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#### Exam Point

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- **Deadliest earthquake ever recorded.**

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### 2. 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami

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#### Type

- Undersea megathrust earthquake + tsunami.

#### Key Facts

- Date: 26 December 2004



- Magnitudes: 7.8 + 7.5 (same day)
- Death toll: >50,000

## Causes

- Fault movement on Anatolian tectonic plate.

## Impact

- Urban devastation; billions in losses.
- Highlighted collapse of modern apartment blocks.

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## Ancient Civilizations

Ancient civilizations refer to early complex societies marked by urban development, central authority, writing systems, organized religion, and economic specialization. They emerged from **river basins**, where water allowed agriculture, trade, and population growth.

### 1. Mesopotamian Civilization (Tigris–Euphrates, Iraq)

#### Timeline

- c. 3500 BCE – 539 BCE

#### Geography

- “Land between two rivers” (Tigris & Euphrates).
- Fertile Crescent; earliest large cities.

#### Key Societies

- Sumerians → Akkadians → Babylonians → Assyrians

#### Major Contributions

- **Writing:** Cuneiform (first known writing system).
- **Law:** Code of Hammurabi—first written legal code.
- **Architecture:** Ziggurats (stepped temples).



## Fathers of Various Disciplines

The development of human knowledge has never been linear. It moves forward through the work of certain exceptional minds who consolidate scattered insights, systematize methods, or introduce entirely new conceptual frameworks. Such figures are remembered as the “Fathers” of academic disciplines—not because they were alone or flawless, but because they played a decisive role in shaping how we understand a field today. The following figures represent some of the core intellectual pillars upon which modern knowledge stands.

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### K 1. Socrates — Father of Western Philosophy

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Socrates did not leave any written texts; his legacy survives through the dialogues of Plato and the historical descriptions of Xenophon. What sets Socrates apart is not simply his role as a philosopher, but the method he introduced. He believed that truth could be uncovered through structured questioning, where one interrogates assumptions until clarity emerges. This method, known as the **Socratic Method**, shifted philosophy from mythology and speculation to rational introspection. Socrates understood knowledge as moral—it improves the character, not just the intellect. He taught Athenians that wisdom begins when one admits ignorance, a statement that remains foundational in modern critical thinking and democratic discourse.

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### 2. Hippocrates — Father of Medicine

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Hippocrates represents the moment when medicine began to separate itself from magic, priesthood, and divine punishment. His approach grounded healing in observation, diagnosis, and ethical duty. The Hippocratic Corpus introduced clinical case notes and stressed the importance of environment, diet, and lifestyle in disease. The famous **Hippocratic Oath**, still used today in modified forms, highlights the physician’s responsibility: do no harm, respect the patient, and maintain confidentiality. Hippocrates transformed illness from a spiritual scourge to a biological condition, laying the intellectual foundations for modern medical science.

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### 3. Aristotle — Father of Biology and Logical Reasoning

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Aristotle stands at the intersection of empirical inquiry and philosophical synthesis. He catalogued hundreds of species, observed their anatomy, and began grouping them based on shared characteristics—a primitive form of taxonomy. His biological works studied reproduction, development, and adaptation, centuries before Darwin’s evolutionary theory. Equally influential is his contribution to logic; the syllogism—major premise, minor premise, conclusion—became the formal model of reasoning for two thousand years. Through his systematic approach to



## Atom Bomb (From WW2 to Today)

### Early Context (1930s–1939)

- Fear that Germany might develop a superweapon pushed refugee scientists in the U.S. and UK to warn governments.
- Einstein–Szilard letter (1939) convinced President Roosevelt to initiate U.S. atomic research.
- U.S. created the Advisory Committee on Uranium which later evolved into a full-scale wartime project.

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### Manhattan Project (1942–1945)

- U.S. government launched a secret program involving scientists, military, and industrial facilities.
- Directed by General Leslie Groves; J. Robert Oppenheimer led weapons development at Los Alamos.
- Two types of bombs were produced: uranium-based and plutonium-based.

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### Trinity Test (1945)

- First atomic explosion in New Mexico on July 16, 1945.
- Confirmed that a nuclear device could be weaponized for wartime use.
- Marked the birth of the nuclear age.

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### Bombing of Japan

- Hiroshima: August 6, 1945 (Little Boy). Extensive destruction, tens of thousands killed instantly.
- Nagasaki: August 9, 1945 (Fat Man). Second atomic attack compelled Japan to surrender.
- Japan capitulated on August 15, 1945; WWII ended formally on September 2, 1945.

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### Immediate Postwar Consequences



- Rogue states
- Terrorist access to nuclear material
- Technological modernization

## 21st Century Nuclear Landscape

- Nuclear weapons increasingly linked to geopolitical crises:
  - U.S.–Iran tensions
  - India–Pakistan standoffs
  - North Korea missile tests
- Nations modernize arsenals with smaller tactical weapons, hypersonic delivery systems, and automated command structures.

## Symbolism Today

- Nuclear bombs represent ultimate power and catastrophic risk.
- They remain the strongest deterrent states possess.
- Humanity continues to balance between fear of destruction and desire for strategic security.

