



PROJECT MANAGED BY JAM BOOKS

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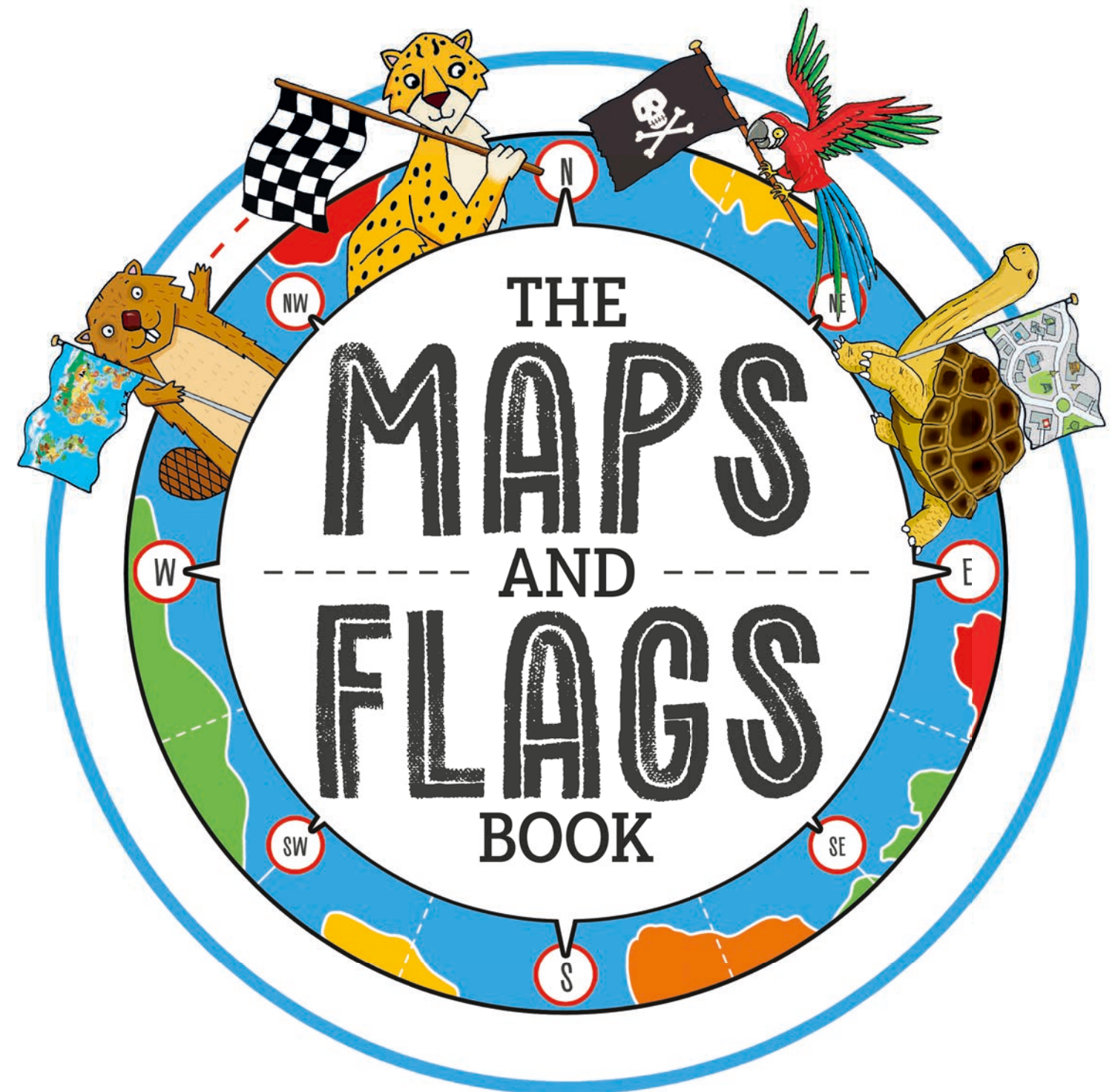
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INTRODUCTION

This book takes a close-up look at maps and flags, two of the most important ways to visually represent a country. A map shows the shape of a country's land and where its major cities and other features are located. A flag provides a colourful, recognizable image of a country to be displayed around the world. Studying maps and flags can provide a fascinating insight into the differences – and similarities – between countries.

