

Atlas of the world Manual

Atlas of the World: A Comprehensive Guide to Our Planet's Geography

The **atlas of the world** is an essential resource that provides a detailed visual and informational representation of Earth's diverse geography. From political boundaries and physical landscapes to climate zones and cultural regions, atlases serve as invaluable tools for students, travelers, researchers, and policymakers alike. In an age dominated by digital maps and GPS technology, the traditional atlas remains a vital reference for understanding the complex tapestry of our planet. This article explores the history, types, features, and significance of the **atlas of the world**, offering insights into how these cartographic compilations shape our perspective of global geography.

Historical Evolution of the Atlas of the World

Origins of Cartography and Early Atlases

The origins of the **atlas of the world** can be traced back to ancient civilizations. Early maps, such as those created by the Babylonians, Greeks, and Chinese, laid the groundwork for modern cartography. However, it wasn't until the Age of Exploration in the 15th and 16th centuries that comprehensive atlases began to emerge. Pioneering cartographers like Claudius Ptolemy compiled geographic knowledge into systematic formats, setting the stage for future developments.

The Golden Age of Atlas-Making

The 16th and 17th centuries witnessed a surge in atlas production, driven by explorers like Ferdinand Magellan and Vasco da Gama. Notable atlases from this period include Abraham Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (1570), recognized as the first modern atlas. These early works combined detailed maps with descriptive texts, offering a panoramic view of the world that fueled curiosity and exploration.

Modern Developments and Digital Atlases

Advancements in printing technology, photography, and satellite imagery transformed the creation of atlases in the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, digital atlases and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) provide interactive, real-time data, making geographic information more accessible than ever before. Despite the rise of digital tools, traditional printed atlases continue to be treasured for their artistry and comprehensive coverage.

Types of Atlases of the World

Physical Atlases

Physical atlases are printed books that compile maps, charts, and geographic information. They are often categorized into:

- **General Atlases:** Cover all aspects of world geography, including political boundaries, physical features, and thematic data.
- **National Atlases:** Focus on a specific country or region, providing detailed maps and data relevant to that area.
- **Historical Atlases:** Showcase geographic changes over time, illustrating historical boundaries, migrations, and geopolitical shifts.

Digital and Interactive Atlases

Modern technology has given rise to digital atlases, which include:

- **Online Map Services:** Google Maps, Bing Maps, and OpenStreetMap offer dynamic, interactive maps with zoom, search, and customization features.
- **GIS Platforms:** Geographic Information Systems enable users to analyze spatial data for urban planning, environmental monitoring, and research.
- **Educational Apps:** Interactive apps designed for students to explore continents, countries, and cultural regions interactively.

Thematic Atlases

Thematic atlases focus on specific subjects or themes, such as:

- Climate and weather patterns
- Population distribution
- Economic activities
- Natural resources
- Cultural and linguistic regions

Key Features of a World Atlas

Physical and Political Maps

Most atlases combine physical maps?showing mountains, rivers, and terrain?with political maps that delineate countries, borders, and cities. This duality helps users understand both the natural landscape and human-made divisions.

Inset Maps and Special Charts

Many atlases include inset maps for specific regions, cities, or features such as:

- Major metropolitan areas
- Topographical features
- Transportation networks
- Historical sites

Statistical and Demographic Data

Modern atlases often embed data tables, charts, and infographics that provide insights into population densities, economic indicators, language distribution, and more. This contextual information enriches the geographic understanding of different regions.

Coordinate Grids and Scale

Accurate latitude and longitude lines, along with scale bars, are crucial for navigation and spatial analysis. They enable users to measure distances and understand the size of geographical features.

The Significance of the Atlas of the World

Educational Value

Atlases are fundamental tools in education, helping students visualize geography, history, and environmental science. They foster spatial thinking and global awareness, making complex data accessible and engaging.

Navigation and Exploration

Before digital navigation tools, atlases were vital for explorers, sailors, and travelers. Even today, they serve as backup resources and educational tools for navigation planning.

Research and Policy Making

Researchers and policymakers utilize atlases to analyze trends, plan urban development, manage natural resources, and respond to environmental challenges. They provide a comprehensive overview of spatial relationships critical for informed decision-making.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Historical and cultural atlases document the evolution of human societies, borders, and landscapes. They serve as records of our collective history and cultural identity.

