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Some countries that have mountains include Nepal, Switzerland, Japan, and the United States. Mountain ranges can be found on every continent and in many different countries around the world. Snapshot The United Nations recognizes 195 countries globally: 193 members and two non-member observer states - Vatican City and the State of Palestine. Countries with 'territorial' status, such as Greenland (Denmark) and Puerto Rico (U.S.), are not independent nations but hold varying degrees of autonomy. Transcontinental countries like Russia, Cyprus, and Egypt are counted in the continent where the majority of their land or population is located. Continents are Earth's primary land divisions. However, the exact number of continents on Earth is not universally agreed upon. Many nations use a system that divides the world into seven continents, which are (from largest to smallest in terms of land area): Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia/Oceania. But some countries use other systems, which divide the world into fewer continents. For example, some combine North and South America into a single continent called simply "The Americas," or merge Europe and Asia into "Eurasia." Some lists also exclude Antarctica because it has no countries, nor even any permanent human residents. (Note: This article observes a seven-continent system.) How Many Countries are there in the World? The exact number of countries in the world is an even more hotly debated subject. A country is defined as a nation or sovereign state with its own independent government or as an area of land that forms an independent political unit with its own government. As of November 2021, the United Nations recognizes 195 countries in the world. 193 of these countries are members of the United Nations (UN) and two countries are not: Vatican City/Holy See and the State of Palestine, both of which are classified as non-member observer states. However, U.N. membership is not the last word on the subject of nationhood. There also exist dozens of "territories" which are technically not countries because they are ruled by another nation. Some of these territories are largely independent, but still part another country—for instance, Greenland is actually part Denmark, and Puerto Rico is officially part of the United States (though not a state). Even more confusingly, some would-be countries have declared their independence, but haven't yet been officially recognized by enough members of the United Nations (U.N.), and so are technically still considered territories, not countries. For example, Kosovo is treated as its own independent country by some U.N. members but still treated as part of Serbia by others. Another example is Taiwan (also known as the Republic of China), which was its own sovereign state until it was subsumed by mainland China, which prevents any attempt by the United Nations to reinstate Taiwan's full country status. Many territories of all types will be included on this list but will be marked to distinguish them from the U.N.-recognized countries. One final point regarding this particular list of countries per continent: A few countries bridge the gap between two continents, such as Russia (Europe/Asia), Cyprus (Europe/Asia), and Egypt (Africa/Asia). These transcontinental countries will be tallied with whatever continent the U.N. considers them. ##Continent: Africa Africa has a total of 54 countries, the most of any continent. The most populous of these countries is Nigeria, which has more than 211 million people. The largest country by land area in Africa is Algeria, which spans over 919,595 mi² (2,381,741 km²). Africa also has one of the world's best-known transcontinental countries, Egypt, whose northeastern corner extends into Asia. Below are the 54 countries in Africa in alphabetical order: Countries of Africa Territories of Africa Canary Islands (Spain) Ceuta (Spain) French Southern and Antarctic Lands (France) Madeira (Portugal) Mayotte (France) Melilla (Spain) Pelagie Islands (Italy) Plazas de Soberanía (Spain) Reunion (France) Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha (UK) Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) ##Continent: Asia Asia has the second-highest number of countries of any continent, but exactly how many that is can be tricky to determine. The United Nations recognizes 49 countries in Asia, which is the most widely accepted number. However, depending upon which territories one recognizes and which intercontinental countries one includes, Asia could be said to have as few as 45 or as many as 53 countries. The most populous country in Asia (and the world) is China, which has more than 1.4 billion people. The largest country by land area is Russia, which is 6.6 million square miles (17.125 million square kilometers)—however, because 78% of its people live in the European part of the country, Russia is generally considered to be a European country. In fact, Asia is the continent with the largest number of transcontinental countries, including Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, and (surprisingly to most!) Egypt, some