

Caribbean Primary Social Studies

4

# Our World Community

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Third  
edition



 **HODDER**  
EDUCATION

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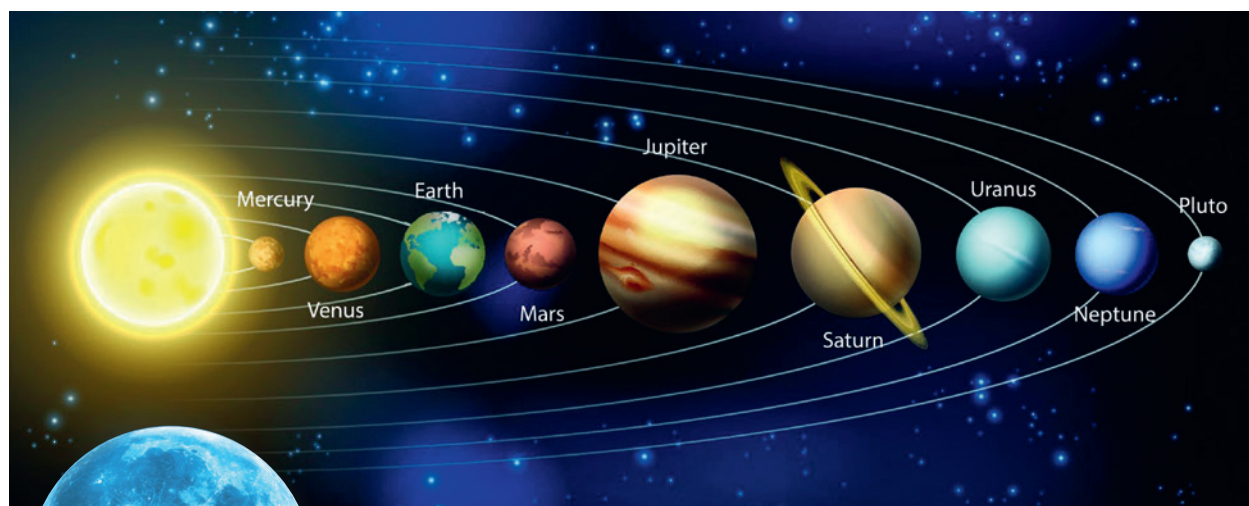


### What will you learn?

When you have worked through this unit, you will know that:

- ★ the Earth is a part of our solar system and our galaxy
- ★ the Earth's surface is covered by land and water
- ★ areas of land and water are unevenly distributed on the Earth's surface
- ★ different parts of the world have different climates
- ★ different types of vegetation grow in different parts of the world.

The Earth is a **planet** and it moves, or 'revolves', around the Sun. It is one of the planets in our **solar system**. All of the planets in our solar system revolve around the Sun. Our solar system is a part of the Milky Way Galaxy. It is called the Milky Way because of its appearance when viewed through a telescope.



→ All the planets in our solar system



→ The Moon

What do you see in the illustration and picture? Discuss what you see with your classmates.



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Our moon revolves around the Earth as it revolves around the Sun. Other planets have similar moons that revolve around them.



→ What the Earth looks like from the Moon

Look at the photograph above. It shows the Earth and the moon as seen from a satellite in space.

The Earth is home to over seven billion people. The world's population is predicted to become nine billion by 2030. The Earth provides us with our basic resources for life. We need to preserve and protect it for ourselves and future generations.

### The Earth's surface

The surface of the Earth is made up of two separate parts. We call one part land and the other part water.

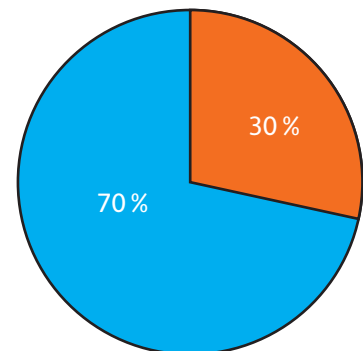
Look at the photograph above. Which can you see more of – land or water?

Now look at this pie chart on the right. What percentage of the Earth's surface is covered by water? What percentage is covered by land?