## Notable Travelers Throughout History

### Marco Polo (1254–1324)

A Venetian merchant whose journeys to Persia, Central Asia, and China during the era of the Mongol Empire provided Europeans with one of the earliest detailed descriptions of the East. His time at the court of Kublai Khan and the record of cities, customs, and markets in “The Travels of Marco Polo” greatly influenced future exploration, including Columbus.

### Ibn Battuta (1304–1369)

Often regarded as the greatest traveler of the medieval world, Ibn Battuta journeyed more than 120,000 km over 30 years. Originally leaving Morocco for pilgrimage, he went on to visit Egypt, Arabia, Iraq, Persia, India, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and China. His account, known as

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13. **Democratic Republic of the Congo** – Known as **Zaire** from 1971–1997 under Mobutu Sese Seko’s rule.
14. **Cambodia** – Formerly the **Khmer Republic (1970–1975)** and **Kampuchea (1975–1989)** before restoring Cambodia.
15. **Ethiopia** – Historically known as **Abyssinia** in Western sources, famed for its ancient Christian kingdom.

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## Deadliest wars in History

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### 1. World War I (1914–1918)

- **Also called:** *The Great War*.
- **Main causes:** Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, Nationalism (M.A.I.N).
- **Immediate cause:** Assassination of Archduke **Franz Ferdinand (1914)**.
- **Major powers:** Allies (UK, France, Russia, later USA) vs. Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire).
- **Key outcomes:** Collapse of empires (Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian, German, Russian), Treaty of Versailles (1919), League of Nations formed.
- **Casualties:** ~16 million deaths.

### 2. World War II (1939–1945)

- **Deadliest war in history** – 70+ million deaths.
- **Causes:** Treaty of Versailles humiliation, rise of fascism (Hitler, Mussolini), Japanese expansion.
- **Major powers:** Allies (UK, USSR, USA, China, France) vs. Axis (Germany, Italy, Japan).



- **Impact:** U.S. territory expanded by ~1/3; slavery debate intensified → U.S. Civil War roots.

## Famous Treaties

### 1. Treaty of Versailles (1919)

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- **Conflict:** Ended World War I between the Allies and Germany.
- **Key Terms:**
  - Germany accepted **war guilt (Article 231)**.
  - Forced to pay **132 billion gold marks** in reparations.
  - Lost territories: Alsace-Lorraine to France; colonies seized.
  - Military restrictions: Army capped at **100,000 soldiers**, no air force, limited navy.
  - Creation of **League of Nations**.
- **Outcome:** Humiliation of Germany, collapse of its economy, resentment among people.
- **Impact:** Directly fueled rise of Hitler and Nazism → Major cause of WWII.

### 2. Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)

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- **Conflict:** Rivalry between Spain and Portugal over newly discovered lands (after Columbus' voyages).
- **Key Terms:**
  - Pope Alexander VI mediated.
  - Imaginary line drawn **370 leagues west of Cape Verde Islands**.



**The Airplane** - The Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, achieved the first powered flight in 1903, marking the beginning of human flight and aviation.

**The Internet** - Originally developed by Tim Berners-Lee in the late 20th century, the internet revolutionized communication, information sharing, and commerce.

**The Automobile** - Karl Benz created the first gasoline-powered car in 1885, transforming personal transportation and shaping modern cities.

**Vaccination** - Edward Jenner pioneered the smallpox vaccine in 1796, laying the groundwork for immunology and saving millions of lives.

**The Computer** - Charles Babbage conceptualized the first mechanical computer in the 19th century, paving the way for modern computing.

**The Refrigerator** - Jacob Perkins invented the first practical refrigerator in 1834, revolutionizing food preservation and storage.

**The Television** - Philo Farnsworth invented the first working television in the 1920s, transforming entertainment and information dissemination.

**The Sewing Machine** - Elias Howe patented the sewing machine in 1846, revolutionizing garment manufacturing and clothing production.

**The Camera** - Joseph Nicéphore Niépce created the first permanent photograph in 1826, changing how we capture and perceive moments in time.

**Penicillin** - Discovered by Alexander Fleming in 1928, penicillin marked the beginning of modern antibiotics, revolutionizing medicine.

**The Microwave Oven** - Percy Spencer invented the microwave oven in 1945, bringing convenience and speed to cooking and food heating.

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**The Smartphone** - IBM released the first smartphone, the Simon Personal Communicator, in 1994, merging communication and computing in a portable device.

## The Biggest Producers of Famous Crops

### Rice

**1st:** China

**2nd:** India

**3rd:** Indonesia

### Wheat

**1st:** China

**2nd:** India

**3rd:** Russia

### Maize (Corn)

**1st:** United States

**2nd:** China

**3rd:** Brazil

### Soybeans

**1st:** United States

**2nd:** Brazil

**3rd:** Argentina

### Barley

**1st:** Russia



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**2nd:** China

**3rd:** Indonesia

### Oranges

**1st:** Brazil

**2nd:** United States

**3rd:** China

### Grapes

**1st:** China

**2nd:** Italy

**3rd:** United States

### Apples

**1st:** China

**2nd:** United States

**3rd:** Poland

### Peanuts

**1st:** China

**2nd:** India

**3rd:** Nigeria



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## Top Intelligence Agencies

ISI - The Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is Pakistan's principal intelligence agency, founded in 1948 to oversee national security and intelligence gathering. It operates under the Ministry



## Disputed Territories

**Kashmir** - A region claimed by both India and Pakistan, Kashmir has been a flashpoint for conflict since the partition in 1947.

