

Exploring Three Lists of "The Top Dozen Countries"

You would expect a large country to have a lot of people, but that is not always true.

This list shows the 12 countries that have the most **area**. The numbers show their sizes in thousands of square miles (for comparison, Alabama and New York have about 50 thousand square miles; Colorado and Oregon about 100 thousand square miles.

You could think of Kazakhstan as being about 10 Colorados or 20 Alabamas).

Area	Russia	6600	Brazil	3300	Kazakhstan	1000
	Canada	3900	Australia	3000	Algeria	920
	U.S.	3800	India	1300	Congo	900
	China	3700	Argentina	1100	Saudi Arabia	830

The last country on the list, Saudi Arabia, fills most of the big peninsula in Southwest Asia.

It's the same size as Greenland, but paper maps of the world cannot show area accurately. Use a marker to draw a circle that just barely fits inside Saudi Arabia's peninsula on the map. Then draw the same size circle in the general locations of the other 11 large-area countries.

The next list shows the 12 countries that have the most **people**.

The numbers show their populations in millions (New York City has 8 million people).

Population	China	1340	Brazil	200	Russia	140
	India	1210	Pakistan	190	Japan	130
	U.S.	315	Nigeria	170	Mexico	110
	Indonesia	250	Bangladesh	160	Philippines	100

Put a big dot in the middle of each large-population country on the map. If a country has both large population AND large area, your dot will look like a bullseye inside a circle.

Only five countries will have that "target" symbol - write their names here:

Now look at the seven large-area countries that do NOT have large populations.

Do these countries have any other features in common?

Study atlas or online maps of climate and landforms, and try to write a generalization.

The list below shows the 12 countries that have the largest **economies**.

The numbers show their GNP (Gross National Product) in billions of dollars.

Put a dollar sign (\$) over the names or initials of these countries on the map.

Wealth	U. S.	16000	Germany	3120	France	2210
	China	11300	Russia	2380	Italy	1850
	Japan	4450	Brazil	2300	Mexico	1670
	India	4420	Britain	2290	S Korea	1560

How many of the large-GNP countries are NOT on the list of large-area countries? ____

How many of the large-GNP countries are NOT on the list of large-population countries? ____