# **Places and Regions 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 second largest continent by both area and population. It contains 1.4 billion people living in 54 countries and 5 dependencies. Some areas are extremely rural, whereas others are quite populous. It is home to deserts, rain forests, farms, and cities alike. It includes the world’s longest river (the Nile River), flat-topped Table Mountain and Mount Kilimanjaro, as well as such man-made feats as the ancient Egyptian pyramids and Great Sphinx, beautiful mosques and churches, and modern buildings like Independence Arch or the Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre.
2. This is the largest continent by area and population. It is divided into 50 countries, including one with approximately 1.2 billion people, or 20% of the world’s population! It also includes the largest country by area in the world. This continent includes mountains, coastlines, lakes, and deserts and has such man-made feats as the Taj Mahal, the temple at Angkor Wat, the Burj Khalifa, and more.
3. This continent is divided into 12 countries and 2 dependencies. The largest country has 212 million people and covers about half the land on the continent itself. This continent includes the world’s largest rainforest, its highest waterfall, the world’s largest salt flat, and its driest desert outside the poles. This continent is home to such man-made feats as Incan ruins from the 1400’s, Nazca Lines from between 100 B.C. and A.D. 800, the Panama Canal, as well as such vast cities as São Paulo, La Paz, and Buenos Aires.
4. This is one of the smallest continents by size but contains 49 countries and 5 dependencies. It is densely populated, as it is the third largest continent by population. This continent includes fertile lands, landlocked areas, fresh water, sea water and oceans, mountains, islands, and many coastal features. In addition, it includes such man-made feats as the Eiffel Tower, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Tower Bridge, the Colosseum, and many famous cathedrals.
5. This is the third largest continent by area and is divided into 23 countries, including those in Central America and on Caribbean islands. This continent includes such natural landmarks as Niagara Falls, Yellowstone National Park, Horseshoe Bend, and cenotes (underground lakes). It also includes such man-made feats as the Golden Gate Bridge, a memorial to Crazy Horse, the CN Tower, and Chichén Itzá.
6. This is the coldest, brightest, and windiest continent. No permanent residents live in in this continent, but researchers do live and work there year-round. It is home to the South Pole, mountains, and even active volcanoes like Mount Erebus. The islands that surround this continent are home to many colonies and types of penguins. Although most areas are covered in snow, some are not because whatever snow does fall, quickly evaporates.
7. This is the only place that is both a country and a continent. Often, other islands surrounding this continent are included when talking about it because of their proximity to the continent itself. These areas are home to the Great Barrier Reef, the naturally spherical Moeraki Boulders, and the gorgeous scenery that makes it a popular tourist attraction. These areas also include such man-made feats as the gigantic statues found on Easter Island, Sky Tower, the Sydney Opera House, and the Sydney Harbor Bridge.
8. A region defines a specific, large area with common, distinct features. Describe the three major types of regions: physical, cultural, and political.
9. Describe the study of geography. Why might it be important to study geography?
10. After thinking critically about our world’s places and regions, which would you like to learn more about and why?

# **Places and Regions Comprehension Check Answer Key**

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   1. Australia
8. A region defines a specific, large area with common, distinct features. Describe the three major types of regions: physical, cultural, and political.
   1. A physical region is defined by physical characteristics like location, climate, natural resources, topography, or type of soil. Cultural regions are defined by features related to humans such as religion, language, common history, or economy. Cultural regions often do not have clear borders, which can lead to disagreements between groups of people. Often, your cultural region is a large part of your identity. Political regions are areas with defined boundaries, such as towns, cities, provinces, states, and countries. Political regions can be easier to define as they are often associated with and controlled by governments.
9. Describe the study of geography. Why might it be important to study geography?
   1. Geography is the study of places throughout the world. It includes studying Earth’s physical features as well as Earth’s man-made ones. Geographers study how places came to be, how they have changed over time, and how humans have changed Earth to suit their needs.
   2. Students’ answers about why it might be important to study geography will vary.
10. After thinking critically about our world’s places and regions, which would you like to learn more about and why?
    1. Students’ answers will vary.