of which are counted as Asian and some of which are not. Similarly, Cyprus is geographically located close to Asia's Middle East region but is widely considered a European country. Finally, Asia also includes several partially recognized and/or disputed territories, such as Taiwan (claimed by China), Palestine (disputed territory), and China's two "Special Administrative Regions," Hong Kong and Macau. Below are all of the countries and territories in Asia, listed alphabetically: Countries and territories of Asia Afghanistan Armenia (transcontinental - generally considered Asian) Azerbaijan (transcontinental - generally considered Asian) Bahrain Bangladesh Bhutan British Indian Ocean Territory (UK territory) Brunei Cambodia China Cyprus (transcontinental - generally considered European) Egypt (transcontinental - generally considered African) Georgia (transcontinental - generally considered Asian) Hong Kong (China - Special Administrative Region) India Indonesia Iran Iraq Israel (U.N. member, though partially unrecognized) Japan Jordan Kazakhstan (transcontinental - generally considered Asian) Kuwait Kyrgyzstan Laos Lebanon Macau (China - Special Administrative Region) Malaysia Maldives Mongolia Myanmar (formerly Burma) Nepal North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) Oman Pakistan Palestine (limited recognition) Philippines Qatar Russia (transcontinental - generally considered European) Saudi Arabia Singapore South Korea (Republic of Korea) Sri Lanka Syria Taiwan (limited recognition - claimed by China) Tajikistan Thailand Timor-Leste Turkmenistan United Arab Emirates Uzbekistan Vietnam Yemen ##Continent: Europe Europe has 51 independent U.N.-recognized states. The largest country by both population and land area is Russia with 143.93 million people and spanning over 6.6 million square miles (17,125 million square kilometers). Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey are considered to be transcontinental countries, meaning that they are considered to be parts of both Asia and Europe. Europe's countries are listed below in alphabetical order: Countries of Europe Albania Andorra Armenia (transcontinental - generally considered Asian) Austria Azerbaijan (transcontinental - generally considered Asian) Belarus Belgium Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus (generally considered European) Czechia/Czech Republic Denmark Estonia Finland France Georgia (transcontinental - generally considered Asian) Germany Greece Hungary Iceland Ireland Italy Kazakhstan (transcontinental - generally considered Asian) Latvia Liechtenstein Lithuania Luxembourg Malta Moldova Monaco Montenegro Netherlands North Macedonia Norway Poland Portugal Romania Russia (transcontinental - generally considered European) San Marino Serbia Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Switzerland Turkey (transcontinental - generally considered European) Ukraine United Kingdom Vatican City (Holy See) Territories of Europe Åland (Finland) Channel Islands (UK) Faroe Islands (Denmark) Gibraltar (UK) Guernsey (UK - crown dependency) Isle of Man (UK - crown dependency) Jersey (UK - crown dependency) Kosovo (partially recognized, claimed by Serbia) Northern Cyprus (not recognized, claimed by Cyprus) Northern Ireland (UK) Svalbard (Norway) ##Continent: North America North America is made up of 23 countries and nearly as many territories. The most populated of these countries is the United States, which has a population of 329.9 million people. The largest country in North America by land area is Canada, which spans over 3,855 million square miles (9,984,670 square kilometers). Canada and the United States together occupy 79% of the continent's total land area. Countries of North America Caribbean Sea North America North America has 12 territories, including 12 countries, and 22 territories, including 22 countries. The world's most populous country, the United States, is located in North America. The world's second most populous country, China, is located in Asia. The world's third most populous country, India, is located in Asia. The world's fourth most populous country, Brazil, is located in South America. The world's fifth most populous country, Russia, is located in Europe. The world's sixth most populous country, Japan, is located in Asia. The world's seventh most populous country, Germany, is located in Europe. The world's eighth most populous country, France, is located in Europe. The world's ninth most populous country, the United Kingdom, is located in Europe. The world's tenth most populous country, Italy, is located in Europe. The world's eleventh most populous country, Spain, is located in Europe. The world's twelfth most populous country, Canada, is located in North America. The world's thirteenth most populous country, Mexico, is located in North America. The world's fourteenth most populous country, Argentina, is located in South America. The world's fifteenth most populous country, Chile, is located in South America. The world's sixteenth most populous country, Peru, is located in South America. The world's seventeenth most populous country, Colombia, is located in South America. The