



World Geography

Continents

The seven continents are the main land areas on the Earth. They are

- **Africa** It is the second largest continent also called dark continent. It is home of the Nile, the longest river in the world.
- **Asia** It is the largest and most populous continent. It is the birth place of many great religions like Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity. It is also the home of the 10 highest mountain peaks including Mount Everest.
- **North America** It is also known as 'New World', North America is the only continent that has every kind of climate.
- **South America** It has longest mountain range, the Andes and also the largest river, Amazon.
- **Antarctica** It is mostly uninhabited. South Pole is at its centre. It is also called Frozen Continent. It is the highest, driest, windiest, emptiest, coldest place on earth.
- **Europe** It is the only continent without any deserts. The Vatican city, the world's smallest country is in Europe.
- **Australia** It includes other nearby Islands, which are called Oceania. It is the smallest continent and the largest Island in the world. It lies entirely South of the equator and is called land down under.

Oceans

The total area on Earth covered by water consists of oceans. The oceans have a number of seas, bays and other water bodies linked to them. The oceans are listed here from largest to smallest.

Pacific	It is the largest and deepest ocean. The Mariana Trench in it is the deepest point on Earth.
Atlantic	It has the longest coastline of all the oceans. The Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea are linked to it.
Indian	It is the only ocean named after a country. The Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal are linked to it.
Southern	It completely encloses the continent of Antarctica.
Arctic	It is the smallest ocean and is mostly frozen. North Pole is at its centre.

Rivers

The largest river in the world is the Amazon. It flows in South America, mostly in Brazil. The longest river in the world is the Nile. It has two main tributaries. These are called Blue Nile and White Nile. Another long river in Africa is the Congo – Chambeshi. The Congo is also known as 'Highway of Central Africa'.

- The longest river in Asia is the Yangtze. It flows entirely in China.
- Another long river in China is the Yellow river. It is also known as 'China's sorrow' because of the floods it caused in earlier days.
- The longest river in North America is the Mississippi – Missouri. It flows mostly in the USA.
- The deepest river in the world is the Congo. It is also known as Zaire river.
- The largest river in the world is Amazon.
- The longest river in the world is the Nile.
- The longest river in Asia is Yangtze.
- The longest river in Europe is Volga.

Mountain Ranges and Famous Mountains

Some major mountain ranges on Earth's land surface are listed here from longest to shortest.

Andes	It is the longest mountain range in the world, located in South America. Aconcagua is the highest peak in this range.
Rockies	It is North America. Mount Elbert is their highest peak. But the highest mountain in North America is Mount McKinley. It lies in the Alaska state of the USA.
Himalayas	It is the longest range in Asia. It contains the highest mountain of the world, Mount Everest.

Other famous ranges are the Great Dividing Range (Australia), Caucasus and Alps (both in Europe), Atlas (in Africa) and the Western Ghats (in India).

The other famous mountains are

K2	It is the second highest mountain in the world. It is on the India – China border in Jammu and Kashmir.
Kanchenjunga	It is the third highest mountain in the world. It is on the India– Nepal border in Sikkim.
Kailash	It has a religious significance for Hindus. It lies in China (Tibet).
Kilimanjaro	It is the highest mountain in Africa. It is famous for being volcanic.
Matterhorn	It is shaped like a pyramid. It lies on the border between Switzerland and Italy.
Fuji or Fujiyama	It is the highest mountain in Japan. It is famous for being volcanic.

Energy Sources

Energy sources are of two types, conventional and non-conventional.

- **Conventional sources** have been in use for a long period of time. These include coal, petroleum products like oil and natural gas, nuclear power, hydroelectric power, firewood, straw and dried dung. Most of these sources cause pollution when used. They also generate Greenhouse Gases like carbon dioxide, methane and CFC's.
- **Non-Conventional sources** Energy generated by using wind, tides solar, geothermal heat and biomass including farm and animal waste is known as non-conventional energy. All these sources are renewable and do not cause environmental pollution.



