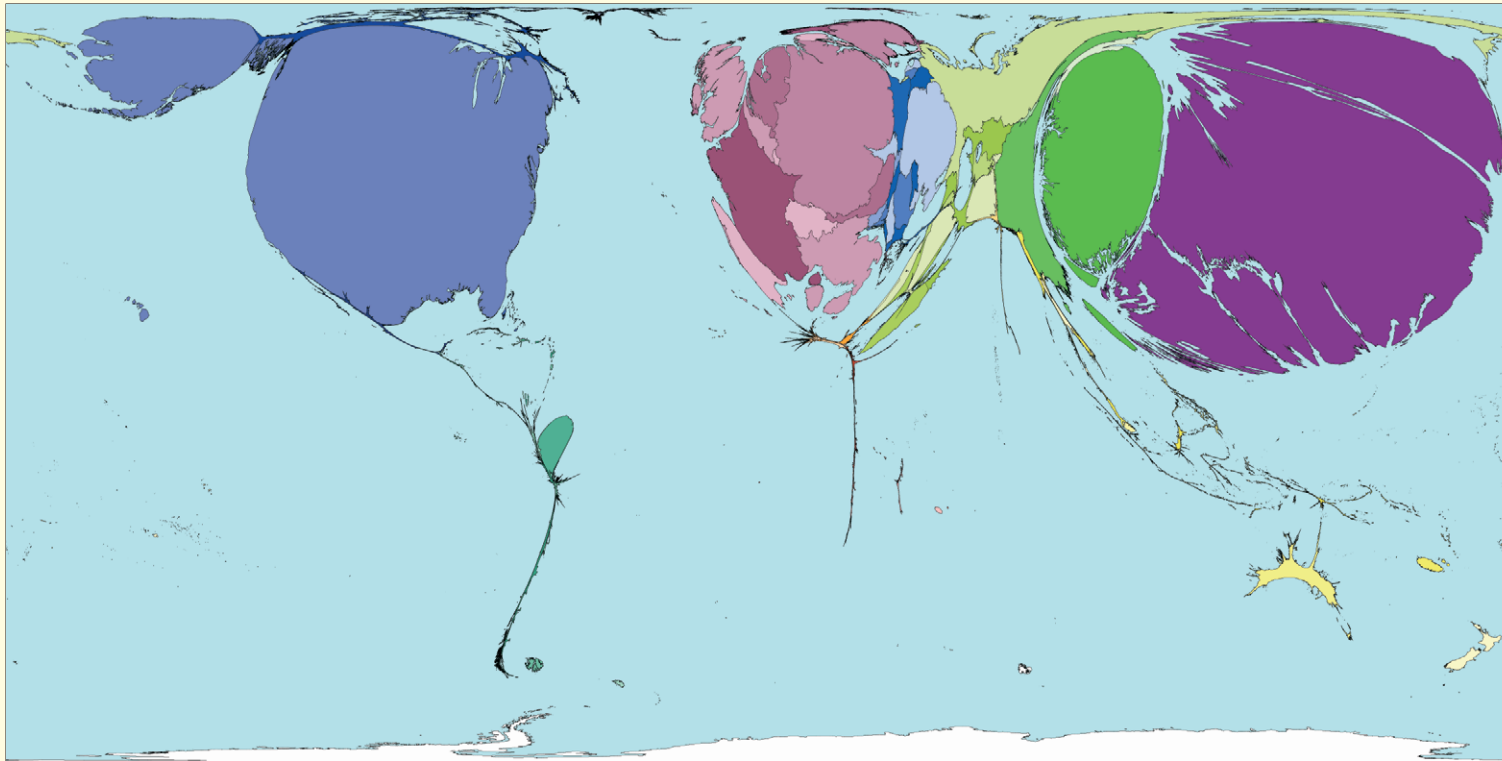


Patents Granted

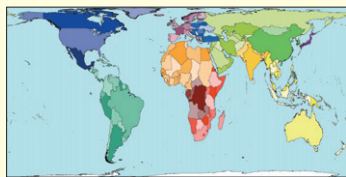


In 2002, 312 thousand patents were granted around the world. More than a third of these were granted in Japan. Just under a third were granted in the United States.

A patent is supposed to protect the ideas and inventions that people have. Patenting something will then allow the owner of the patent to charge others for the usage of an idea or invention. The aim is to reward the creator for their hard work or intelligence. But patents can prevent people from using good ideas because they cannot afford to do so.

A quarter of all territories had no new patents in 2002, so will not profit from these in future years as others will.

Territory size shows the proportion all patents worldwide that were granted there.



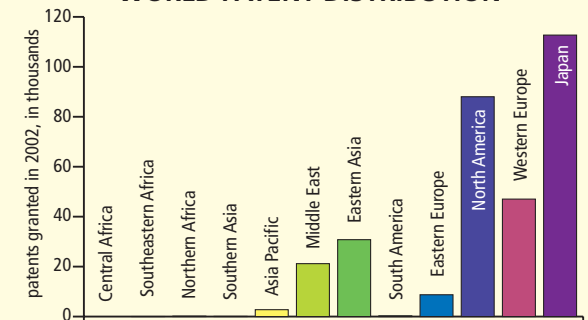
Land area

HIGH AND LOW RATES OF PATENTS GRANTED

Rank	Territory	Value	Rank	Territory	Value
1	Japan	884	55	Dem P Republic Korea	22
2	Republic of Korea	490	57	Bulgaria	18
3	United States	298	57	Hungary	18
4	Sweden	235	59	TFYR Macedonia	17
5	Bahamas	208	60	Uzbekistan	16
6	Greenland	207	61	Slovakia	15
7	Germany	205	62	Kyrgyzstan	13
8	Switzerland	188	63	Ireland	9
9	Netherlands	177	64	Iceland	7
10	France	174	65	Hong Kong (China)	6

patents granted per million people in 2002*

WORLD PATENT DISTRIBUTION



Technical notes

- Data are from the United Nations Development Programme's 2004 Human Development Report.
- *In 135 territories there are fewer than 5 patents granted for every million people living there.
- See website for further information.

“... the world’s poorest countries are still waiting for the promised benefits of stronger patent protection at home.”

The Economist, 2001