



Africa is often referred to as one big country, despite being a continent as big as China, India, the United States AND most of Europe put together.

The continent is more than 30m sq. km, but this is not reflected correctly in standard Mercator maps. Europe, for instance, is the world's [second-smallest continent](#) by surface area, covering about 10,180,000 square kilometres, with approximately 50 countries (of which 28 belong to the European Union).

The True Size of Africa

A small introduction to the light appears to report on geography by Bartolucci. But the illustrations are only intended to be a little funny to most eyes.

COUNTRY	AREA (square km)
USA	9,826,675
USA	9,826,675
India	3,287,263
India	3,287,263
France	643,801
France	643,801
Spain	505,992
Spain	505,992
Japan	377,915
Japan	377,915
Germany	357,022
Germany	357,022
Italy	301,330
Italy	301,330
UK	244,818
UK	244,818
Canada	99,846,700
Canada	99,846,700
China	9,700,000
China	9,700,000
BRITAIN	244,818
BRITAIN	244,818
TOTAL	30,190,000
AFRICA	30,321,000



Top 100 Countries

Area in square kilometers (Percentage of World Area)

Country	Area (km²)	% of World Area
USA	9,826,675	38.1%
USA	9,826,675	38.1%
India	3,287,263	12.9%
India	3,287,263	12.9%
France	643,801	2.5%
France	643,801	2.5%
Spain	505,992	1.9%
Spain	505,992	1.9%
Japan	377,915	1.4%
Japan	377,915	1.4%
Germany	357,022	1.4%
Germany	357,022	1.4%
Italy	301,330	1.1%
Italy	301,330	1.1%
UK	244,818	0.9%
UK	244,818	0.9%
Canada	99,846,700	39.3%
Canada	99,846,700	39.3%
China	9,700,000	38.1%
China	9,700,000	38.1%
BRITAIN	244,818	0.9%
BRITAIN	244,818	0.9%



In addition to the well known world issue of literacy and numeracy, there also should be such a concept as 'numeracy', meaning roughness and geographical knowledge.

A survey with random American school kids in their game the population and land area of their country, not entirely unexpected, but still rather surprising, the majority chose 'too little' and 'largest in the world', respectively.

Data with Latin and European college students, geographical awareness was often off by factor of 2-3. This is partly due to the highly distorted nature of the predominantly used mapping projection (such as the Mercator).

A particularly serious example is the worldwide miscalculation of the true size of Africa. This might happen due to not only the miscalculation of Africa is larger than the USA, China, India, Japan and all of Europe ... combined!

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[Africa: combating the stigma of conflict continent](#) [Friday, 20 December 2013 12:12](#) [The True Size of Africa](#) [Top 100 Countries](#) [United States](#) [Europe](#) [India](#) [Japan](#) [China](#)