

The Pacific Islands and Antarctica

Physical Geography:

Micronesia:

- Caroline Islands – The Federated States of Micronesia and Palau
- Mariana Islands – Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas
 - **Guam is the largest island of Micronesia**
- Marshall Islands – 1,156 islands
- Gilbert Islands – western half of Kiribata

Melanesia:

- New Guinea – third largest island in the world
- Solomon Islands – over 900 islands including Guadalcanal. **Christians formed a commission to help resolve issues between warring factions.**
- Vanuatu – archipelago of 83 islands
- New Caledonia – part of France
- Fiji – center of Oceania consisting of 330 islands. **Bottled water industry.**

Polynesia:

- New Zealand
- Hawaiian Islands
- Tulavu – chain of low-lying coral atolls
- Tonga – archipelago 169 islands
- Samoa – group of six islands. **Many professional football players come from American Samoa**
- French Polynesia – largest island is Tahiti
- Easter Island (Chili)

Antarctica:

- West Antarctica – mountainous. Cut by the Ross and Weddell Seas
- East Antarctica – high plateau covered by a mile thick icecap
- Transantarctic Mountain Range

- Antarctic Peninsula – the only part of the continent that extends beyond the Arctic Circle

The average depth of the Pacific is fourteen thousand feet.

The deepest deep in the world is the Mariana Trench, and its deepest point is the Challenger Deep at 36,070 feet below sea level.

Human Geography:

History

- Ferdinand Magellan was the first European to chart the Pacific “peaceful” during his voyage around the world in 1519-21
- Between 1768 and 1779 Captain James Cook filled in any empty spaces on the world map. **He discovered both New Caledonia and the Hawaiian Islands.**
- Captain Cook circumnavigated the Antarctic region in 1773, but his ship could not penetrate the ice pack. It wasn’t until 1895 that the first human set foot on the continent.

Demographics

- The languages of the tribes of Papua New Guinea represent about **twelve percent of the world’s languages.**

Vocabulary:

- high island
- low island
- abyssal plains
- deep
- seamounts
- lagoons
- ice floes
- lead