Animal characters such as me will be popping up throughout this book to tell you a bit more about the maps and flags of our areas.



WHAT IS A COUNTRY?

In this book, we show the flag and a simple map of every country on Earth. But what exactly is a country? It can be a surprisingly difficult thing to describe, as there's no internationally recognized definition. But, in general terms, it should be possible to say all the things in this list about a country:

- It should be an area of land with clearly defined borders that can be shown on a map
- It should have people living there permanently
- It should have a government that represents the people to other countries
- It (and its flag) should be recognized as a country by a majority of other countries

This map shows the mainland of the United States of America (USA). Turn to p.16 to find out more.

OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Not every area of land on Earth is a country. Some areas of land belong to other countries and are often known as overseas territories. See p.92 for more about these areas.

Most countries are members of the United Nations, an international organization where countries come together to discuss and debate world issues. It also has its own flag, which I'm waving here.

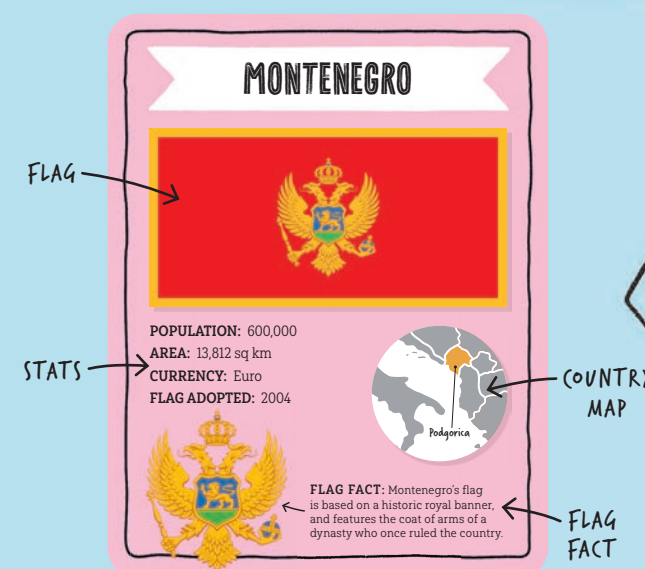


HOW THIS BOOK WORKS

This book is divided into regions, made up of the five continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia, plus the continental region of Oceania (which includes the continent of Australia).

WORLD AND CONTINENT MAPS

There's a map of the world on pages 12–13, showing the location of the continents. Each chapter also starts with a map of the continent or region being featured, such as this one for South America (see p.25). This illustrates where all the continent's countries are located, alongside some additional information and fun facts.

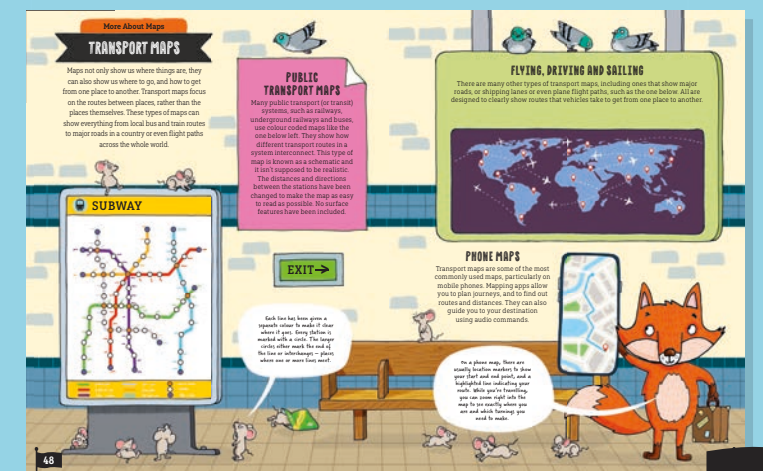


COUNTRY FLAGS AND MAPS

Each country gets its own section, such as this one for Montenegro in Europe (see p.45). In it, you'll see the country's flag as well as a simple map of the country's borders and the location of its capital city. Extra stats about the country's population, area and currency are also provided, along with a fact giving background information on the country's flag.