Describe what you see in the photograph to your classmates. Why is the moon important?

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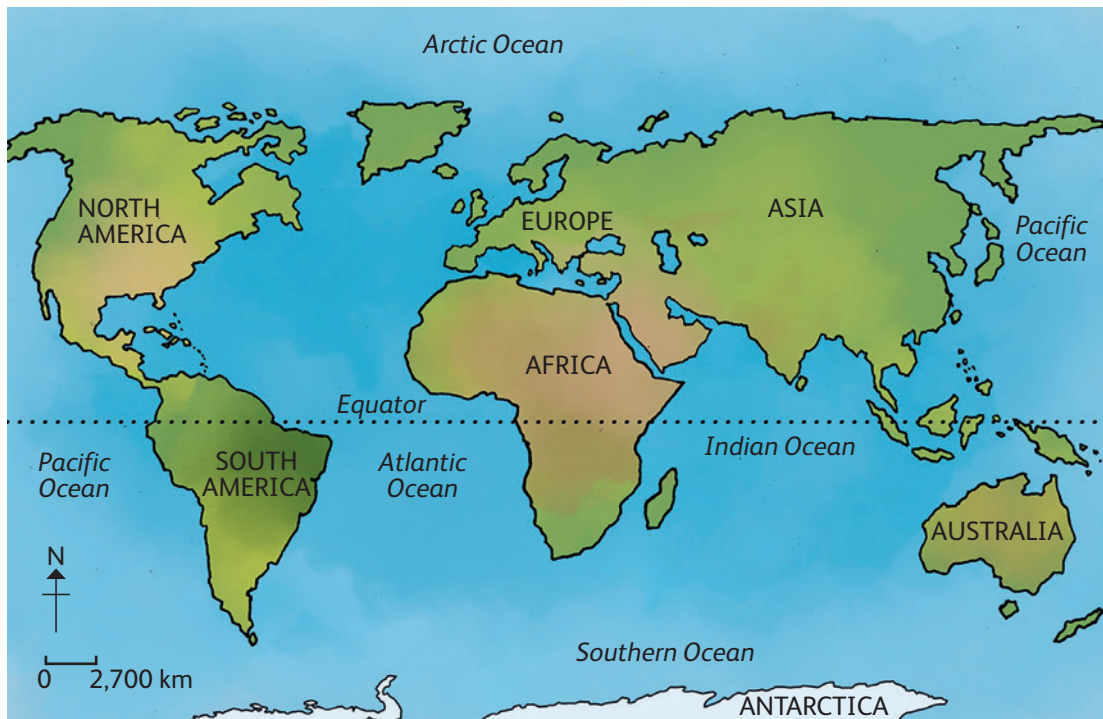
### The land

The world's population lives on the huge land masses and the thousands of islands that make up the land surface of the Earth. The large land masses are called continents. Continents are large land masses that are divided into countries.

Activity time!



- 1 How many continents can you name? Make a list and then check it against the map below.
- 2 Between which two continents is your country located?

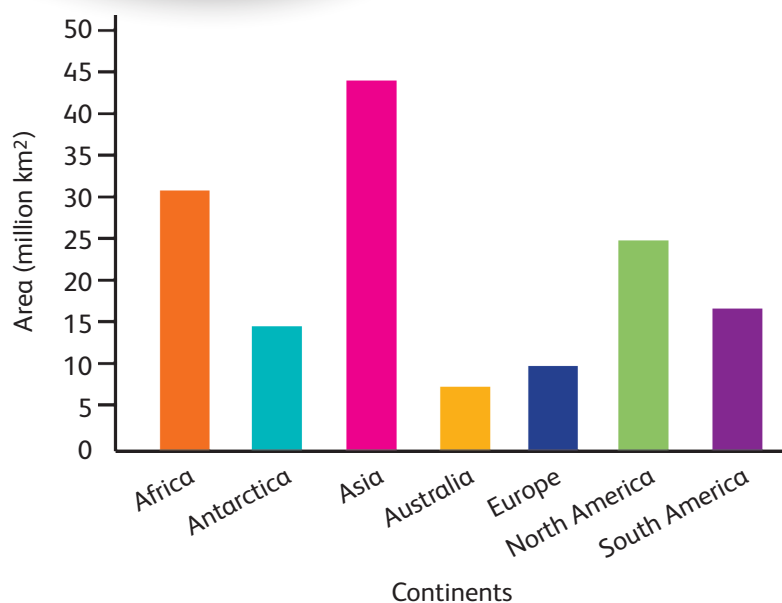


→ The Earth's continents and oceans

Activity time!