**West Bank** - Occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War, the West Bank remains a focal point of Israeli-Palestinian tensions and aspirations for statehood.

**Taiwan** - Considered a breakaway province by China, Taiwan operates as a self-governing democracy, leading to ongoing geopolitical disputes.

**South China Sea** - Claimed by multiple nations, including China, Vietnam, and the Philippines, the South China Sea is rich in resources and a strategic maritime route.

**Golan Heights** - Captured by Israel from Syria in 1967, the Golan Heights is a territory of strategic military importance and is internationally recognized as Syrian land.

**Abkhazia and South Ossetia** - These regions declared independence from Georgia with Russian support, leading to ongoing disputes and international non-recognition.

**Nagorno-Karabakh** - This region, primarily populated by ethnic Armenians, is a contested area between Armenia and Azerbaijan, leading to repeated conflicts.

**Western Sahara** - Claimed by both Morocco and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Western Sahara remains one of the world's last unresolved decolonization conflicts.

**Kuril Islands** - Disputed by Japan and Russia, the Kuril Islands are a source of tension, with Japan claiming sovereignty over the islands since World War II.

**Crimea** - Annexed by Russia in 2014, Crimea is internationally recognized as part of Ukraine, leading to significant geopolitical tensions.

**Falkland Islands** - Claimed by Argentina as Las Malvinas, the Falkland Islands remain a British Overseas Territory, resulting in long-standing diplomatic disputes.



**Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands** - Disputed between Japan and China, these uninhabited islands are a source of maritime tension and national pride for both nations.

**Aksai Chin** - This territory is claimed by India but controlled by China, and it has been a point of contention since the Sino-Indian War of 1962.

**Spratly Islands** - A group of islands in the South China Sea, the Spratly Islands are claimed by multiple countries, sparking tensions over territorial sovereignty.

**Hala'ib Triangle** - A disputed area between Egypt and Sudan, the Hala'ib Triangle has led to border skirmishes and political tensions in the region.

**Northern Cyprus** - Recognized only by Turkey, Northern Cyprus declared independence in 1983, following a Turkish invasion in 1974, leading to ongoing disputes with the Republic of Cyprus.

**Somaliland** - Self-declared independence from Somalia since 1991, Somaliland seeks international recognition but remains unrecognized by the global community.

**Bir Tawil** - An unclaimed piece of land between Egypt and Sudan, Bir Tawil is unique as it is one of the few places on Earth not claimed by any country.

**Palestine** - Recognized by many countries and organizations, Palestine's borders and statehood remain contentious, particularly with Israel.

**Siachen Glacier** - A high-altitude area contested between India and Pakistan, the Siachen Glacier has seen military conflict and environmental concerns over its harsh conditions.

## Independence of Countries

**United States** - The United States declared its independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776, following a revolution that emphasized liberty and self-governance.

## Multiple Choice Questions

### Largest Reserves in the World & Pakistan

1. Which country has the world's largest proven oil reserves as of 2024?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. United States
- C. Venezuela
- D. Russia

**Correct answer: Venezuela**

2. Which country possesses the largest natural gas reserves in the world?

- A. United States
- B. Russia
- C. Iran
- D. Qatar

**Correct answer: Russia**

3. Which country is the world's largest producer and exporter of coal?

- A. United States
- B. Australia
- C. China
- D. India

**Correct answer: China**

4. Which country has the world's largest gold reserves?

- A. Germany
- B. China
- C. United States
- D. Russia

**Correct answer: United States**

5. Pakistan's largest natural gas field, discovered in 1952, is located in which province?

- A. Punjab

- B. Sindh
- C. Balochistan
- D. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

**Correct answer: Balochistan**

### Most Famous Revolutions in History

6. The French Revolution began in which year?

- A. 1776
- B. 1789
- C. 1799
- D. 1815

**Correct answer: 1789**

7. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 led to the establishment of which political system in Russia?

- A. Constitutional Monarchy
- B. Parliamentary Democracy
- C. Communist State
- D. Fascist State

**Correct answer: Communist State**

8. The American Revolution (1775-1783) was fought between Great Britain and its Thirteen Colonies primarily over what issue?

- A. Slavery
- B. Religious Freedom
- C. Taxation without Representation
- D. Territorial Expansion

**Correct answer: Taxation without Representation**

9. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 resulted in the overthrow of which monarch and establishment of an Islamic

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## Water Bodies & Their Types

### 1. Classification by Salinity & Dynamics

A fundamental way to classify water bodies is based on their salt content and movement.