MORE MAPS

There are many kinds of maps – weather maps, wildlife maps, pirate maps and more. These are explored in the 'More About Maps' feature at the end of each chapter. Here, you'll see examples of some of the different types of maps, such as these transport maps from the end of the Europe chapter (see p.48).



WHAT IS A MAP?

A map is a picture of an area as if seen from above. There are many types of maps, which can be used to display lots of different sorts of information, but all work in much the same way. They use colours and symbols to represent an area's shape and features.



MAPS OF BIG AREAS

In order to show somewhere on a map, all the features of that area need to be shrunk down by the same amount. This is known as the scale. Some maps, such as this map of the world, show a very large area, but they can't show a lot of detail.

POLITICAL MAPS

Most of the maps in this book are political maps. These show how an area of land is divided into countries or states. This means the maps display some features that you can't actually see on the ground, such as borders – the lines that divide one country from another. Political maps often use colours to highlight the different shapes of the countries.



PHYSICAL MAPS

A physical map shows the natural features of a landscape, such as mountains, valleys and rivers. It may also use colours to show different habitats, such as green for forests, grey for mountains and orange for deserts. Shading can also be used to indicate areas of higher and lower ground.



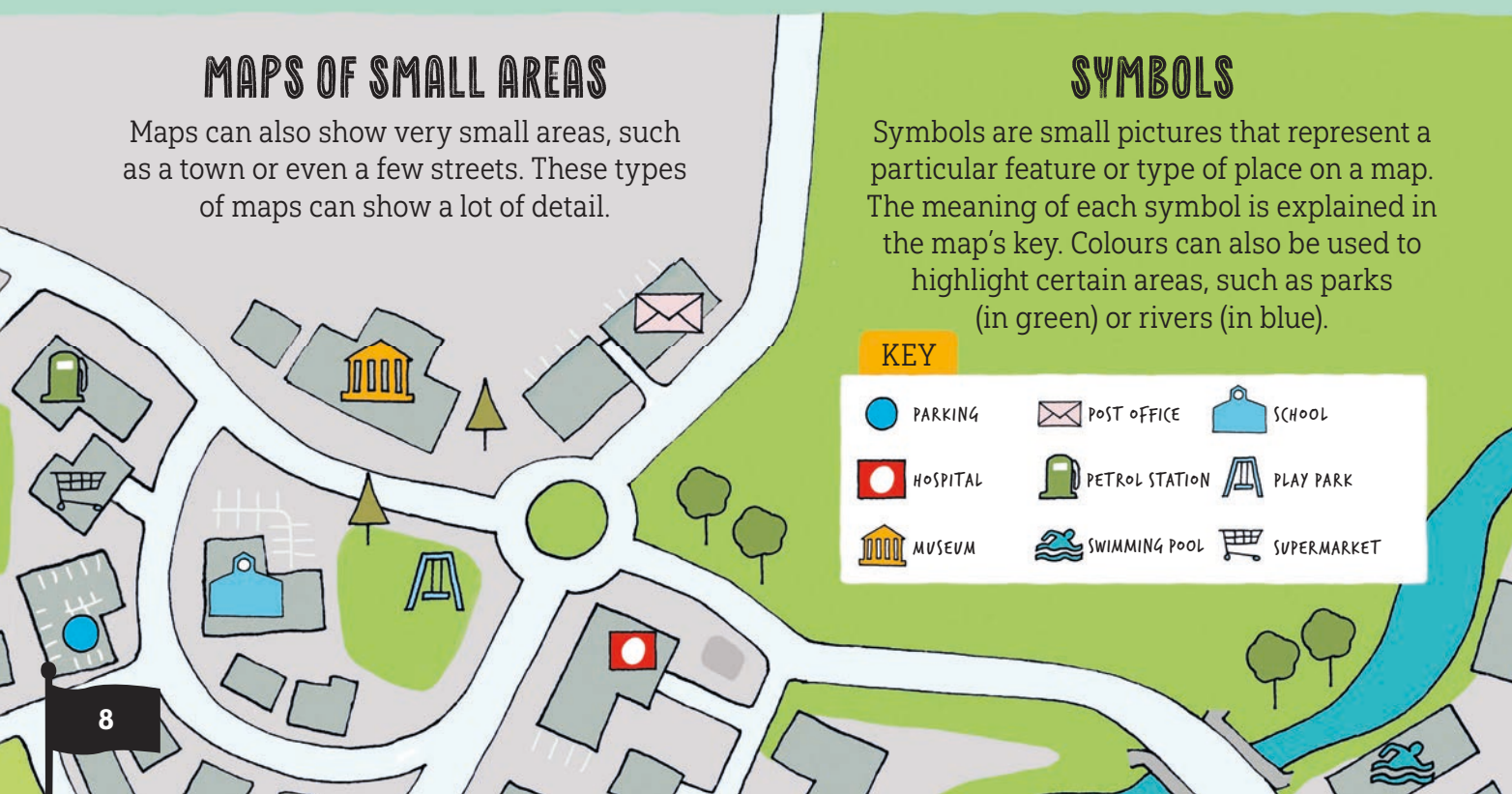
THEMATIC MAPS

Some maps focus on a particular topic or theme. They may show what the weather is like in an area, the main transport routes in a city, or where animals live in a continent. Maps are a great way of showing the answers to simple questions, such as 'Which countries drive on the left, and which drive on the right?' or 'What are the favourite foods of countries around the world?'



