

## Exploring Three Lists of "The Top Dozen Countries"

You would expect a large country to have a lot of people, but that's 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, New York State has 47 thousand square miles).

### Large - Area Countries

Russia	17098	India	3287
Canada	9984	Argentina	2780
United States	9827	Kazakhstan	2725
China	9597	Algeria	2382
Brazil	8515	Congo	2344
Australia	7741	Saudi Arabia	2150

The last country on that list, Saudi Arabia, occupies most of a peninsula between Asia and Africa. Draw a circle that just barely fits inside that peninsula on the map. Then draw the same size circle in the general location of each of the other 11 large area countries.

The next list shows the 12 countries with the most people. The numbers show populations in millions (New York State has 19 million people). Only five large-population countries are also on the list of large-area countries. Put an X by their names on the list above.

### Large - Population Countries

China	1330	Bangladesh	156
India	1173	Nigeria	152
United States	310	Russia	139
Indonesia	243	Japan	127
Brazil	201	Mexico	112
Pakistan	184	Philippines	101

Put a big dot, like a bullseye on a target, right in the middle of the circle that you drew inside each of those five countries on the map. Now look at the seven large-area countries that do NOT have large populations. Look at an atlas or online map of climate.

Which of those seven countries is mostly hot and rainy? \_\_\_\_\_

Which two are mostly very cold and dry? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

The other four large-area small-population countries are mostly dry - desert or grassland.

Put seven more big dots on the map, in the general location of each of the seven countries that are NOT on the list of large-area countries but have large populations.

Which two are mostly islands? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

The list below shows the 12 countries that have the largest economies. The numbers show GNP (Gross National Product) in billions of dollars.

### Large - Economy Countries

United States	14720	Brazil	2194
China	9854	United Kingdom	2189
Japan	4338	France	2160
India	4046	Italy	1782
Germany	2951	Mexico	1560
Russia	2229	South Korea	1467

Five large-GNP countries do NOT have large areas or populations. Which four are in Europe?

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything that all five large-economy but small-population countries have in common?