Popular and Notable Atlases of the World

- **Atlas of the World by National Geographic:** Renowned for its detailed physical and political maps, along with thematic sections.
- **Oxford Atlas of the World:** Known for its authoritative content and comprehensive coverage, including world demographics and climate data.
- **Times Atlases:** A series that combines historical perspective with current geographic information, ideal for academics and enthusiasts.
- **Digital Atlases:** Google Earth, ArcGIS Online, and other platforms offer dynamic, user-friendly interfaces for exploring our planet interactively.

Future Trends in World Atlases

Integration with Technology

The future of atlases lies in seamless integration with emerging technologies like augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and real-time data feeds. This will allow users to experience immersive geographic environments and access live updates.

Customization and User-Generated Content

Interactive digital atlases will increasingly enable users to customize maps, add layers of data, and contribute their own geographic information, fostering a collaborative approach to mapping.

Environmental and Climate Focus

As climate change accelerates, atlases will incorporate real-time environmental data, helping communities understand and respond to ecological shifts more effectively.

Conclusion

The **atlas of the world** remains an indispensable resource that bridges the gap between physical landscapes and human understanding. From ancient maps to cutting-edge digital platforms, atlases encapsulate our collective knowledge of Earth's geography, history, and cultures. They serve not only as tools for navigation and education but also as repositories of our evolving relationship with the planet. As technology advances, the future of world atlases promises even more interactive, precise, and accessible geographic insights, fostering a deeper appreciation of the diverse world we inhabit.

Atlas of the World: Navigating the Globe's Rich Tapestry of Geography and Culture

An atlas of the world is more than just a collection of maps; it is a window into the diverse tapestry of our planet's physical features, political boundaries, cultural landmarks, and environmental challenges. From ancient scrolls to digital interactive platforms, atlases have evolved to serve as vital tools for education, navigation, policy-making, and global understanding. In this article, we delve into the history, significance, and modern developments of the world atlas, illustrating how this timeless resource continues to shape our perception of the Earth.

The Historical Evolution of the World Atlas

Ancient Mapping: Foundations of Geographic Knowledge

Long before the digital age, humans sought to understand their surroundings through rudimentary maps. Early civilizations such as the Babylonians, Egyptians, and Greeks created maps that reflected both practical navigation needs and mythological beliefs. For instance, the Babylonian clay tablets from around 600 BCE depict simple land and water representations, while Greek scholars like Ptolemy in the 2nd century AD authored *Geographia*, a treatise that laid the groundwork for cartographic principles.

The Birth of the Modern Atlas

The term "atlas" as a compendium of maps originated in the early 16th century. The most influential early example is Abraham Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* published in 1570, often regarded as the first modern atlas. It consolidated various regional maps into a single volume, emphasizing accuracy and aesthetic appeal. Over the centuries, the scope expanded from regional to global, reflecting advances in exploration and scientific understanding.

Technological Milestones

- **Print Revolution:** The invention of the printing press in the 15th century made maps more accessible and standardized.

- Satellite Imagery: The 20th century saw the advent of aerial photography and satellite technology, dramatically increasing the accuracy and detail of maps.
- Digital Atlases: Today, digital and interactive atlases like Google Earth have revolutionized how we access geographic information, offering real-time data, layered views, and user interactivity.

The Components of a Modern World Atlas

Physical Features

- Continents and Oceans: Clear delineation of landmasses and water bodies, often with topographical details such as mountain ranges and river systems.
- Climate Zones: Visual representations of climate variations?tropical, arid, temperate, polar?helping understand environmental conditions.
- Natural Resources: Mapping of mineral deposits, forests, water sources, and other vital resources.

Political Boundaries

- Countries and Territories: Boundaries reflect political sovereignty, often updated to mirror geopolitical changes.
- Cities and Capitals: Major urban centers, with emphasis on capitals, economic hubs, and population centers.
- Borders and Disputed Areas: Highlighting regions with ongoing territorial disputes or unique sovereignty issues.

Cultural and Demographic Data

- Languages and Ethnic Groups: Indications of linguistic and cultural diversity.
- Religious Sites and Heritage: Locations of significant religious and historical landmarks.
- Population Density: Visual overlays indicating areas of high and low population concentration.