#### A. Freshwater Bodies

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- **Source:** Primarily from precipitation (rain, snow).
  - **Salinity:** Very low (less than 0.5 parts per thousand).
  - **Importance:** Essential for drinking, irrigation, and supporting most terrestrial life.
  - **Examples:** Rivers, Streams, Lakes, Ponds, Glaciers.

#### B. Saltwater Bodies

- **Source:** Primarily from the oceans, with salts accumulated over millennia.
- **Salinity:** High (around 35 parts per thousand on average).
- **Importance:** Regulate climate, host immense biodiversity, and are crucial for global transportation.
- **Examples:** Oceans, Seas, Saltwater Lakes, Lagoons.

#### C. Brackish Water Bodies

- **Source:** Mixing of freshwater and saltwater.
- **Salinity:** Between 0.5 and 35 parts per thousand.
- **Importance:** Form unique and highly productive ecosystems like mangroves.
- **Examples:** Estuaries, Deltas, some Bays and Lagoons.

### 2. Detailed Types of Water Bodies

#### 1. Oceans



## A. Important Ports of Pakistan:

1. **Port of Karachi:** The largest and busiest port.
2. **Port Qasim:** Second major port, located near Karachi.
3. **Gwadar Port:** Deep-sea port in Balochistan, a cornerstone of the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**. It holds immense strategic and economic significance.

## M B. Key Features:

- **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** Pakistan claims an EEZ of **200 nautical miles** from its coast, giving it sovereign rights for exploration and use of marine resources.
- **Indus River Delta:** Where the Indus River drains into the Arabian Sea, forming a unique ecosystem (mangrove forests).
- **Strategic Importance:**
  - Proximity to the **Strait of Hormuz** (global oil chokepoint).
  - **Gwadar's potential** as a key transshipment hub for Central Asia and Western China.

## C. Islands of Pakistan:

- **Astola Island (Jazira Haft Talar):** Largest offshore island of Pakistan, located in the Arabian Sea. Known for its biodiversity.
- **Charna Island:** Near the coast of Balochistan.
- **Buddha Island:** Near Karachi.

Ocean	Area (sq km)	% of Earth's Surface	Deepest Point (meters)	Key Notes & Features
Pacific Ocean	168,723,000	~33%	Challenger Deep, Mariana	Largest & deepest. Contains the "Ring of Fire." Home to the Great Barrier Reef.

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- **Indus Canyon:** A major submarine canyon off the coast of Karachi, one of the largest in the world.
- **Mangrove Forests:** Found in the Indus Delta, they are crucial for coastal ecosystems and protecting the shoreline from erosion.

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Sea Name	Ocean	Type	Area (approx.)	Key Features & Significance
Philippine Sea	Pacific	Marginal	5.0 million sq km	<b>Largest sea by area.</b> Contains the Mariana Trench. Noted for typhoon formation.
Coral Sea	Pacific	Marginal	4.8 million sq km	Home to the <b>Great Barrier Reef</b> . Borders Australia and Papua New Guinea.
Arabian Sea	Indian	Marginal	3.8 million sq km	<b>Critical for Pakistan.</b> Major oil trade route. Receives water from the Indus River.
South China Sea	Pacific	Marginal	3.5 million sq km	<b>Extremely strategic for shipping.</b> Subject of major territorial disputes. Rich in hydrocarbons.
Caribbean Sea	Atlantic	Marginal / Mediterranean	2.75 million sq km	Known for tourism, coral reefs, and hurricanes. A historic hub for trade and piracy.
Mediterranean Sea	Atlantic	Mediterranean	2.5 million sq km	<b>Cradle of ancient civilizations.</b> Connected to the Atlantic via the <b>Strait of Gibraltar</b> .



- **Major Dams:**
  - **Tarbela Dam** (on Indus) - World's largest earth-filled dam.
  - **Mangla Dam** (on Jhelum).
- **Major Barrages:** Sukkur, Guddu, Kotri (on Indus), and many others on the tributaries for irrigation distribution.

## M E. The Indus Water Treaty (IWT), 1960

- A water-sharing agreement between **Pakistan** and **India**, brokered by the **World Bank**.
- **Eastern Rivers (Sutlej, Beas, Ravi):** Allocation for unrestricted use by **India**.
- **Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab):** Allocation for unrestricted use by **Pakistan**.

## M K P R E P A R A T I O N S 7. Key Riverine Features & Concepts

- **River Delta:** A landform created by sediment deposition at the mouth of a river where it meets a slower-moving or standing body of water (e.g., Nile Delta, Indus Delta). Often triangular in shape.
- **Estuary:** A partially enclosed coastal body of brackish water where a river meets the sea, and freshwater and seawater mix. Funnel-shaped (e.g., Thames Estuary).
- **Meander:** A winding curve or bend in a river.
- **Ox-bow Lake:** A U-shaped lake formed when a wide meander is cut off from the main river.
- **Waterfall:** A point where water flows over a vertical drop (e.g., Angel Falls, Venezuela - world's highest).
- **Drainage Basin / Watershed:** The area of land where all precipitation collects and drains off into a common outlet.