MAPS OF SMALL AREAS

Maps can also show very small areas, such as a town or even a few streets. These types of maps can show a lot of detail.



WHAT IS A FLAG?

A flag is a visual symbol designed to represent something, such as a country or an institution. It usually takes the form of a rectangular piece of material decorated with a colourful design, which is held up by a flagpole. Every country in the world has a flag with its own unique pattern. Many regions, states and cities also have their own flags.

PARTS OF A FLAG

FLAGPOLE – also known as the staff

HOIST – the edge and part of the flag nearest the flagpole

FLY – the edge and part of the flag furthest from the flagpole (also sometimes used to describe the horizontal length of the flag)

HALYARD – a rope attached to the edge of the flag, and used for raising and lowering it on a flagpole

FIELD – the background colour or pattern of a flag



I'm holding up the flag of Canada (p.16). At its centre is a picture of one of the country's most important symbols, the maple leaf. It's almost as important as the national animal, the beaver.

FLAG SHAPES

The majority of country flags are rectangular. Switzerland and the Vatican City (p.43) have square flags, while Nepal is the only country to have a five-sided flag known as a double pennant.



FLAG OF SWITZERLAND (p.40)



FLAG OF NEPAL (p.76)

RATIOS

Flags often have different ratios – the contrast between their height and their width. The flag of Switzerland is square, giving it a ratio of 1:1. The flag of France has a ratio of 2:3, which means it is one and a half times as long as it is wide. The UK flag has a ratio of 1:2, making it twice as long as it is wide.



FLAG OF FRANCE, 2:3 (p.41)



FLAG OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1:2 (p.37)

FLAG PATTERNS

Each flag has its own distinctive design to make it easily recognizable, but there are certain patterns that are common to many flags.

