

# NORTH AMERICA



# NORTH AMERICA?

- **North America** is a continent wholly within the Northern Hemisphere and almost wholly within the Western Hemisphere.
- It is also considered a northern subcontinent of the Americas. It is bordered to the north by the Arctic Ocean, to the east by the Atlantic Ocean, to the west and south by the Pacific Ocean, and to the southeast by South America and the Caribbean Sea.
- North America covers an area of about 24,709,000 square kilometers (9,540,000 square miles), about 4.8% of the planet's surface or about 16.5% of its land area.
- North America is the third-largest continent in area, following Asia and Africa, and the fourth in population after Asia, Africa, and Europe.





# History



The development of agriculture in the south, many important cultural advances were made there. For example, the Maya civilization developed a writing system, built huge pyramids and temples, had a complex calendar, and developed the concept of zero around 400 CE, a few hundred years after the Mesopotamians.













The Mayan culture was still present in southern Mexico and Guatemala when the Spanish explorers arrived, but political dominance in the area had shifted to the Aztec Empire whose capital city Tenochtitlan was located further north in the Valley of Mexico. The Aztecs were conquered in 1521 by Hernan Cortes.

Upon the arrival of the Europeans in the "New World", the Native American population declined substantially, primarily due to the introduction of European diseases to which the Native Americans lacked immunity. Native peoples found their culture changed drastically. As such, their affiliation with political and cultural groups changed as well, several linguistic groups went extinct, and others changed quite quickly. The names and cultures that Europeans recorded for the natives were not necessarily the same as the ones they had used a few generations before, or the ones in use today.

In the late 18th century and beginning of the 19th, several independence movements started across North America. The 13 British colonies on the North Atlantic coast declared independence in 1776, becoming the United States of America. New Spain, a territory that stretched from modern-day southern U.S. to Central America, declared independence in 1810 becoming the First Mexican Empire. In 1823 the former Captaincy General of Guatemala, then part of the Mexican Empire, became the first independent state in Central America, officially changing its name to the United Provinces of Central America.

# Countries of North America (Sovereign Countries)



Flag	English Short Name	English Long Name	Domestic Short Names	Capital	Currency
	<u>Antigua and Barbuda</u>	<u>Antigua and Barbuda</u>	<u>English: Antigua and Barbuda</u>	<u>St. John's</u>	<u>East Caribbean dollar</u>
	<u>Bahamas</u>	<u>Commonwealth of The Bahamas</u>	<u>English: Bahamas</u>	<u>Nassau</u>	<u>Bahamian dollar</u>
	<u>Barbados</u>	<u>Barbados</u>	<u>English: Barbados</u>	<u>Bridgetown</u>	<u>Barbadian dollar</u>
	<u>Belize</u>	<u>Belize</u>	<u>English: Belize</u>	<u>Belmopan</u>	<u>Belize dollar</u>
	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>English: Canada</u> <u>French: Canada</u>	<u>Ottawa</u>	<u>Canadian dollar</u>
	<u>Costa Rica</u>	<u>Republic of Costa Rica</u>	<u>Spanish: Costa Rica</u>	<u>San José</u>	<u>Costa Rican colón</u>
	<u>Cuba</u>	<u>Republic of Cuba</u>	<u>Spanish: Cuba</u>	<u>Havana</u>	<u>Cuban peso, Cuban convertible peso</u>
	<u>Dominica</u>	<u>Commonwealth of Dominica</u>	<u>English: Dominica</u>	<u>Roseau</u>	<u>East Caribbean dollar</u>
	<u>Dominican Republic</u>	<u>Dominican Republic</u>	<u>Spanish: República Dominicana</u>	<u>Santo Domingo</u>	<u>Dominican Peso</u>
	<u>El Salvador</u>	<u>Republic of El Salvador</u>	<u>Spanish: El Salvador</u>	<u>San Salvador</u>	<u>United States dollar</u>
	<u>Grenada</u>	<u>Grenada</u>	<u>English: Grenada</u>	<u>St. George's</u>	<u>East Caribbean dollar</u>
	<u>Guatemala</u>	<u>Republic of Guatemala</u>	<u>Spanish: Guatemala</u>	<u>Guatemala City</u>	<u>Guatemalan quetzal</u>