River Name	Continent	Length (Approx.)	Source	Mouth	Significance & Notes
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<b>Sutlej River</b>	Tributary	Lake Rakshastal, Tibet	Near Bahawalpur, Pakistan	<b>Longest of the five tributaries.</b> Enters Pakistan after flowing through India.
<b>Kabul River</b>	Tributary	Sanglakh Range, Afghanistan	Attock, Pakistan	Major river of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Its main tributary is the <b>Swat River</b> .

## M LAKES

### K 1. Introduction & Definition

A **lake** is a large body of water that is entirely surrounded by land. It is distinct from a river, which flows, and an ocean, which is part of the global saline water body.

#### P R Key Distinctions:

- **Lake vs. Pond:** Lakes are larger and deeper than ponds, and sunlight does not reach the bottom in lakes, unlike in ponds.
- **Lake vs. Sea:** Seas are connected to the ocean, while lakes are landlocked. The **Caspian Sea** is a key exception, being a lake but historically called a sea due to its size and salinity.

### R 2. Classification of Lakes

Lakes can be classified based on their origin (how they were formed), water chemistry, and nutrient content.

#### A. Classification by Origin (Formation)

This is the most important classification for geography exams.

1. **Tectonic Lakes:** Formed by movements of the Earth's crust.
  - **Example:** **Lake Baikal** (faulting), **Caspian Sea** (remnant of ancient Tethys Sea).
2. **Glacial Lakes:** Formed by the action of glaciers.
  - **Example:** The Great Lakes of North America, **Lake Saif-ul-Malook** (Pakistan).
3. **Volcanic Lakes:** Formed in the craters of extinct volcanoes.
  - **Example:** **Crater Lake** (USA), **Lake Toba** (Indonesia).



2. **Satpara Lake:** A freshwater lake near Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan.
3. **Rush Lake:** Located in Nagar, Gilgit-Baltistan; one of the highest alpine lakes in the world.

## 6. Environmental & Economic Significance

- **Water Supply:** Source of drinking and irrigation water.
- **Hydropower:** Man-made lakes are crucial for hydroelectric power.
- **Fisheries:** Provide a source of food and income.
- **Tourism & Recreation:** Major attractions for boating, fishing, and scenic beauty.
- **Biodiversity:** Support unique ecosystems.
- **Climate Regulation:** Moderate local climate.

### Threats to Lakes:

- **Eutrophication:** Nutrient pollution from agriculture causing algal blooms.
- **Pollution:** Industrial and domestic waste.
- **Siltation:** Reduction of depth due to sediment deposition.
- **Water Diversion:** For agriculture and cities, leading to shrinking lakes (e.g., Aral Sea).
- **Climate Change:** Affecting water levels and temperatures.

### Table of the World's Major Lakes

Lake Name	Location (Continent/Country)	Type & Salinity	Key Facts & Significance
Caspian Sea	Asia/Europe	Saline, Tectonic	Largest lake in the world by surface area. A remnant of the ancient Tethys Ocean. Rich in oil and gas.

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## WETLANDS

### 1. Introduction & Definition

A **wetland** is a distinct ecosystem that is **inundated by water, either permanently or seasonally**, where oxygen-free processes prevail. The primary factor that distinguishes wetlands is the characteristic **hydric soil** and **aquatic vegetation** (hydrophytes) adapted to the unique anoxic conditions.

**Formal Definition (Ramsar Convention):** "Areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres."

### 2. Classification of Wetlands

Wetlands can be classified into three broad categories based on their location, water source, and vegetation.

#### 1. Inland Wetlands

- **Found:** Away from coastal areas.
- **Water Source:** Precipitation, rivers, lakes, groundwater.
- **Examples:**
  - **Marshes:** Frequently or continually inundated with water, characterized by soft-stemmed vegetation (reeds, grasses).
  - **Swamps:** Dominated by woody plants (trees or shrubs).
  - **Bogs:** Acidic wetlands, usually peat-forming, fed primarily by rainwater (ombrotrophic).
  - **Fens:** Less acidic than bogs, fed by groundwater, and are peat-forming.

#### 2. Coastal Wetlands

- **Found:** Along coastlines, influenced by tides.
- **Water Source:** Seawater.
- **Examples:**

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- **Significance:** The "Land of Giants," a high-altitude plateau with numerous lakes and marshes. Habitat for the Himalayan Brown Bear.

## 6. Importance & Ecosystem Services of Wetlands

- **"Kidneys of the Landscape":** They filter pollutants and improve water quality.