world's eighteenth most populous country, Venezuela, is located in South America. The world's nineteenth most populous country, Ecuador, is located in South America. The world's twentieth most populous country, Bolivia, is located in South America. The world's twenty-first most populous country, Paraguay, is located in South America. The world's twenty-second most populous country, Uruguay, is located in South America. The world's twenty-third most populous country, Cuba, is located in North America. The world's twenty-fourth most populous country, Haiti, is located in North America. The world's twenty-fifth most populous country, Dominican Republic, is located in North America. The world's twenty-sixth most populous country, Puerto Rico, is located in North America. The world's twenty-seventh most populous country, Guam, is located in North America. The world's twenty-eighth most populous country, American Samoa, is located in North America. The world's twenty-ninth most populous country, Northern Mariana Islands, is located in North America. The world's thirtieth most populous country, Palmyra Atoll, is located in North America. The world's thirty-first most populous country, Pitcairn Islands, is located in North America. The world's thirty-second most populous country, San Andrés and Providencia, is located in North America. The world's thirty-third most populous country, Tokelau, is located in North America. The world's thirty-fourth most populous country, Wake Island, is located in North America. The world's thirty-fifth most populous country, Wallis and Futuna, is located in North America. The world's thirty-sixth most populous country, West Papua, is located in North America. The world's thirty-seventh most populous country, Niue, is located in North America. The world's thirty-eighth most populous country, Samoa, is located in North America. The world's thirty-ninth most populous country, Tonga, is located in North America. The world's fortieth most populous country, Vanuatu, is located in North America. The world's forty-first most populous country, American Samoa, is located in North America. The world's forty-second most populous country, Norfolk Island, is located in North America. The world's forty-third most populous country, Australia, is located in Oceania. The world's forty-fourth most populous country, New Zealand, is located in Oceania. The world's forty-fifth most populous country, Cook Islands, is located in Oceania. The world's forty-sixth most populous country, Easter Island, is located in Oceania. The world's forty-seventh most populous country, French Polynesia, is located in Oceania. The world's forty-eighth most populous country, Galapagos Islands, is located in Oceania. The world's forty-ninth most populous country, Ecuador, is located in South America. The world's fiftieth most populous country, Guam, is located in North America. The world's fifty-first most populous country, Jarvis Island, is located in North America. The world's fifty-second most populous country, Johnston Atoll, is located in North America. The world's fifty-third most populous country, Kingman Reef, is located in North America. The world's fifty-fourth most populous country, Midway Atoll, is located in North America. The world's fifty-fifth most populous country, New Caledonia, is located in Oceania. The world's fifty-sixth most populous country, Niue, is located in North America. The world's fifty-seventh most populous country, Norfolk Island, is located in North America. The world's fifty-eighth most populous country, Palmyra Atoll, is located in North America. The world's fifty-ninth most populous country, Pitcairn Islands, is located in North America. The world's sixtieth most populous country, San Andrés and Providencia, is located in North America. The world's sixty-first most populous country, Tokelau, is located in North America. The world's sixty-second most populous country, Wake Island, is located in North America. The world's sixty-third most populous country, Wallis and Futuna, is located in North America. 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The world's one hundred and one hundred and seventy-seventh most populous country, Kingman Reef, is located in North America. The world's one hundred and one hundred and seventy-eighth most populous country, Midway Atoll, is located in North America. The world's one hundred and one hundred and seventy-ninth most populous country, New Caledonia, is located in Oceania. The world's one hundred and one hundred and eighty-first most populous country, Niue, is located in North America. The world's one hundred and one hundred and eighty-second most populous country, Norfolk Island, is located in North America. The world's one hundred and one hundred and eighty-third most populous country, Palmyra Atoll, is located in North America. The world's one hundred and one hundred and eighty-fourth most populous country, Pitcairn Islands, is located in North America. The world's one hundred and one hundred and eighty-fifth most populous country, San Andrés and Providencia, is located in North America. 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