Economic and Environmental Indicators

- GDP and Development Indices: Charts or color codes illustrating economic disparities.
- Environmental Challenges: Maps depicting deforestation, pollution, climate change impacts, and conservation areas.

Types of World Atlases: Catering to Different Needs

General Reference Atlases

Designed for broad audiences, these atlases provide comprehensive overviews of physical, political, and cultural features. Examples include the National Geographic Atlas of the World and Oxford Atlas.

Thematic Atlases

Focusing on specific themes such as climate, population, or economic data, thematic atlases facilitate targeted research and analysis. They are invaluable for educators, policymakers, and researchers.

Digital and Interactive Atlases

Platforms like Google Earth, ArcGIS, and National Geographic's online tools offer dynamic, layered maps. Users can zoom in on streets, explore historical data, or analyze environmental changes over time.

Specialized Atlases

These include marine atlases, celestial atlases, and historical atlases, providing niche insights into particular domains or eras.

The Significance of the Atlas of the World in Modern Society

Education and Cultural Awareness

Atlases serve as vital educational resources, helping students visualize complex geographic concepts and fostering global awareness. They promote understanding of cultural diversity, environmental issues, and geopolitical dynamics.

Navigation and Travel

From traditional paper maps to GPS-enabled devices, atlases underpin navigation. They assist travelers, explorers, and logistics companies in planning routes and understanding terrains.

Policy and Planning

Governments and organizations utilize atlases for urban development, disaster management,

environmental conservation, and resource allocation. Accurate geographic data underpins effective decision-making.

Scientific Research

Researchers depend on detailed maps to study climate change, biodiversity, migration patterns, and geological phenomena. The integration of satellite data enhances the precision and scope of such studies.

The Future of the World Atlas

Digital Transformation and Interactivity

The ongoing digital revolution continues to redefine the atlas. Future developments may include:

- Real-Time Data Integration: Incorporating live data streams for weather, traffic, and environmental monitoring.
- Augmented Reality (AR): Overlaying geographic information onto the physical environment for immersive experiences.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI): Enhancing map accuracy, predictive modeling, and personalized mapping services.

Emphasis on Sustainability and Inclusivity

Modern atlases aim to reflect diverse perspectives, including indigenous territories and marginalized communities. They also highlight pressing issues like climate change, urging responsible stewardship of the planet.

Challenges and Considerations

- Data Privacy and Security: Managing sensitive information, especially in interactive and location-based services.
- Accuracy and Bias: Ensuring maps are accurate and free from geopolitical biases.
- Accessibility: Making atlases accessible to people with disabilities and in multiple languages.

Conclusion

The atlas of the world remains a cornerstone of human understanding of our planet. From ancient clay tablets to sophisticated digital platforms, atlases encapsulate our collective knowledge, charting

the contours of the Earth, illuminating cultural diversity, and guiding our future endeavors. As technology advances and global challenges persist, the atlas will continue to evolve, serving as both a mirror of our current world and a map of the possibilities that lie ahead. Whether used for education, navigation, or scientific discovery, the atlas is an enduring testament to humanity's curiosity and ingenuity in exploring the vast, complex world we call home.

Question What is an atlas of the world? An atlas of the world is a collection of maps and geographical information that provides a comprehensive view of the Earth's continents, countries, and regions. How has digital technology impacted the use of traditional world atlases? Digital technology has made world atlases more accessible and interactive through online maps, GPS, and geographic information systems, enabling real-time updates and customized views. What are the most popular features found in modern world atlases? Modern world atlases often include satellite imagery, thematic maps (such as climate or population), interactive elements, and detailed city and country profiles. Why are world atlases important for education? World atlases are essential educational tools that help students understand geography, global issues, and cultural diversity by providing visual context and spatial relationships. What are some notable historical world atlases? Historical atlases such as Abraham Ortelius's 'Theatrum Orbis Terrarum' (1570) and Samuel Augustus Mitchell's atlases from the 19th century offer valuable insights into how geographic knowledge has evolved. How do thematic maps in a world atlas enhance understanding of global issues? Thematic maps highlight specific data like climate zones, migration patterns, or economic activity, helping users analyze and interpret complex global phenomena. Are physical or political maps more common in world atlases? Both physical and political maps are common; physical maps emphasize landforms and natural features, while political maps focus on boundaries and human-made divisions. What role do world atlases play in travel and exploration? World atlases assist travelers and explorers by providing detailed geographic information, route planning, and cultural insights, enhancing safety and understanding of new regions.