### World's Major Wetlands & Ramsar Sites

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Wetland Name	Location	Type	Key Facts & Significance
<b>Pantanal</b>	Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay	Seasonal Floodplain	<b>Largest tropical wetland in the world.</b> Incredible biodiversity (jaguars, capybaras).
<b>Sundarbans</b>	India, Bangladesh	Mangrove Forest	<b>Largest contiguous mangrove forest.</b> Home to the Royal Bengal Tiger. UNESCO & Ramsar Site.
<b>Okavango Delta</b>	Botswana	Inland Delta	Unique inland delta formed in a desert. A UNESCO World Heritage Site.
<b>Everglades</b>	Florida, USA	Subtropical Marsh	A "river of grass." A UNESCO World Heritage Site facing threats from water diversion.
<b>Camargue</b>	France	River Delta (Rhône River)	One of Europe's most important river deltas. Known for flamingos and white horses.
<b>Kakadu National Park</b>	Australia	Floodplains, Tidal Flats	A UNESCO site with significant wetlands, important for saltwater crocodiles and Aboriginal culture.
<b>Lagoons of New Caledonia</b>	New Caledonia (France)	Coastal Lagoon/Marine	<b>Largest protected Ramsar site in the world.</b> Has the world's most diverse coral reefs.
<b>The Mesopotamian Marshes</b>	Iraq	Riverine Marsh	A historic wetland in the Tigris-Euphrates system, largely drained and then partially restored.

- **Severe Reduction in Freshwater Flow:** Due to the construction of large dams and barrages (e.g., Sukkur, Kotri) upstream for irrigation. This has led to:
  - **Sea Intrusion:** Seawater encroaching inland, destroying farmland and freshwater aquifers.
  - **Degradation of Mangrove Forests.**
  - **Shrinking of the Delta** itself.

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## B. Other Minor Estuaries/Creeks

- Pakistan's coastline, particularly in Balochistan and the Indus Delta region, has numerous small estuaries and creeks (e.g., **Sir Creek, Miani Hor, Somiani Bay**), which are important for local fisheries and mangrove growth.

## Types of Deltas (Based on Dominant Force)

Type	Shape & Characteristics	Formation Condition	Classic Example
<b>Arcuate Delta</b>	<b>Triangular or fan-shaped.</b> Most common type.	River deposition and wave action are balanced.	<b>Nile Delta</b> (Egypt), <b>Ganges Delta</b> (Bangladesh/India)
<b>Bird's Foot Delta</b>	<b>Long, projecting fingers</b> of sediment.	River deposition is <b>dominant</b> ; very weak waves/tides.	<b>Mississippi Delta</b> (USA)
<b>Cusperate Delta</b>	<b>Tooth-shaped or pointed</b> landform.	Formed by aligned currents along the coastline.	<b>Tiber River Delta</b> (Italy)
<b>Estuarine Delta</b>	Formed <b>within an estuary.</b>	River deposits sediment and fills a narrow estuary over time.	<b>Indus River Delta</b> (Pakistan), <b>Seine River Delta</b> (France)



## One Liner Statements

1. The **Pacific Ocean** is the **largest and deepest** ocean on Earth.
2. The **Mariana Trench** in the Pacific Ocean contains the **deepest point**, Challenger Deep.
3. The **Atlantic Ocean** is **S-shaped** and crucial for historical trade routes.
4. The **Bay of Fundy** in the Atlantic has the **world's highest tidal range**.
5. The **Indian Ocean** is the **only ocean named after a country**.
6. The **Southern Ocean** encircles **Antarctica** and was recognized as a separate ocean in 2000.
7. The **Arctic Ocean** is the **smallest, shallowest, and coldest** ocean.
8. The **Antarctic Circumpolar Current** is the **largest ocean current**.
9. The **average salinity** of seawater is **3.5% or 35 ppt**.
10. **Spring Tides** occur during **Full and New Moon**.
11. **Neap Tides** occur during the **First and Third Quarter** moon.
12. **Warm currents** flow from the **equator to the poles**.
13. **Cold currents** flow from the **poles to the equator**.
14. **El Niño** is the **warming** of the central Pacific, weakening monsoons.
15. **La Niña** is the **cooling** of the central Pacific, associated with strong monsoons.
16. The **Philippine Sea** is the **largest sea in the world** by area.
17. The **Mediterranean Sea** is a classic example of a **mediterranean sea**.
18. The **South China Sea** is the **most strategically important sea for trade**.
19. The **Red Sea** is the **saltiest sea** in the world.
20. The **Caribbean Sea** is known for its **coral reefs and hurricanes**.
21. The **Arabian Sea** is a **marginal sea** of the Indian Ocean critical for Pakistan.

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## Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of the following is the largest and deepest ocean on Earth?

- A. Atlantic Ocean
- B. Indian Ocean
- C. Arctic Ocean

**D. Pacific Ocean**

**Correct Answer: D. Pacific Ocean**

2. The deepest known point on Earth, the Challenger Deep, is located in the:

- A. Java Trench
- B. Puerto Rico Trench
- C. Mariana Trench
- D. Molloy Deep

**Correct Answer: C. Mariana Trench**

3. Which ocean is named after a country?

- A. Arctic Ocean
- B. Indian Ocean
- C. Southern Ocean
- D. Atlantic Ocean

**Correct Answer: B. Indian Ocean**

4. The S-shaped ocean that separates the 'Old World' from the 'New World' is the:

- A. Pacific Ocean
- B. Arctic Ocean
- C. Atlantic Ocean
- D. Indian Ocean

**Correct Answer: C. Atlantic Ocean**

5. Which ocean is characterized by the presence of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, the largest ocean current?

