

UNIT 72

Geographical names with and without **the**

a *Continents:* We do not say **the** with the names of continents:
Africa (*not* the Africa) Asia Europe South America

b *Countries and states:* We do not usually say **the** with the names of countries and states:
France (*not* the France) Japan Germany Nigeria Texas

But we say **the** with names that include words like “republic,” “kingdom,” “states”:

the Dominican Republic	the Republic of Ireland	the United States (of America)
the People’s Republic of China	the United Kingdom	
	the United Arab Emirates	

We also use **the** with *plural* names:

the Netherlands **the Philippines**

c *Cities:* We do not use **the** with the names of cities/towns/villages:
Cairo (*not* the Cairo) New York Madrid Tokyo
Exception: **The** Hague (in the Netherlands)

d *Islands:* Island groups usually have *plural* names with **the**:
the Bahamas **the Canaries/the Canary Islands** **the British Isles** **the Virgin Islands**
Individual islands usually have singular names without **the**:
Corfu Sicily Bermuda Easter Island

e *Regions:* We say:
the Middle East **the Far East**
the north of France **the south of Spain** **the west of Canada**
(*but: northern* France / *southern* Spain / *western* Canada – without **the**)

f *Mountains:* Mountain ranges usually have *plural* names with **the**:
the Rocky Mountains / the Rockies **the Andes** **the Alps**
But individual mountains usually have names without **the**:
(Mount) Everest (Mount) Fuji (Mount) Etna

g *Lakes:* Lakes usually have names without **the**:
Lake Superior Lake Victoria

h Names of *oceans/seas/rivers/canals* have **the**:
the Atlantic (Ocean) **the Indian Ocean** **the Mediterranean** (Sea) **the Red Sea**
the (English) Channel **the Nile** **the Amazon** **the Mississippi**
the Rhine **the Suez Canal** **the Panama Canal**

Note: On maps **the** is not usually included in the name.

Place names with **of** usually have **the**:

the Bay of Naples	the United States of America
the Sea of Japan	the Gulf of Mexico

UNIT 72 Exercises

72.1 Read these sentences carefully. Some are correct, but some need **the** (perhaps more than once). Correct the sentences where necessary.

Examples: Everest was first climbed in 1953.
Milan is in north of Italy.

RIGHT.....
WRONG: - the north of Italy

1. Last year we visited Canada and United States.
2. Africa is much larger than Europe.
3. South of England is warmer than north.
4. We went to Spain for our vacation and swam in Mediterranean.
5. Tom has visited most countries in western Europe.
6. There are many different languages spoken in Far East.
7. Next year we are going skiing in Swiss Alps.
8. Malta has been a republic since 1974.
9. Nile is longest river in Africa.
10. United Kingdom consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

72.2 Here are some geography questions. Choose the right answer. Sometimes you need **the**, sometimes not. Try and find out the answers if you don't know them.

Example: What is the longest river in the world? (Amazon / Rhine / Nile) *the Amazon.*

1. Where is Bolivia? (Africa / South America / North America)
2. Where is Ethiopia? (Asia / South America / Africa)
3. Of which country is Manila the capital? (Indonesia / Philippines / Japan)
4. Of which country is Stockholm the capital?
(Norway / Denmark / Sweden)
5. Which country lies between Mexico and Canada?
(Venezuela / El Salvador / United States)
6. Which is the largest country in the world?
(United States / China / Russia)
7. Which is the largest continent? (Africa / South America / Asia)
8. What is the name of the mountain range in the west of North America?
(Rocky Mountains / Andes / Alps)
9. What is the name of the ocean between America and Asia?
(Atlantic / Pacific / Indian Ocean)
10. What is the name of the ocean between Africa and Australia?
(Atlantic / Pacific / Indian Ocean)
11. What is the name of the sea between England and France?
(Mediterranean Sea / English Channel / French Sea)
12. What is the name of the sea between Africa and Europe?
(Black Sea / Red Sea / Mediterranean Sea)
13. What is the name of the sea between Britain and Norway?
(Norwegian Sea / English Channel / North Sea)
14. Which river flows through Vienna, Budapest, and Belgrade?
(Rhine / Danube / Volga)
15. What joins the Atlantic and Pacific oceans?
(Suez Canal / Panama Canal)