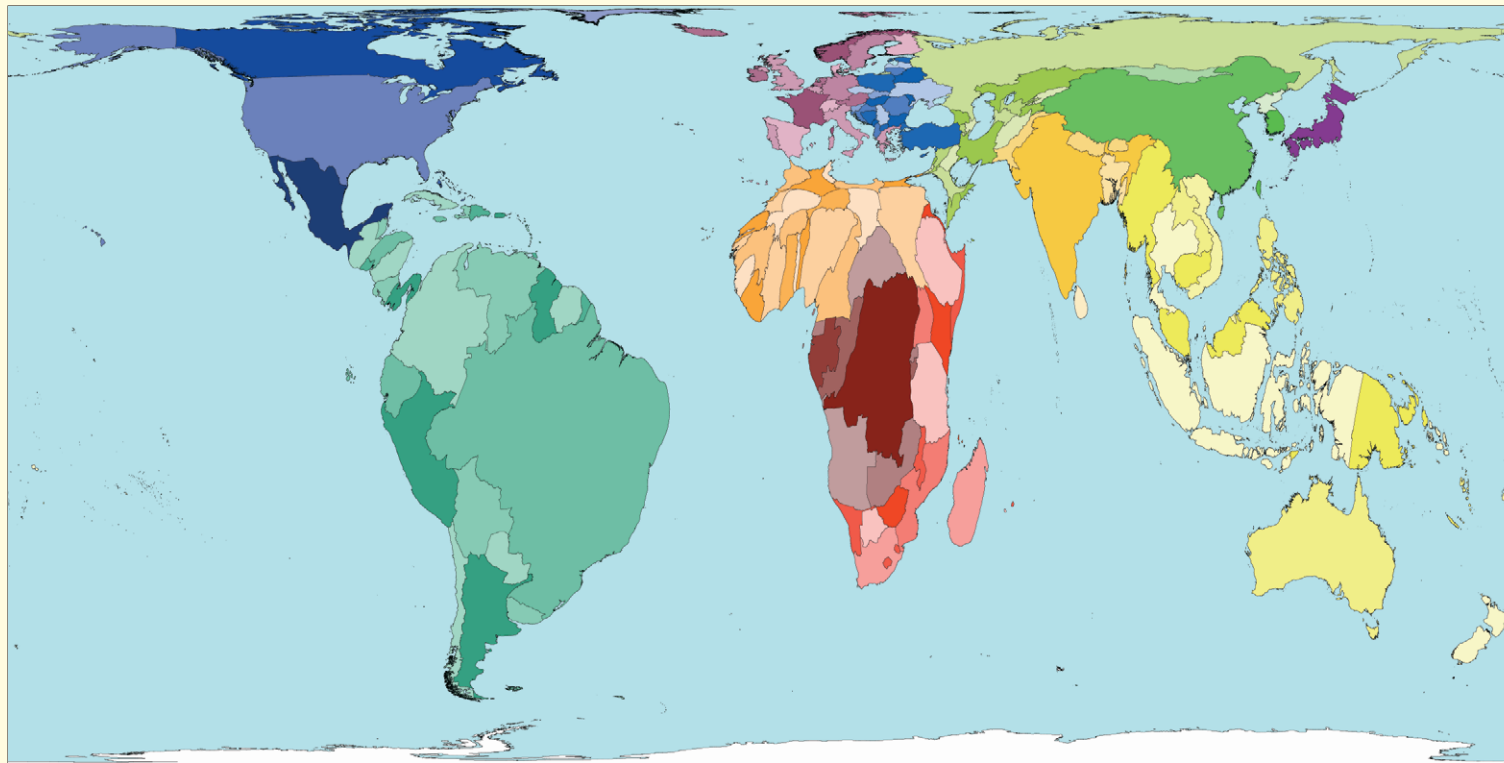


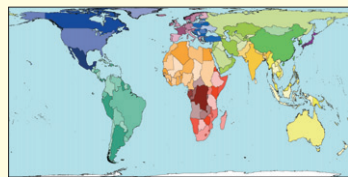
Rainfall Volume



Malaysia is the territory where the tenth highest rainfall in the world is recorded over its land area. It was known to ancient mariners as 'the land where the winds meet'. The winds being the monsoons. The word monsoon may originate from the Arabic word 'mausim' - meaning seasonal wind patterns that reverse direction. Monsoons are associated with heavy rainfall. Malaysia (and other territories in the tropics) experiences two monsoons a year. The Southwest monsoon lasts from May until September, and is followed by the Northeast monsoon which lasts from November until March.

Partly because of its large land area the highest volume of rain falls on Brazil.

Territory size shows the proportion of worldwide precipitation falling on land that falls there.



Land area

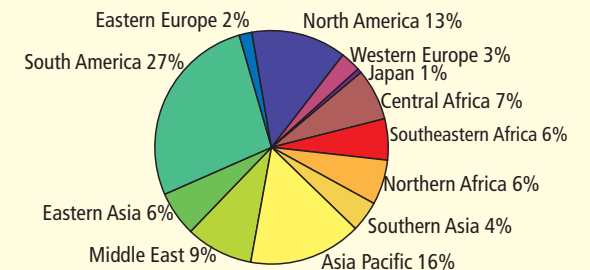
- Technical notes**
- Data are from the United Nations Environment Programme.
 - Note that Antarctica and the sea have no data here.
 - See website for further information.

MOST AND LEAST ANNUAL RAINFALL

Rank	Territory	Value	Rank	Territory	Value
1	Fed States of Micronesia	357	191	Mauritania	9.2
2	Dominica	344	192	Algeria	8.9
3	Papua New Guinea	321	193	Oman	8.6
4	Solomon Islands	313	194	Bahrain	8.0
5	Tuvalu	303	195	United Arab Emirates	7.8
6	Samoa	300	196	Qatar	7.4
7	Brunei Darussalam	298	197	Saudi Arabia	5.9
8	Bangladesh	295	198	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	5.7
9	Costa Rica	293	199	Egypt	5.2
10	Malaysia	289	200	Western Sahara	4.5

centimetres of rainfall per year 1961-1990 (cubic centimetres of water volume per square centimetre of land area)

REGIONAL RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION



“The coastal humid belt, with high and relatively constant rainfall, supports dense tropical forests ... northern parts of Cameroon, Central African Republic and Chad are drier ...” African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, 2002