Haiti

Republic of Haiti

French: Haïti

Port-au-Prince

Haitian gourde



Honduras

Republic of Honduras

Spanish: Honduras

Tegucigalpa

Honduran lempira



Jamaica

Jamaica

English: Jamaica

Kingston

Jamaican dollar



Mexico

United Mexican States

Spanish: México

Mexico City

Mexican Peso



Nicaragua

Republic of Nicaragua

Spanish: Nicaragua

Managua

Nicaraguan córdoba



Panama

Republic of Panama

Spanish: Panamá

Panama City

Panamanian balboa,  
United States dollar



Saint Kitts and Nevis

Federation of Saint Kitts  
and Nevis

English: Saint Kitts and  
Nevis

Basseterre

East Caribbean dollar



Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia

English: Saint Lucia

Castries

East Caribbean Dollar



Saint Vincent and the  
Grenadines

Saint Vincent and the  
Grenadines

English: Saint Vincent and  
the Grenadines

Kingstown

East Caribbean dollar



Trinidad and Tobago

Republic of Trinidad and  
Tobago

English: Trinidad and  
Tobago

Port of Spain

Trinidad and Tobago dollar



United States

United States of America











English: United States










Washington, D.C.

United States dollar










# Countries of North America (Non- Sovereign Countries)

Flag	English Short Name	English Long Name	Domestic Short Names	Capital	Currency	Legal Status
	<u>Anguilla</u>	<u>Anguilla</u>	<u>English: Anguilla</u>	<u>The Valley</u>	<u>East Caribbean dollar</u>	<u>British Overseas Territory</u>
	<u>Aruba</u>	<u>Aruba</u>	<u>Dutch: Aruba</u>	<u>Oranjestad</u>	<u>Aruban florin</u>	<u>Constituent Country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands</u>
	<u>Bajo Nuevo Bank</u>	<u>Bajo Nuevo Bank</u>	<u>Spanish: Bajo Nuevo</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Unincorporated Unorganized Territory of the United States of America</u>
	<u>Bermuda</u>	<u>Bermuda Islands</u>	<u>English: Bermuda</u> <u>Portuguese: Bermudas</u>	<u>Hamilton</u>	<u>Bermudian dollar</u>	<u>British Overseas Territory</u>
	<u>British Virgin Islands</u>	<u>Virgin Islands</u>	<u>English: Virgin Islands</u>	<u>Road Town</u>	<u>United States dollar</u>	<u>British Overseas Territory</u>
	<u>Cayman Islands</u>	<u>Cayman Islands</u>	<u>English: Cayman Islands</u>	<u>George Town</u>	<u>Cayman Islands dollar</u>	<u>British Overseas Territory</u>
	<u>Clipperton Island</u>	<u>Clipperton Island</u>	<u>French: Île de la Passion</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Euro</u>	<u>Overseas Possession of France</u>
	<u>Curaçao</u>	<u>Curaçao</u>	<u>Dutch: Land Curaçao</u> <u>Papiamento: Pais Kòrsou</u>	<u>Willemstad</u>	<u>Netherlands Antillean guilder</u>	<u>Constituent Country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands</u>
	<u>Greenland</u>	<u>Greenland</u>	<u>Kalaallisut: Kalaallit Nunaat</u> <u>Danish: Grønland</u>	<u>Nuuk</u>	<u>Danish krone</u>	<u>Constituent Country of the Kingdom of Denmark</u>
	<u>Montserrat</u>	<u>Montserrat</u>	<u>English: Montserrat</u>	<u>Plymouth</u>	<u>East Caribbean dollar</u>	<u>British Overseas Territory</u>

	<u>Navassa Island</u>	<u>Navassa Island</u>	<u>English: Navassa Island</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>United States dollar</u>	<u>Unincorporated Unorganized Territory of the United States</u>
	<u>Puerto Rico</u>	<u>Commonwealth of Puerto Rico</u>	<u>San Juan</u>	<u>Spanish: <i>Puerto Rico</i></u>	<u>United States dollar</u>	<u>U.S. Commonwealth</u>
	<u>Saint Barthélemy</u>	<u>Collectivity of Saint Barthélemy</u>	<u>French: <i>Saint-Barthélemy</i></u>	<u>Gustavia</u>	<u>Euro</u>	<u>French Overseas Collectivity</u>
	<u>Saint Martin</u>	<u>Collectivity of Saint Martin</u>	<u>French: <i>Saint-Martin</i></u>	<u>Marigot</u>	<u>Euro</u>	<u>French Overseas Collectivity</u>
	<u>Saint Pierre and Miquelon</u>	<u>Territorial Collectivity of Saint Pierre and Miquelon</u>	<u>French: <i>Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon</i></u>	<u>Saint-Pierre</u>	<u>Euro</u>	<u>French Overseas Collectivity</u>
	<u>Serranilla Bank</u>	<u>Serranilla Bank</u>	<u>Spanish: <i>Bajo Serranilla</i></u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Unincorporated Unorganized Territory of the United States</u>
	<u>Sint Maarten</u>	<u>Sint Maarten</u>	<u>Dutch: <i>Eilandgebied Sint Maarten</i></u>	<u>Philipsburg</u>	<u>Netherlands Antillean guilder</u>	<u>Constituent Country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands</u>
	<u>Turks and Caicos Islands</u>	<u>Turks and Caicos Islands</u>	<u>English: Turks and Caicos Islands</u>	<u>Cockburn Town</u>	<u>United States dollar</u>	<u>British Overseas Territory</u>
	<u>United States Virgin Islands</u>	<u>United States Virgin Islands</u>	<u>English: United States Virgin Islands</u>	<u>Charlotte Amalie</u>	<u>United States dollar</u>	<u>Unincorporated organized Territory of the United States</u>

