

# NORTH AMERICA

From the wilderness of Canada, to the big cities of the United States, to the blue waters of Mexico, there is so much to be discovered in North America.

Although Columbus is given much credit as having discovered America, there were plenty of people already living in North America prior to the Europeans having arrived. This included many Native American tribes in the United States and the Aztec civilization in what is now Mexico. In the 1600's the Europeans quickly colonized and took over much of North America. The most populous country in North America, the United States, was formed in the late 1700's and became a "melting pot" of people and cultures from around the world.



North America is the third largest of the seven continents. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. There are actually 23 countries that make up North America. The three most popular are: Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Central America and the Caribbean are usually considered part of North America.

**Population:** 528,720,588

**Area:** 9,540,198 square miles

**Ranking:** It is the third largest and the fourth most populous continent

**Major Biomes:** desert, temperate forest, taiga, grasslands

**Major cities:**

- Mexico City, Mexico
- New York City, USA
- Los Angeles, USA
- Chicago, USA
- Toronto, Canada
- Houston, USA
- Ecatepec de Morelos, Mexico
- Montreal, Canada

**Bordering Bodies of Water:** Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico

**Major Rivers and Lakes:** Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake, Lake Erie, Lake Winnipeg, Mississippi River, Missouri River, Colorado River, Rio Grande, Yukon River

**Major Geographical Features:** Rocky Mountains, Sierra Madres, Appalachian Mountains, Coastal Range, Great Plains, Canadian Shield, Coastal Plain

## Fun Facts about North America:

The city with the largest population in North America is Mexico City, Mexico. The most populous country is the United States (2010 census).

The longest river in North America is the Mississippi-Missouri River System.

Lake Superior is the largest fresh water lake in the world by area. It is located on the border between the United States and Canada.

The country of Greenland is the biggest island on the planet.

The North American and South American continents are thought to have been named after Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci.

Canada is slightly larger than the United States in area making it the second largest country by area in the world (after Russia).



Flag of Canada



Flag of The United States of America



Flag of Mexico