

**PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY—General Information**

*By understanding the environment we can understand why one place is different or the same as another.*

**I. About \_\_\_\_\_ of the surface of Earth is water.**

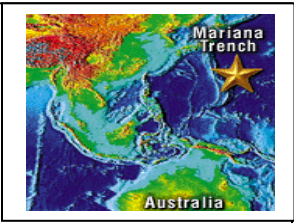
[Why are there different % depending on your source of information?]

**A. Oceans—the largest bodies of water—are salty**

	Rank	Percentage	Deepest Point
Atlantic	_____	_____	_____
Arctic	_____	_____	_____
Indian	_____	_____	_____
Pacific	_____	_____	_____

The deepest known point on Earth is at the bottom of the Mariana Trench, a depression in the floor of the western Pacific Ocean, just east of the Mariana Islands.

The Mariana Trench is 1,554 miles long and averages 44 miles wide. Within it, about 210 miles of Guam, lies the deepest known point on Earth. Named the “Challenger Deep” for the British survey ship *Challenger II* that located it in 1951, this underwater gorge plunges to a depth of nearly 7 miles! It is deeper than Mt. Everest is tall. [29,035 feet.—app. 5 ½ miles]



In 1960, Jacques Piccard and Navy Lt. Donald Walsh made history when they descended in the U.S. Navy bathyscaphe *Trieste* to the bottom of the Mariana Trench. Here, the pressure from the weight of the vast ocean above is over 8 tons per square inch, or the equivalent of an average-sized woman holding 48 jumbo jets! In 1996, the remotely operated vehicle *Kaiko*, operated by the Japan Marine Science and Technology Center, visited the Challenger Deep and recorded several marine organisms, including shrimp-like amphipods, a scale worm, a sea cucumber, and various microbes.

University of Delaware, College of Marine Studies, October 2001.

**B. Sea—a large body of salt water more or less surrounded by land**

1. What is the largest sea? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the second largest? \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Lakes—bodies of fresh water surround by land.**

1. Which continent has more lakes than any other continent? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the largest body of fresh water (lake) in the world? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the deepest? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are the Great Salt Lake, the Caspian Sea and the Dead Sea seas or lakes? \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Streams—\_\_\_\_\_—range in size from creeks or brooks to large rivers—drain water from land areas**

[\_\_\_\_\_—smaller streams flowing into larger streams;  
\_\_\_\_\_—where the streams start;  
\_\_\_\_\_—where the stream empties into a larger body of water.

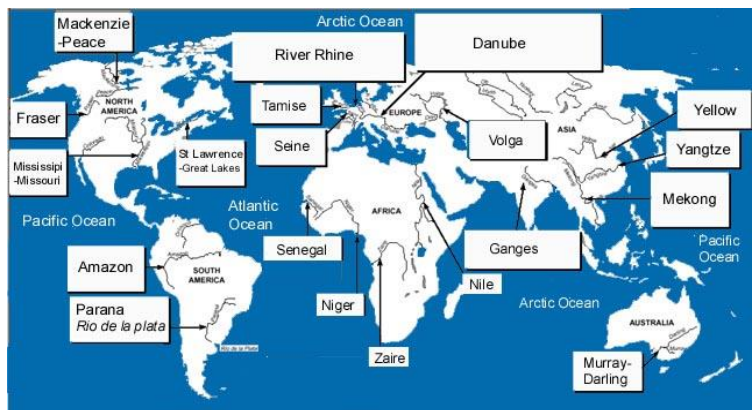
1. What is the longest river in the world?

Which direction does it flow?

2. What is the second longest river and the largest in terms of water flow?

Which direction does it flow?

of global runoff—the renewable water source that constitutes fresh water supply—comes from the Amazon Basin.



E. Groundwater—fresh water is stored under the surface of Earth in **aquifers**.

## Major Aquifers of Texas



## II. Freshwater vs. Saltwater

A. Only about \_\_\_\_\_ of Earth's water is fresh water. (Most of that is frozen.)

B. We can actually use less than \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ accounts for 70% of direct water consumption



## II. About \_\_\_\_\_ % of the surface of Earth is land.

A. Continents—largest masses of land

1. What is the rank of each continent in terms of size and population?

	Rank in Size	Rank in Population
a. Africa	_____	_____
b. Antarctica	_____	_____
c. Asia	_____	_____
d. Australia	_____	_____
e. Europe	_____	_____
f. North America	_____	_____
g. South America	_____	_____

2. Which continent has a population of zero (0)? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which continent is the most densely settled? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Islands—land surround by water

1. What is the largest island? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the second largest island? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why isn't Australia considered an island? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## III. Processes Shaping Planet Earth

A. Lithosphere

1. Earth's crust

2. Solid upper mantle

3. See Unit on Geomorphology

B. Hydrosphere

1. Oceans

2. Currents

3. Water Cycle

4. See Unit on Climate and Resources

C. Atmosphere

1. Temperature

2. Precipitation

3. Wind

4. See Unit on Climate

D. Biosphere

1. Vegetation (Flora)

2. Fauna

3. See Unit on Resources