# Other Countries



Flag	English Short Name	English Long Name	Domestic Short Names	Capital	Currency
	<u>Bonaire</u>	<u>Bonaire</u>	<u>Dutch: <i>Bonaire</i></u> <u>Papiamentu: <i>Boneiru</i></u>	<u>Kralendijk</u>	<u>United States dollar</u>
	<u>Guadeloupe</u>	<u>Guadeloupe</u>	<u>French: <i>Guadeloupe</i></u>	<u>Basse-Terre</u>	<u>Euro</u>
	<u>Martinique</u>	<u>Martinique</u>	<u>French: <i>Martinique</i></u>	<u>Fort-de-France</u>	<u>Euro</u>
	<u>Saba</u>	<u>Saba</u>	<u>Dutch: <i>Saba</i></u> <u>English: <i>Saba</i></u>	<u>The Bottom</u>	<u>United States dollar</u>
	<u>San Andrés and Providencia</u>	<u>Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina</u>	<u>Spanish: <i>San Andrés y Providencia</i></u>	<u>San Andrés</u>	<u>Colombian peso</u>
	<u>Sint Eustatius</u>	<u>Sint Eustatius</u>	<u>Dutch: <i>Sint Eustatius</i></u> <u>English: <i>Statia</i></u>	<u>Oranjestad</u>	<u>United States dollar</u>
	<u>Federal Dependencies of Venezuela</u>	<u>Federal Dependencies of Venezuela</u>	<u>Spanish: <i>Dependencias Federales de Venezuela</i></u>	<u>Los Roques</u>	<u>Venezuelan bolívar</u>



# People in North America

- ✘ There are many different kinds of people living in North America
- ✘ The first people in North America were called Native Americans or American Indians. There are still Indians living in North America today.
- ✘ All other people living in North America once came from other continents
- ✘ Most people in North America speak English, Spanish or French



# More on Population



- The most populous country in North America, over doubling the second largest country in population, is the United States with 311.6 million persons.
- The second largest country, and only other country to maintain a populace above 100 million persons is Mexico with a population of 112,322,757.
- Canada is the third largest country with a population of 32,623,490.
- The majority of Caribbean island-nations have national populations under one million, though Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico - a territory of the United States, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago have populations higher than one million.
- While the United States, Canada, and Mexico maintain the largest populations, large city populations are not restricted to those nations. There are also large cities in the Caribbean. The largest cities in North America, by far, are Mexico City and New York. These cities are the only cities on the continent to exceed eight million, and two of three in the Americas.
- Next in size are Los Angeles, Chicago, Toronto, Havana, Santo Domingo, and Montreal. Cities in the sun belt regions of the United States, such as those in Southern California and Houston, Phoenix, Miami, Atlanta, and Las Vegas, are experiencing rapid growth.

The top ten largest North American metropolitan areas by population as of 2011, based on national census numbers from the United States of America, and census estimates from Canada and Mexico.