Related keywords: world map, geography atlas, world geography, cartography, world regions, global atlas, world countries, physical map, political map, world continents

Amazing World Atlas Bringing The World To Life Lo

amazing world atlas bringing the world to life lo

In an increasingly interconnected world, the value of a comprehensive world atlas cannot be overstated. An amazing world atlas brings the world to life lo by offering a vivid, detailed, and interactive experience that allows users to explore the diverse landscapes, cultures, and histories of our planet. Whether you're a student, traveler, educator, or simply a curious mind, a well-crafted

world atlas serves as an invaluable resource that transforms geographical data into an engaging visual journey. In this article, we'll delve into the features, benefits, and significance of an amazing world atlas, exploring how it brings the world to life and enhances our understanding of global geography.

What Is an Amazing World Atlas?

An amazing world atlas is a comprehensive collection of maps and geographical information that depicts the Earth's physical and political features. Unlike traditional atlases, which may focus solely on static maps, modern world atlases incorporate interactive elements, detailed illustrations, and multimedia content to provide a richer learning experience. They serve as a window into the world's landscapes, cities, climates, and cultural diversity.

Key Features of a World Atlas

- Detailed Maps: Including political, physical, topographical, and thematic maps.
- Interactive Elements: Digital atlases often feature zoom, pan, and clickable regions for in-depth exploration.
- Up-to-Date Data: Reflecting recent geopolitical changes, natural events, and demographic shifts.
- Multimedia Content: Photos, videos, and audio guides that bring places to life.
- Educational Resources: Quizzes, fact sheets, and historical timelines to enhance learning.

The Significance of a World Atlas in Today's World

Enhancing Global Awareness and Education

A world atlas is an essential educational tool that fosters global awareness. By visualizing the world's geography, it helps learners understand spatial relationships and the interconnectedness of regions. It makes complex data accessible and engaging, promoting curiosity about different countries and cultures.

Supporting Travel and Exploration

Travel enthusiasts rely on world atlases to plan trips, discover new destinations, and understand the geographical context of their travels. An amazing atlas provides detailed maps of cities, landmarks, and natural features, making trip planning more informed and exciting.

Facilitating Research and Policy-Making

Researchers and policymakers use atlases to analyze demographic trends, environmental issues, and geopolitical developments. A comprehensive atlas provides reliable data that supports informed decision-making.

Features that Make a World Atlas Truly Amazing

1. High-Resolution and Accurate Maps

High-quality, detailed maps with accurate geographic data are the foundation of an amazing atlas. They enable users to see precise boundaries, terrain features, and key landmarks.

2. Interactive and User-Friendly Interface

Modern digital atlases offer intuitive navigation, search functions, and interactive layers that allow users to customize their exploration experience.

3. Rich Multimedia Content

Incorporating images, videos, and audio guides enhances understanding and engagement. For example, clicking on a region might reveal its cultural festivals or natural wonders.

4. Up-to-Date Information

An amazing atlas is regularly updated to include recent changes such as new political borders, natural disasters, and infrastructural developments.

5. Thematic Mapping Capabilities

Visualize various data types such as climate zones, population density, linguistic distributions, and economic activity through thematic maps.

Top Features of the Best World Atlases

- Global Coverage: Including every continent and island nation.
- Detailed City Maps: Focused maps of major cities with transportation, landmarks, and neighborhoods.
- Natural Wonders: Highlighting UNESCO World Heritage Sites, national parks, and geological formations.
- Cultural Insights: Information about languages, religions, and traditions.
- Environmental Data: Climate patterns, biodiversity hotspots, and conservation areas.

Popular Types of World Atlases

Digital Interactive Atlases

These atlases are accessible via websites and apps, allowing dynamic exploration with features like 3D globes, searchable databases, and multimedia integration.

Physical Atlases

Traditional printed atlases remain valuable for classroom use, research, and personal collections, providing reliable, high-quality maps and data.

