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Introduction

Earth has seven main divisions and those large solid area of land that are divided are called **continents**. When we look at a map, continents are one of the easiest things to spot!

The seven continents are: **Asia**, **Africa**, **North America**, **South America**, **Antarctica**, **Europe**, and **Oceania**.



Differences between continents

All the continents have different types of weather, landscapes and populations.

For example, we can see that **Antarctica** is very cold, icy and doesn't have many plants and animal life; **South America**, on the other hand, is much warmer and has an immense variety of plants and animals!



Division of continents

The continents are also divided into political units called **countries**.



Tectonic plates

In 1912, a German scientist named Alfred Wegener came up with the idea that the continents were once all joined together once in a large body of land called **Pangaea**: he said that more than 200 million years ago, Pangaea started splitting apart to form the continents as we know today - scientists since then have found evidence that his theory is true. Nowadays, we also know that the continents sit on a number of large plates called **tectonic plates** that float on a layer of melted rock (known as **magma**: an extremely hot liquid and semi-liquid rock located under Earth's surface) and as the tectonic plates slide over the magma, the continents also move, sometimes causing earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes, forming mountains and changing Earth's topography.