CANTON: a rectangular section in the top left where a design (or another flag) is displayed – e.g. Australia (p.89)



CHARGE: a symbol, such as a plant, an animal, a religious symbol or a mythical creature – e.g. Albania (p.46)



CHEVRON: a triangle or V-shape, usually shown coming in from the side of the flag – e.g. The Bahamas (p.18)



COAT OF ARMS: a design made up of symbols and mottos that represent the country – e.g. Ecuador (p.26)



CROSS, SYMMETRICAL: made by vertical and horizontal lines intersecting at the flag's centre, – e.g. Georgia (p.70)



CROSS, OFF-CENTRE: made by vertical and horizontal lines intersecting on one side – e.g. Sweden (p.34)



CROSS, DIAGONAL: made by diagonal lines intersecting at the centre of the flag – e.g. Jamaica (p.19)



FESSES: horizontal bands or stripes running across the width of the flag – e.g. Lithuania (p.35)

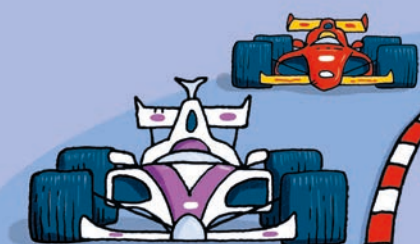
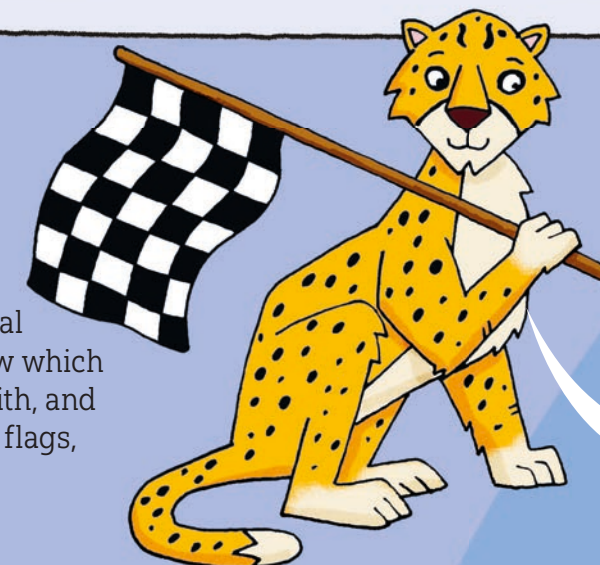


PALES: vertical bands or stripes on a flag, often in groups of three – e.g. Côte d'Ivoire (p.56)



FLYING FLAGS

It's not just countries that fly flags. Areas within countries, such as states and provinces, often have their own flags, as do some presidents and royal families. Ships fly flags to show which country they are registered with, and there are even sports that use flags, such as motor racing.



A chequered flag is waved to tell drivers that the race is over.

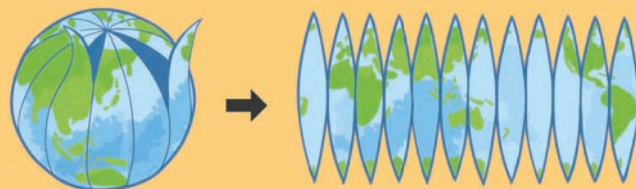
THE WORLD'S CONTINENTS

The world is made up of seven continents. Most of the world's people live in six of these: North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. The seventh continent, Antarctica, right at the southern end of the world, is too cold and inhospitable for people to stay there permanently. In this book, we'll travel around the world to each of the continents in turn, to look at the maps and flags of the countries and territories there.

PACIFIC OCEAN

FROM GLOBE TO MAP

The most accurate map of the Earth is a globe, as the planet is shaped like a ball. To get the areas of land on a curved globe to fit on to a flat map, mapmakers have to distort, or change, the shape of the areas slightly. This is known as making a projection.



Imagine peeling a globe like an orange, and then trying to press the pieces of peel down flat. There will be gaps in between them. Mapmakers have to tweak the shapes of the land to get them to match up across the gaps.

WHAT IS A CONTINENT?

A continent is very large landmass that is mostly separated from any other very large landmass. There may be a small piece of land linking two continents as is the case with North and South America. Europe and Asia really form one big landmass, which is sometimes referred to as a single continent: Eurasia.

