# **Land Comprehension Check**

For questions 1-7, match the topographical description with the correct continent.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Continents** | | | | | | |
| Africa | Antarctica | Asia | Australia | Europe | North America | South America |

1. This is the third largest continent with a wide variation of mountain ranges and valleys, vast plains and grasslands, deserts, wide coastal plains, beaches, and islands.
2. This is the largest continent and includes mountain systems, vast plains and high plateaus, steppes, deserts, long river valleys, thousands of miles of freshwater shorelines and seashores, and about 20,000 islands.
3. This is the second largest continent, with vast grasslands and desserts, rainforest habitats, massive rivers, calderas, high plateaus, and the occasional tall mountain.
4. This is the fourth largest continent and looks somewhat like a bowl – with high mountains or high plateaus around the edges and a large, flat central interior.
5. This is the smallest continent, and it contains massive and sometimes unusual rock formations, many active volcanoes, mountains, and the low and high islands often considered part of Oceania.
6. This is the sixth largest (or second smallest) continent, with features that range from mountains to high plateaus, to vast low plains, to several large and small islands.
7. This is the third smallest continent as well as the only on that does not have permanent human residents. Antarctica is covered by the largest ice sheet on Earth, has some mountains, and is mainly snow-covered rock.
8. Briefly describe Earth’s four layers: the crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core.
9. How do tectonic plates create landforms?
10. How do erosion and weathering work to create landforms?

# **Land Comprehension Check Answer Key**

For questions 1-7, match the topographical description with the correct continent.

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| **Continents** | | | | | | |
| Africa | Antarctica | Asia | Australia | Europe | North America | South America |

1. This is the third largest continent with a wide variation of mountain ranges and valleys, vast plains and grasslands, deserts, wide coastal plains, beaches, and islands.
   1. North America
2. This is the largest continent and includes mountain systems, vast plains and high plateaus, steppes, deserts, long river valleys, thousands of miles of freshwater shorelines and seashores, and about 20,000 islands.
   1. Asia
3. This is the second largest continent, with vast grasslands and deserts, rainforest habitats, massive rivers, calderas, high plateaus, and the occasional tall mountain.
   1. Africa
4. This is the fourth largest continent and looks somewhat like a bowl – with high mountains or high plateaus around the edges and a large, flat central interior.
   1. South America
5. This is the smallest continent, and it contains massive and sometimes unusual rock formations, many active volcanoes, mountains, and the low and high islands often considered part of Oceania.
   1. Australia
6. This is the sixth largest (or second smallest) continent, with features that range from mountains to high plateaus, to vast low plains, to several large and small islands.
   1. Europe
7. This is the third smallest continent as well as the only one that does not have permanent human residents. Antarctica is covered by the largest ice sheet on Earth, has some mountains, and is mainly snow-covered rock.
   1. Antarctica
8. Briefly describe Earth’s four layers: the crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core.
   1. Earth can be thought of in four layers. The outermost layer is the crust. It floats on top of the mantle in the form of tectonic plates. The oceanic crust, also called the sea floor, looks like the land on Earth’s surface, just covered in water. The continental crust is found above sea level where we live. The mantle is made of hot rock that slowly moves, thus moving the crust. Earth’s outer core is mostly made of metals like iron and nickel. The outer core is so hot that all the metal there has been melted into liquid form. Finally, the inner core is a solid mass that scientists believe may be hotter than the surface of the sun!
9. How do tectonic plates create landforms?
   1. Tectonic plates, erosion, and weathering all work to create different landforms on Earth. First, tectonic plates below Earth’s surface shift slowly over time. When tectonic plates collide, various landforms can be created. For example, colliding tectonic plates can create mountains, volcanoes, and basins.
10. How do erosion and weathering work to create landforms?
    1. Erosion and weather can also contribute to the formation of landforms. Both erosion and weather wear away at rock through such forces as wind, water, gravity, and ice.