Specialized Atlases

Focused on specific themes such as climate change, historical geography, or economic development, these atlases cater to niche interests.

How an Amazing World Atlas Brings the World to Life

Visual Storytelling

Maps are a powerful storytelling tool. An engaging atlas uses color, symbols, and illustrations to narrate stories about Earth's landscapes and cultures, making learning immersive.

Interactive Exploration

Digital atlases allow users to zoom into local details or zoom out for a global perspective, click on regions for detailed info, and customize views to suit their interests.

Educational Engagement

Features like quizzes, virtual tours, and multimedia content turn passive learning into active engagement, fostering curiosity and retention.

Connecting Data with Reality

Modern atlases combine satellite imagery, demographic data, and historical information, creating a multi-layered view that reflects the complexity of our world.

Benefits of Using an Amazing World Atlas

- Enhanced Learning: Visual aids improve retention and understanding.
- Cultural Appreciation: Discover diverse traditions and histories.
- Environmental Awareness: Understand ecological challenges and conservation efforts.
- Travel Planning: Make informed decisions on destinations, routes, and accommodations.
- Research Support: Access reliable data for academic and professional projects.

Choosing the Right World Atlas

Consider Your Needs

- For students: Look for interactive, easy-to-understand atlases.
- For travelers: Focus on detailed city and regional maps.
- For researchers: Seek atlases with extensive data layers and updates.
- For educators: Find resources with educational tools and multimedia content.

Top Recommendations

- National Geographic World Atlas: Renowned for accuracy and stunning visuals.
- Google Earth: An interactive digital globe with detailed satellite imagery.
- Atlas of the World by Collins: Comprehensive physical and political maps.
- World Atlas by National Geographic Kids: Ideal for young learners.
- Online platforms like ArcGIS: For advanced thematic mapping and data analysis.

The Future of World Atlases

Advancements in technology continue to revolutionize how we explore and understand our world. The future of an amazing world atlas includes:

- Integration of real-time data feeds (weather, natural disasters).
- Augmented reality (AR) features for immersive experiences.
- AI-powered personalized maps based on user interests.
- Enhanced storytelling through virtual reality (VR).

Conclusion

An amazing world atlas bringing the world to life is more than just a collection of maps; it's a dynamic, engaging tool that connects us with the planet's vast diversity. It enriches our understanding, fuels curiosity, and inspires exploration. Whether used for education, travel,

research, or personal interest, a well-crafted atlas transforms geographical data into a captivating journey across continents and cultures. Embrace the power of modern atlases and let them bring the world to life for you today!

Amazing World Atlas Bringing the World to Life LO: A Comprehensive Guide to Exploring Our Planet in Stunning Detail

In an era where digital technology constantly transforms how we view and understand our world, the amazing world atlas bringing the world to life LO stands out as a remarkable tool that bridges the gap between traditional cartography and immersive exploration. This innovative atlas not only maps the continents, countries, and cities but also infuses each page with vibrant visuals, detailed information, and interactive elements that truly bring the world to life. Whether you're a student, traveler, educator, or simply a curious mind, this atlas provides a window into the planet's diverse landscapes, cultures, and ecosystems in ways that are both engaging and educational.

The Evolution of World Atlases: From Paper to Digital and Beyond

Historical Context

The journey of world atlases begins centuries ago, with early cartographers painstakingly drawing maps that served explorers and scholars. These early editions were often limited by the technology of their time, featuring hand-drawn illustrations and basic geographical data. Over the centuries, advancements in printing, surveying, and satellite imagery revolutionized map-making, leading to more accurate and detailed representations of the Earth's surface.

Modern Innovations

Today, the amazing world atlas bringing the world to life LO exemplifies the latest in cartographic technology. It incorporates satellite imagery, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and multimedia features to create an immersive experience. Unlike static paper maps, digital atlases can be interactive, allowing users to zoom in on regions, explore layers of data, and even access real-time updates about weather, political changes, and environmental shifts.