Europe and Asia have been regarded as separate continents since ancient times. The division was based more on culture and history than geography. Many animals, such as us grey wolves, live in both.



Home to around 4.6 billion people, Asia is the most populated continent.

ARCTIC OCEAN

EUROPE

ASIA

PACIFIC OCEAN

ATLANTIC OCEAN

NORTH AMERICA

SOUTH AMERICA

AFRICA

INDIAN OCEAN

Australia lies within a larger continental region called Oceania, which also includes New Zealand and many smaller islands.

AUSTRALIA

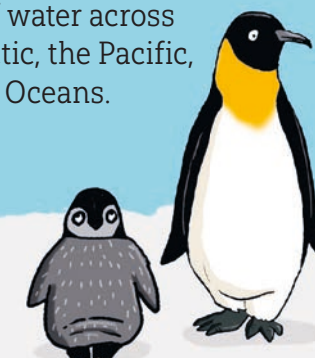
THE OCEANS

Land only makes up 29% of Earth's surface. The other 71% is water. Although it forms an unbroken body of water across the planet, we divide it into five oceans: the Arctic, the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian and the Southern Oceans.

SOUTHERN OCEAN

ANTARCTICA

There are around 40 million of us penguins living in Antarctica, but only about 5,000 people. Most are visiting scientists working at research stations.



NORTH AMERICA

Stretching from close to the North Pole down to the tropics, this vast territory is dominated by three big countries: Canada, the USA and Mexico. But there are plenty of smaller ones, too, in Central America and the Caribbean. Habitats range from the evergreen forests of the north, where wolves and bears prowl, to the great plains of the centre, the deserts of the southwest and the lush rainforests of the south.

NORTH AMERICA FACTS

- SIZE:** 25 million sq km
- NO. OF COUNTRIES:** 23
- POPULATION:** 596 million
- LARGEST COUNTRY BY AREA:** Canada
- LARGEST COUNTRY BY POPULATION:** USA
- SMALLEST COUNTRY BY AREA AND POPULATION:** St Kitts and Nevis
- LARGEST CITY:** Mexico City, Mexico (22.3 million people)

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Many of the landmasses here aren't actually countries. Instead, they are overseas territories that are governed by other countries, often located in Europe. We've added the names of the governing countries in brackets after these territories' names.

Hawaii
(USA)

North America is bordered by three oceans: the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Arctic Ocean to the north.

ARCTIC
OCEAN

Alaska
(USA)

CANADA

USA

MEXICO

BELIZE

HONDURAS

GUATEMALA

EL SALVADOR

NICARAGUA

PANAMA

COSTA RICA

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

Greenland
(DENMARK)

SUPER BIG

Part of the kingdom of Denmark, Greenland is the largest island in the world. It also has one of the world's biggest populations of polar bears.

SUPER SMALL

Some of the territories of the Caribbean are very small, so we've provided a blown-up map of the region below to help you see them.

I know all about being small. I'm a bee hummingbird, the world's tiniest bird. I live in Cuba and I'm about the size of a bumblebee.

THE CARIBBEAN

THE
BAHAMAS

CUBA

Cayman Islands
(UK)

JAMAICA

HAITI

DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC

Aruba
(NETHERLANDS)

Curacao
(NETHERLANDS)

Bonaire
(NETHERLANDS)

Turks and
Caicos Islands (UK)

Puerto Rico
(USA)

British Virgin
Islands (UK)

US Virgin Islands
(USA)

St Eustatius
(NETHERLANDS)

Montserrat (UK)

Martinique
(FRANCE)

ST VINCENT AND
THE GRENADINES

GRENADA

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Anguilla
(UK)

St Martin
(FRANCE)

St Maarten
(NETHERLANDS)

ST KITTS AND
NEVIS

ANTIGUA AND
BARBUDA

Guadeloupe
(FRANCE)

DOMINICA

ST LUCIA

Barbados