<b>Metro Area</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Country</b>
<u>Mexico City</u>	21,163,226	7,346 square kilometres (2,836 sq mi)	Mexico
<u>New York</u>	18,897,109	17,405 square kilometres (6,720 sq mi)	USA
<u>Los Angeles</u>	12,828,837	12,562 square kilometres (4,850 sq mi)	USA
<u>Chicago</u>	9,461,105	24,814 square kilometres (9,581 sq mi)	USA
<u>Dallas-Fort Worth</u>	6,371,773	24,059 square kilometres (9,289 sq mi)	USA
<u>Delaware Valley</u>	5,965,343	13,256 square kilometres (5,118 sq mi)	USA
<u>Houston</u>	5,946,800	26,061 square kilometres (10,062 sq mi)	USA
<u>Toronto</u>	5,593,212	7,124 square kilometres (2,751 sq mi)	Canada
<u>Washington, D.C.</u>	5,582,170	14,412 square kilometres (5,565 sq mi)	USA
<u>Miami</u>	5,564,635	15,896 square kilometres (6,137 sq mi)	USA



# Geology



## Canadian Geology

Canada is one of the oldest regions in the world, with more than half of the region consisting of pre Cambrian rocks that have been above sea level since the beginning of the Paleozoic era.

Large diamond concentrations have been recently developed in the Arctic, making Canada one of the world's largest producers. Throughout the Shield there are many mining towns extracting these minerals. The largest, and best known, is Sudbury, Ontario. Sudbury is an exception to the normal process of forming minerals in the Shield since there is significant evidence that the Sudbury Basin is an ancient meteorite impact crater. The nearby, but less known Temagami Magnetic Anomaly has striking similarities to the Sudbury Basin.

Canada's mineral resources are diverse and extensive. Across the Canadian Shield and in the north there are large iron, nickel, zinc, copper, gold, lead, molybdenum, and uranium reserves.



## U.S Geological Provinces

The lower 48 U.S. states can be divided into roughly five physiographic provinces:

- The American cordillera.
- The Canadian Shield.
- The stable platform.
- The coastal plain.
- The Appalachian organic belt.

The geology of Alaska is typical of that of the cordillera, while the major islands of Hawaii consist of Neocene volcanic erupted over a hot spot.



# Central American Geology

Central America is geologically active with volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occurring from time to time.

In 1976 Guatemala was hit by a major earthquake, killing 23,000 people; Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, was devastated by earthquakes in 1931 and 1972, the last one killed about 5,000 people; three earthquakes devastated El Salvador, one in 1986 and two in 2001; one earthquake devastated northern and central Costa Rica in 2009 killing at least 34 people; in Honduras a powerful earthquake killed 7 people in 2009.

Volcanic eruptions are common in the region. In 1968 the Arenal Volcano, in Costa Rica, erupted and killed 87 people. Fertile soils from weathered volcanic lavas have made it possible to sustain dense populations in the agriculturally productive highland areas.

Central America has many mountain ranges; the longest are the Sierra Madre de Chiapas, the Cordillera Isabelia and the Cordillera de Talamanca.

Between the mountain ranges lie fertile valleys that are suitable for the people; in fact most of the population of Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala live in valleys.

Valleys are also suitable for the production of coffee, beans and other crops.





North American cratons and basement rocks



Central America rests in the Caribbean Plate.



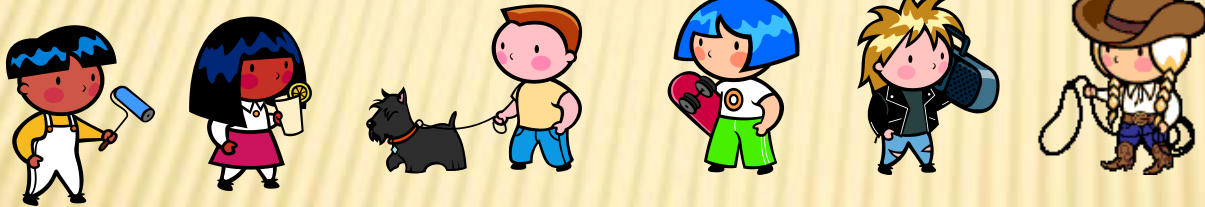
North America bedrock and terrain



# Languages



The prevalent languages in North America are English, Spanish, and French. The term Anglo-America is used to refer to the Anglophone countries of the Americas: namely Canada (where English and French are co-official) and the United States, but also sometimes Belize and parts of the Caribbean.



Latin America refers to the other areas of the Americas (generally south of the United States) where the Romance languages, derived from Latin, Spanish and Portuguese (but French speaking countries are not usually included) predominate: the other republics of Central America (but not always Belize), part of the Caribbean (not the Dutch, English or French speaking areas), Mexico, and most of South America (except Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana (FR), and The Falkland Islands (UK)).