Practice Exercise

1. How many continents are there on Earth?
(a) Seven (b) Six
(c) Eight (d) Ten
2. Which amongst the following is the largest and most populous continent in the world?
(a) Europe (b) Africa
(c) Asia (d) North America
3. Which continent is the home of the 10 highest mountain peaks including Mount Everest?
(a) South America (b) Asia
(c) North America (d) Australia
4. The only continent that has every kind of climate is
(a) North America (b) Africa
(c) Australia (d) South America
5. North America is also known as
(a) Rich continent
(b) Barren continent
(c) New World
(d) Dark continent
6. South America has the largest river of the world namely
(a) Nile (b) Amazon
(c) Colorado (d) Tsang po
7. Antarctica is also called
(a) Frozen continent
(b) White land
(c) Dark continent
(d) New world
8. Which amongst the following is the highest, driest, windiest, emptiest, coldest place on earth?
(a) Canada (b) Greenland
(c) Arctic (d) Antarctica
9. The only continent without any desert is
(a) Australia (b) Asia
(c) Europe (d) Africa
10. What is the name of world's smallest country in Europe?
(a) Vatican city (b) Monaco
(c) Nauru (d) Tuvalu
11. Which continent is also known as land down under?
(a) Australia (b) Africa
(c) South America (d) Antarctica
12. Which amongst the following is the largest and deepest ocean in the world?
(a) Atlantic Ocean (b) Pacific Ocean
(c) Indian Ocean (d) Arctic Ocean
13. The deepest point on Earth is
(a) Tonga Trench (b) Philippine Trench
(c) Mariana Trench (d) Kermadec Trench
14. The ocean with longest coastline in the world is
(a) Indian Ocean (b) Southern Ocean
(c) Arctic Ocean (d) Atlantic Ocean
15. Mediterranean sea and the Black Sea are linked to which ocean?
(a) Pacific (b) Atlantic
(c) Indian (d) Atlantic
16. The Southern ocean completely encloses the continent of
(a) Asia (b) Europe
(c) Australia (d) Antarctica
17. Which is the smallest ocean on earth?
(a) Arctic (b) Antarctic
(c) Pacific (d) Indian
18. The longest river in the world is
(a) Amazon (b) Congo
(c) Nile (d) Yangtze
19. The largest river of the world which flows in South America is
(a) Amazon (b) Mississippi
(c) Yangtze (d) Chambeshi
20. Which river is also known as 'Highway of Central Africa'?
(a) Indus (b) Congo
(c) Yellow River (d) Brahmaputra
21. Yellow river is also known as
(a) Sorrow of Bengal
(b) China's Sorrow
(c) Highway of Central Africa
(d) Sorrow of Pakistan

- 22.** The longest mountain range in the world is
 (a) Andes (b) Rockies
 (c) Atlas (d) Himalayas
- 23.** Which amongst the following is the highest mountain peak of rockies?
 (a) K₂ (b) Aconcagua
 (c) Mount Elbert (d) Mount Everest
- 24.** Longest mountain range in Asia is
 (a) Himalayas (b) Atlas
 (c) Alps (d) Rockies
- 25.** Which mountain is shaped like a pyramid?
 (a) Matterhorn (b) Fujiyama
 (c) Kailash (d) K2
- 26.** Why is the use of coal as a source of energy in the home not good?
 (a) It leaves ash after burning
 (b) It is very costly
 (c) It is a fossil fuel
 (d) It causes pollution
- 27.** In what way can we best use dried dung as a source of energy?
 (a) In the home
 (b) Generating power commercially
 (c) In industry
 (d) For powering water pumps
- 28.** Wind energy can be used for
 (a) cooking
 (b) running cars
 (c) operating water pumps for irrigation
 (d) heating homes in winter
- 29.** Conventional sources of thermal energy are
 (a) water in rivers and lakes
 (b) fossil fuels
 (c) tides in the ocean
 (d) wind
- 30.** is not a petroleum product.
 (a) Diesel
 (b) Kerosene
 (c) Natural gas
 (d) Coal

Answers

1	(a)	2	(c)	3	(b)	4	(a)	5	(c)	6	(b)	7	(a)	8	(d)	9	(c)	10	(a)
11	(a)	12	(b)	13	(c)	14	(d)	15	(b)	16	(d)	17	(a)	18	(c)	19	(a)	20	(b)
21	(b)	22	(a)	23	(c)	24	(a)	25	(a)	26	(d)	27	(a)	28	(c)	29	(b)	30	(d)