- A. Southern Ocean

- B. Indian Ocean
- C. Pacific Ocean
- D. Atlantic Ocean

**Correct Answer: A. Southern Ocean**

6. The smallest and shallowest ocean in the world is the:

- A. Southern Ocean
- B. Arctic Ocean
- C. Indian Ocean
- D. Atlantic Ocean

**Correct Answer: B. Arctic Ocean**

7. The average salinity of seawater is approximately:

- A. 25 ppt (parts per thousand)
- B. 35 ppt
- C. 45 ppt
- D. 15 ppt

**Correct Answer: B. 35 ppt**

8. Spring tides, which have the greatest tidal range, occur during:

- A. First and Third Quarter Moon
- B. Gibbous Moon
- C. Full and New Moon
- D. Crescent Moon

**Correct Answer: C. Full and New Moon**

9. The climate phenomenon characterized by the warming of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, which can weaken monsoon rains, is called:

- A. La Niña
- B. Monsoon Trough
- C. El Niño
- D. Gyre

**Correct Answer: C. El Niño**



## World Extremes

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- **Continents**

- Largest (Area & Population): **Asia**
- Smallest (Area): **Australia**
- Smallest (Population): **Antarctica**

- **Countries**

- Largest (Area): **Russia**
- Smallest (Area): **Vatican City**
- Largest (Population): **India**
- Smallest (Population): **Vatican City**
- Largest (Economy - Nominal GDP): **United States**

- **Oceans & Seas**

- Largest Ocean: **Pacific Ocean**
- Smallest Ocean: **Arctic Ocean**
- Largest Sea: **Philippine Sea** (or **Coral Sea** by some measures)
- Largest Inland Sea: **Mediterranean Sea**

- **Deserts**

- Largest (Hot/Sandy): **Sahara Desert** (Africa)
- Largest (Cold): **Antarctic Desert**
- Largest (Asia): **Gobi Desert**

- **Islands**

- Largest: **Greenland**

- **First Prime Minister: Sir Robert Walpole** (UK, 1721-1742) - *de facto*
- **First Elected Woman Prime Minister: Sirimavo Bandaranaike** (Sri Lanka, 1960)
- **First Woman President (elected): Vigdís Finnbogadóttir** (Iceland, 1980)
- **First Communist State: Russian SFSR** (1917, later USSR)
- **First to grant universal suffrage: New Zealand** (1893, women)

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## B. PAKISTAN-SPECIFIC

### 1. FIRSTS IN PAKISTAN

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Category	Name	Tenure/Details
Governor-General	Muhammad Ali Jinnah	Aug 14, 1947 – Sept 11, 1948
President	Iskander Mirza	Mar 23, 1956 – Oct 27, 1958
Prime Minister	Liaquat Ali Khan	Aug 14, 1947 – Oct 16, 1951
Woman Prime Minister	Benazir Bhutto	1988-1990 (First in Muslim world)
Chief Justice (Federal Court)	Sir Abdul Rashid	1949-1954
Chief Justice (SC of Pak)	Muhammad Munir	1956-1960
Woman Governor	Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan (Sindh)	1973-1976
Woman Chief Justice (High Court)	Justice Tahira Safdar (Balochistan HC)	2018
Foreign Minister	Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan	1947-1954



- **Shortest War: Anglo-Zanzibar War** (38 minutes)

## 2. STRUCTURAL MARVELS

- **Tallest Building: Burj Khalifa** (828m)
- **Longest Wall: Great Wall of China**
- **Oldest Building: Göbekli Tepe** (Turkey, ~9600 BCE)

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## B. PAKISTAN-SPECIFIC

### 1. PAKISTAN IN WORLD RECORDS

- **Largest Volunteer Ambulance Service: Edhi Foundation**
- **Highest ATM: Khunjerab Pass** (4,693m)
- **Largest Football: Made in Sialkot** (for FIFA World Cup)
- **Youngest Microsoft Certified Professional: Mikail Farooq** (6 years old)

### 2. UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENTS

- **World's Best Passport (Historical): Pakistan Passport** was 4th strongest at independence (now ranks lower)
- **First Islamic Nuclear Power: Pakistan** (1998)
- **Largest Irrigation System: Indus Basin Irrigation System**

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### Random Extremes

**Biggest Ocean:** The Pacific Ocean, covering about 63 million square miles.

**Smallest Country:** Vatican City, at just 0.17 square miles.

**Oldest Tree:** Methuselah, a Great Basin bristlecone pine in California, estimated to be over 4,800 years old.

**Longest River:** The Nile River, stretching about 4,135 miles through Africa.

**Biggest Desert:** The Antarctic Desert, covering about 5.5 million square miles.

**MK PREPARATIONS: Let's Make It Happen**

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## Multiple Choice Questions

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1. Which is the largest ocean on Earth?

