

Natural Wonders of the World

The Largest Ocean in the World

The largest ocean in the world is the Pacific Ocean. It covers about 170 million square kilometers. It covers about 32% of the surface of the earth.

The Deepest Lake in the World

Lake Baikal in Russia is the deepest lake in the world. It is 1,637 meters deep. It is also the largest freshwater lake in the world.

The Biggest Lake in the World

The biggest lake in the world is the Caspian Sea. It has a surface area of 371,000 square kilometers. The Caspian Sea is salty, about 1/3 as salty as the seawater.

The Largest Desert in the World

The largest desert in the world is Antarctica. Antarctica covers about 14 million square kilometers. Although it is cold, it is actually considered a desert because it gets very little precipitation each year.

The Hottest Desert in the World

The hottest desert in the world is the Sahara Desert. In 1922, scientists recorded a record high temperature of 58 °C. Though it's hot during the day, it sometimes freezes at night.

The Driest Desert in the World

The Atacama desert is the driest desert in the world. It receives just 1 mm of rain per year. Some places haven't had any rain in over 100 years.

The Longest River in the World

The longest river in the world is the Nile River. It is 6,650 kilometers long. The Nile River gets smaller as it gets near its mouth because of evaporation.

The Widest River* in the World

The widest river in the world is the Amazon River. During the wet season, the Amazon can be up to 40 km wide. More water flows down the Amazon than the next 8 largest rivers combined.

The Longest River in Asia

The longest river in Asia is the Yangtze. It is 6385 kilometers long. It also has the largest dam in the world called the Three Gorges Dam.

The Highest Mountain in Africa

The highest mountain in Africa is Kilimanjaro. It is 5892 meters high. Mt. Kilimanjaro is actually an extinct volcano.

The Highest Mountain in the World

The highest mountain in the world is Mt. Everest. It is 8848 meters high. It is so high that when climbers die on Mt. Everest, often their bodies are just left on the mountain.

The Oldest Mountain Range in the World

The oldest mountain range in the world is the Barberton Greenstone in South Africa. The rock in these mountains is about 3.2 billion years old. The rock was formed before there was any animal life on earth.

The Largest Island in the World

The largest island in the world is Greenland. Greenland is about 2.2 million km². Greenland is also one of the least populated areas of the world.

The Largest Archipelago in the World

The largest archipelago in the world is Indonesia. It has about 17500 islands. Only about 6000 islands are inhabited by people.

The Largest Volcano in the World

The largest volcano is the world is Mauna Loa in Hawaii. It is about 17000 meters high from base to summit. Mauna Loa is much larger than Mt. Everest but most of Mauna Loa is underwater.

*Finding an accurate measure for the width of the Amazon River was difficult as varying authoritative sources gave different measurements. I went with the one that seemed the best, but in the end this exercise is more concerned with how well students convey the information they have (though it is also hoped the information is accurate as well).