

# Oceans and Continents

**What is it?** To locate places on our planet, we need to name its largest features. Water covers nearly three-fourths of Earth's surface. The largest bodies of water are **oceans**. The large land areas that cover the rest of the earth are the **continents**.

**How to do it.** Find the oceans on the map below. This is really just one big body of water, but geographers usually divide it into four oceans. They are the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, and Arctic oceans.

Now find the continents. Geographers identify seven continents. From largest to smallest, they are Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. Europe and Asia are actually parts of one huge landmass that is sometimes called Eurasia. But geographers usually think of Europe and Asia as two continents because they have different cultures and histories.

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**Try it.** Use this map to answer the following questions.

1. Which is the most northern ocean on Earth?
2. Which is the most southern continent on Earth?
3. Which continents border the Atlantic Ocean?
4. Which ocean touches three continents? What are they?
5. Which ocean do you think is the largest? Why?