- A. Atlantic Ocean
- B. Indian Ocean
- C. Arctic Ocean
- D. Pacific Ocean

**Correct answer: Pacific Ocean**

2. What is the tallest mountain in the world?

- A. K2
- B. Kangchenjunga
- C. Mount Everest
- D. Lhotse

**Correct answer: Mount Everest**

3. Which is the longest river in the world?

- A. Amazon River
- B. Nile River
- C. Yangtze River
- D. Mississippi River

**Correct answer: Nile River**

4. What is the largest desert in the world?

- A. Sahara Desert
- B. Arabian Desert
- C. Gobi Desert
- D. Antarctic Desert

**Correct answer: Antarctic Desert**

5. Which is the smallest country in the world by area?

- A. Monaco
- B. Nauru
- C. Vatican City

D. San Marino

**Correct answer: Vatican City**

6. What is the largest country in the world by area?

- A. China
- B. Canada
- C. United States
- D. Russia

**Correct answer: Russia**

7. Which is the deepest ocean trench in the world?

- A. Mariana Trench
- B. Tonga Trench
- C. Philippine Trench
- D. Kuril-Kamchatka Trench

**Correct answer: Mariana Trench**

8. What is the largest continent by area?

- A. Africa
- B. Asia
- C. North America
- D. Europe

**Correct answer: Asia**

9. Which is the largest lake in the world by surface area?

- A. Lake Superior
- B. Lake Victoria
- C. Caspian Sea
- D. Lake Baikal

**Correct answer: Caspian Sea**

10. What is the oldest living tree species in the world?

- A. Bristlecone Pine
- B. Sequoia
- C. Oak



## List of Phobias (Loves/Attractions) & Phobias (Fears)

### PHOBIAS (Alphabetical Selection)

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Term	Fear Of
Ablutophobia	Bathing, washing
Agoraphobia	Open/crowded spaces
Aichmophobia	Sharp objects
Androphobia	Men
Anthropophobia	People/society
Aquaphobia	Water
Arachnophobia	Spiders
Astraphobia	Thunder/lightning
Ataxophobia	Disorder/untidiness
Atychiphobia	Failure
Automatonophobia	Human-like figures (dolls, mannequins)
Autophobia	Being alone
Bacteriophobia	Bacteria
Barophobia	Gravity
Basophobia	Walking/falling
Batophobia	Heights/being close to tall buildings
Bibliophobia	Books
Botanophobia	Plants



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<b>Tokophobia</b>	Pregnancy/childbirth
<b>Tonitrophobia</b>	Thunder
<b>Traumatophobia</b>	Injury
<b>Trichophobia</b>	Hair
<b>Trypanophobia</b>	Injections
<b>Venustraphobia</b>	Beautiful women
<b>Verminophobia</b>	Germs
<b>Xenophobia</b>	Strangers/foreigners
<b>Zoophobia</b>	Animals

### PHILIAS (Alphabetical Selection)

<b>Term</b>	<b>Love/Attraction To</b>
<b>Acousticophilia</b>	Certain sounds
<b>Agalmatophilia</b>	Statues/dolls
<b>Agliophilia</b>	Pain
<b>Androphilia</b>	Men (sexual attraction)
<b>Anglophilia</b>	English culture
<b>Anthophilia</b>	Flowers
<b>Arctophilia</b>	Teddy bears
<b>Astraphilia</b>	Thunder/lightning
<b>Bibliophilia</b>	Books
<b>Biophilia</b>	Nature/living things

## Multiple Choice Questions

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1. **What is the term for an irrational, persistent fear of spiders?**

A. Entomophobia  
B. Arachnophobia  
C. Myrmecophobia  
D. Insectophobia

**Correct answer: Arachnophobia**

2. **What is the term for an irrational, persistent fear of heights?**

A. Acrophobia  
B. Aerophobia  
C. Agoraphobia  
D. Aviophobia

**Correct answer: Acrophobia**

3. **What is the term for an irrational, persistent fear of enclosed or confined spaces?**

A. Agoraphobia  
B. Cleithrophobia  
C. Claustrophobia  
D. Kenophobia

**Correct answer: Claustrophobia**

4. **What is the term for an irrational, persistent fear of public or open spaces, often involving a fear of having no escape?**

A. Agoraphobia  
B. Astraphobia  
C. Claustrophobia  
D. Acrophobia

**Correct answer: Agoraphobia**

5. **What is the term for an irrational, persistent fear of flying?**

A. Acrophobia  
B. Aerophobia  
C. Aviophobia  
D. Both B and C

**Correct answer: Both B and C**

6. **What is the term for an abnormal and persistent love or craving for books?**

A. Logophilia  
B. Bibliophilia  
C. Philosophia  
D. Papyrophilia

**Correct answer: Bibliophilia**

7. **What is the term for an irrational, persistent fear of snakes?**

A. Herpetophobia  
B. Zoophobia  
C. Ophidiophobia  
D. Entomophobia

**Correct answer: Ophidiophobia**

8. **What is the term for an irrational, persistent fear of thunder and lightning?**

A. Astraphobia  
B. Brontophobia  
C. Tonitrophobia  
D. All of the above

**Correct answer: All of the above**

9. **What is the term for an intense love or admiration for one's country?**

A. Patriotism  
B. Nationalism  
C. Philopatry  
D. Both A and B

**Correct answer: Both A and B**