# WEATHER IN NORTH AMERICA

- ✘ The weather or climate in North America is very cold in the North like Canada, Alaska, and Greenland
- ✘ The southern parts of North America like Florida and Mexico are much warmer because they are closer to the equator





# Infrastructure



## Transport

The First Transcontinental Railroad in the United States was built across North America in the 1860s, linking the railroad network of the eastern U.S. with California on the Pacific coast. Finished on May 10, 1869 at the famous Golden spike event at Promontory Summit, Utah, it created a nationwide mechanized transportation network that revolutionized the population and economy of the American West.



The Pan-American Highway route in North America is the portion of a network of roads nearly 48,000 km in length which travels through the mainland nations of the Americas. No definitive length of the Pan American Highway exists because the U.S. and Canadian governments have never officially defined any specific routes as being part of the Pan-American Highway, and Mexico officially has many branches connecting to the U.S. border. However, the total length of the North American portion of the highway is roughly 16,000 miles (26,000 km).

# Communication



Many of the nations of North America cooperate together on a shared telephone system known as the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) which is an integrated telephone numbering plan of 24 countries and territories: the United States and its territories, Canada, Bermuda, and 17 Caribbean nations.





# The Caribbean





# Geographically

The Caribbean islands are usually regarded as a sub region of North America and are organized into 30 territories including sovereign states, overseas departments, and dependencies.

From January 3, 1958, to May 31, 1962, there was a short-lived country called the Federation of the West Indies composed of ten English-speaking Caribbean territories, all of which were then UK dependencies.

The Caribbean islands are remarkable for the diversity of their animals, fungi and plants, and have been classified as one of Conservation International's biodiversity hotspots

Some Caribbean islands have terrain that Europeans found suitable for cultivation for agriculture. Tobacco was an important early crop during the colonial era, but was eventually overtaken by sugarcane production as the region's staple crop.

Sugar was produced from sugarcane for export to Europe, Cuba and Barbados were historically the largest producers of sugar.

The natural environmental diversity of the Caribbean islands has led to recent growth in eco-tourism. This type of tourism is growing on islands lacking sandy beaches and dense human populations.

## Language

Spanish, English, French, Dutch, Haitian Creole and Papiamentu are the predominant official languages of various countries in the region, a handful of unique Creole languages can also be found from one country to another.

## Religion

Christianity is the predominant religion. Other religions in the region are: Hinduism, Islam, Rastafari, Santería, and Voodoo among others.

## Regionalism

Caribbean states are politically diverse, ranging from communist systems such as Cuba toward more capitalist Westminster-style parliamentary systems as in the Commonwealth Caribbean, divergent constitutional traditions yet ultimately appear to function in similar ways. The political systems of the Caribbean states share similar practices.

**Politically** "Caribbean" may be centred on socio-economic groupings found in the region.

# Important Regional

## Organizations

- Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Barbados.
- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), Barbados
- Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM), Barbados and Dominican Republic
- Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), Trinidad and Tobago
- Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), Barbado.
- Inter-American Economic Council (IAEC), Washington, D.C.



# Natural Endowments, Export commodities, Major Industries & Trade Blocs (NAFTA)



**A**

**Natural Endowments**

**B**

**Export Commodities**

**C**

**Major Industries**

**D**

**NAFTA**

# Rank Based On Exports

- ❖ USA
- ❖ Canada
- ❖ Cuba
- ❖ Mexico
- ❖ Costa Rica
- ❖ Dominican Republic

# Economy (Top 10 by GDP)

Rank	Country	GDP (Puchasing Power Pparity, 2012) millions of USD
1	<u>United States</u>	14,657,800
2	<u>Mexico</u>	1,629,917
3	<u>Canada</u>	1,330,272
4	<u>Cuba</u>	125,500
5	<u>Dominican Republic</u>	85,391
6	<u>Guatemala</u>	69,958
7	<u>Costa Rica</u>	51,130
8	<u>Panama</u>	43,725
9	<u>El Salvador</u>	43,640
10	<u>Honduras</u>	33,537



The North American economy is well defined and structured in three main economic areas. These areas are the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), and the Central American Common Market (CACM).

Of these trade blocs, the United States takes part in two. In addition to the larger trade blocs there is the Canada-Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement among numerous other free trade relations; often between the larger, more developed countries, and Central American and Caribbean countries.

North American nations also take part in inter-continental trade blocs. Mexico takes a part in the G3 Free Trade Agreement with Colombia and Venezuela and has a trade agreement with the EU.

The United States has proposed and maintained trade agreements under the Transatlantic Free Trade Area between itself and the European Union;

US-Middle East Free Trade Area between numerous Middle Eastern nations and itself; and the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership between Southeast Asian nations, Australia, and New Zealand.

# WE ARE READY FOR YOUR QUESTIONS

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