- 1 Find the equator on the map and on your school globe.
  - Which continents are entirely in the northern hemisphere?
  - Which continents are entirely in the southern hemisphere?
  - Which hemisphere has more land area – the northern or southern hemisphere?
- 2 Use your atlas to find the names of six islands that are not in the Caribbean. Name the continents where these countries are found: Australia, Egypt, Mexico, France, Venezuela and Kenya.



→ The sizes of the Earth's continents



Look at the bar graph. It shows the size of each continent. The size, or land area, is measured in millions of square kilometres.

- 1 What is the size of the largest continent?
- 2 Which continent is about 10 million square kilometres?
- 3 Which continents are larger than 20 million square kilometres?
- 4 What is the area of Eurasia (Europe and Asia together)?

Islands are also different sizes. The largest island on Earth is Greenland, which is to the north-east of North America.



→ The remote Falkland Islands provide a safe environment for these penguins

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### The water

Oceans are the largest bodies of water on the Earth's surface. **Seas** are smaller areas of water, which are sometimes formed where parts of a land mass or many islands enclose a portion of the ocean. **Bays** and **gulfs** are formed where the land curves. Some other natural water features that are found throughout the Caribbean and the world include waterfalls, geysers, rivers, swamps and lakes. People alter the natural environment for their benefit by building dams and canals.



Activity time!



What is the name of the longest river in the world and where is it located? If you visit another country, which natural features would you like to see? Which special waterway connects the Pacific Ocean to the Caribbean Sea through Central America?

Trace a simple map of the Caribbean area. Mark on it the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

Activity time!



Find a map of the world in your atlas. Play a game of 'Look' with your partner. See who can find the most oceans and seas.

Like continents and islands, the Earth's bodies of water are also different sizes. The largest is the Pacific Ocean. Its area is over 180 million square kilometres – larger than all the continents put together. You will learn more about the different bodies of water in Unit 3.

### The poles

The northern and southern ends of the Earth are called 'poles'.



→ The Atmospheric Research Observatory (ARO) is part of the Amundsen-Scott Research Station at the South Pole



Most of the land around the South Pole is covered with ice and snow all year round. The South Pole has become an important place for scientific research programmes on the Earth's climate. Many environmental groups use the Atmospheric Research Observatory (ARO) to research climate change.

### The Earth's climate and vegetation

Different parts of the world have different climates. This is partly because of their position in relation to the Sun. The two coldest places on Earth are the North and South Poles. The nearer you go to the equator, the hotter it becomes. Some parts of the world also receive more rainfall than other parts.

Different plants grow in different parts of the world. Where the climate is hot and wet there are large tropical **rainforests**. Where it is hot, but not wet enough for trees to grow, there are **grasslands**. Where it is hot and dry, there are **deserts**. Forests also grow in cooler climates, further away from the equator. Near the poles, where the temperature is extremely low, there is very little **vegetation**. You will learn more about this in Units 9 to 13.



Use an atlas or a globe. How does the region at the North Pole differ from that of the South Pole? In what way(s) are the regions at the poles similar?



How would you describe the climate of the Caribbean? What sort of vegetation grows well in the Caribbean? Why is this so?



→ Wildebeest and zebra grazing on grasslands in the Okavango Delta, Botswana



→ Sand dunes in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

### Points to remember

- ▶ Land covers about 30 per cent of the Earth's surface, and water covers about 70 per cent.
- ▶ Continents and islands are different sizes.
- ▶ Bodies of water are also different sizes.
- ▶ Different parts of the world have different climatic conditions and different vegetation.



Which of the places in the photographs above receive more rainfall than the other? How can you tell?

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# Caribbean Primary Social Studies

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## Our World Community

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