Key Features of the Amazing World Atlas Bringing the World to Life LO

- High-Resolution Visuals and Interactive Maps

One of the most striking features is the stunning, high-resolution visuals that depict Earth's terrain, urban landscapes, and natural wonders. Interactive maps enable users to:

- Zoom into specific locations for detailed views
- Switch between different map layers (e.g., physical, political, climate)
- Explore 3D terrain models to understand topography

- Rich Cultural and Historical Content

Beyond geography, this atlas delves into the cultural and historical aspects of different regions. It offers:

- Overviews of significant historical events
- Cultural highlights, festivals, and traditions
- Information about indigenous peoples and languages

- Ecosystem and Climate Data

Environmental awareness is embedded within the atlas through features like:

- Climate zones and weather patterns
- Biodiversity hotspots
- Conservation efforts and ecological challenges

- Real-Time Data Integration

Leveraging the power of modern technology, the atlas provides real-time data such as:

- Current weather conditions
- Flight paths and transportation networks
- Natural disaster alerts

How the Amazing World Atlas Brings the World to Life

Immersive Visual Storytelling

The combination of vibrant imagery and storytelling transforms static maps into narratives that captivate. For example, viewing the Amazon rainforest's detailed layers reveals not just its vast size

but also its ecological significance, indigenous cultures, and environmental threats.

Engaging Educational Content

Educational institutions utilize this atlas to make learning interactive and dynamic. Features like quizzes, virtual tours, and multimedia annotations foster deeper engagement and understanding.

Encouraging Global Awareness

By highlighting global issues such as climate change, migration, and urbanization, the atlas inspires viewers to become more globally conscious and proactive in addressing challenges.

Practical Applications of the Amazing World Atlas Bringing the World to Life LO

For Students and Educators

- Enhances geography lessons with interactive content
- Provides visual aids for history, environmental science, and cultural studies
- Encourages project-based learning and research

For Travelers and Explorers

- Serves as a planning tool with detailed maps of destinations
- Offers insights into local culture, climate, and points of interest
- Facilitates virtual exploration when physical travel isn't possible

For Researchers and Policy Makers

- Supplies up-to-date environmental and demographic data
- Assists in planning conservation projects and urban development
- Supports disaster response planning through real-time alerts

The Future of World Atlases: What's Next?

Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)

The integration of AR and VR technologies promises even more immersive experiences, allowing users to virtually walk through historical sites or explore ecological zones in 3D.

Personalized and Adaptive Maps

Future atlases may adapt to user interests, providing tailored content such as niche ecological data, historical timelines, or cultural stories based on user preferences.

Increased Accessibility and Inclusivity

Developments aim to make atlases more accessible, including features for visually impaired users, multilingual options, and simplified interfaces for children.

Conclusion: Why the Amazing World Atlas Bringing the World to Life LO Matters

In a world increasingly interconnected yet complex, the amazing world atlas bringing the world to life LO acts as a vital bridge to understanding our planet. It transforms dry data into engaging stories, static images into immersive worlds, and isolated facts into a comprehensive narrative of Earth's richness. This atlas not only educates but also inspires curiosity, empathy, and responsibility towards our shared home. As technology advances, its potential to deepen our connection with the world will only grow, making it an indispensable tool for anyone eager to explore, learn, and contribute to a sustainable future.

Embark on your journey of discovery today with the amazing world atlas bringing the world to life LO, and see our planet in a way you've never experienced before!

Question Answer What features make the 'Amazing World Atlas Bringing the World to Life' stand out among other atlases? It offers interactive maps, detailed illustrations, and engaging multimedia content that bring geographical features and world cultures to life, making learning immersive and fun. Is the 'Amazing World Atlas Bringing the World to Life' suitable for children and students? Yes, it is designed to be educational and engaging for children and students, featuring age-appropriate content, colorful visuals, and interactive activities to enhance learning. Can the 'Amazing World Atlas Bringing the World to Life' be accessed digitally? Absolutely, it is available in digital formats, including apps and online platforms, which allow users to explore the world interactively from their devices. How does this atlas help users understand global geography and cultures better? By combining detailed maps, cultural information, and multimedia elements like videos and sound clips, it provides a comprehensive and engaging way to learn about different regions and peoples worldwide. Are there any updates or new editions of the 'Amazing World Atlas Bringing the World to Life'? Yes, publishers frequently update the atlas to include new data, recent geopolitical changes, and enhanced multimedia features to keep the content current and relevant.

Related keywords: world atlas, geography, world maps, travel guide, cartography, world exploration, globe, world regions, world landmarks, world facts

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