

Earth's Big Regions

Read about continents, oceans, and the regions they form.

3.1a "Earth is comprised of water and large land masses that can be divided into distinct regions."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each continent name and circle each ocean name. Put a 1 beside the sentence that tells a place's continent and nearby ocean.

Land, Water, and Regions

- ① Earth has much more water than land. Its biggest land areas are called continents. There are seven continents: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. Some continents are separated by water, while others are connected by land. People use maps and globes to find these large land regions and to see how they are placed around Earth.
- ② Five oceans connect much of Earth's salt water. They are the Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific, and Southern Oceans. The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean. The Arctic Ocean surrounds the North Pole and is often very cold. Oceans are water regions, while continents are land regions. Their different features help people describe places on Earth.
- ③ Regions can be smaller than continents and oceans. A region is an area with something in common, such as land, water, weather, or people. For example, Japan is part of Asia and lies beside the Pacific Ocean. Knowing its continent and nearby ocean helps a reader describe where Japan is on Earth. Maps and globes show these relationships.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How are continents and oceans different kinds of regions?

2 Name the seven continents.

3 Which ocean is the largest? Which ocean surrounds the North Pole?

4 What continent is Japan part of, and what ocean is beside it?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Use a map or globe to choose a coastal country not named in the passage. Write two sentences: name its continent, then name an ocean along its coast.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each continent name and circle each ocean name. Put a 1 beside the sentence that tells a place's continent and nearby ocean. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are continents and oceans different kinds of regions?	Continents are land regions. Oceans are water regions.
2	Name the seven continents.	Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.
3	Which ocean is the largest? Which ocean surrounds the North Pole?	The Pacific Ocean is the largest. The Arctic Ocean surrounds the North Pole.
4	What continent is Japan part of, and what ocean is beside it?	Japan is part of Asia and lies beside the Pacific Ocean.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Brazil is in South America. The Atlantic Ocean is along Brazil's coast.

Accept correct continent and ocean relationships for the student's chosen coastal country. For Question 1, accept equivalent wording that distinguishes land regions from water regions.