

Youth Literacy



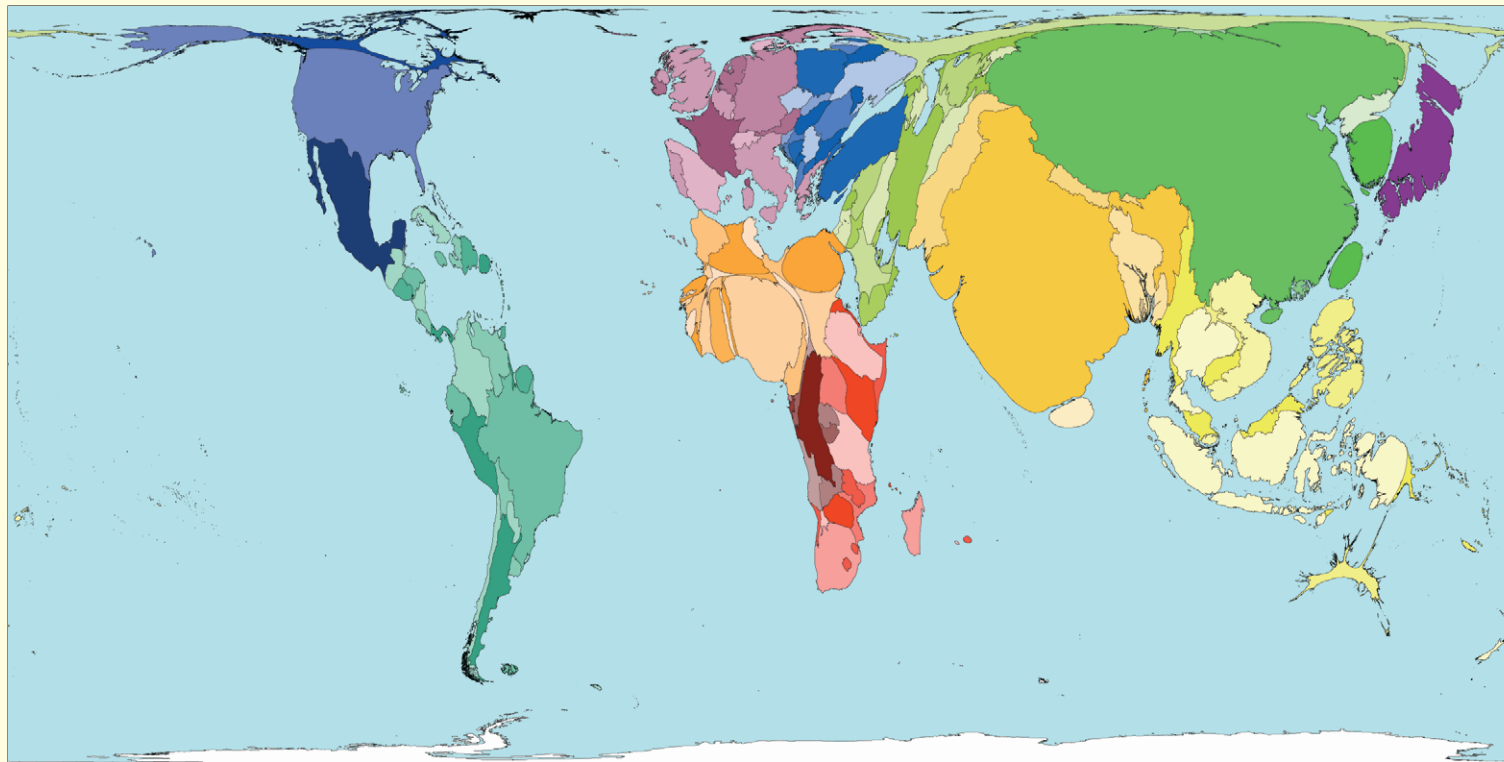
The University of Sheffield.



The Leverhulme Trust



Produced by the SASI group (Sheffield) and Mark Newman (Michigan)

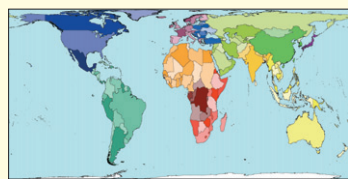


A minimal definition of literacy is being able to read, write and understand a short and simple statement about one's everyday life. Of all 15-24 year olds living in the world, 88% are literate. Over half of this age group live in Asia.

Most of the young people living in most territories can read and write. Only five territories have lower than 50% youth literacy rates. Four of these five are in Northern Africa. Japan recorded the highest rate of youth literacy for a single territory.

The highest number of literate youth live in Eastern Asia, where the youth literacy rate is 98.9%. Of the 12 regions, 8 have youth literacy rates of over 95%.

Territory size shows the proportion of all 15-24 years old who are literate, that live there.



Land area

Technical notes

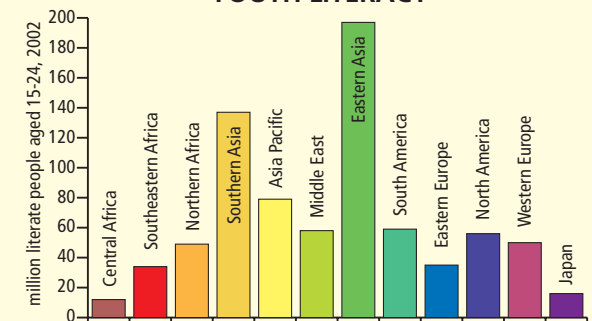
- Data are from the United Nations Development Programme's 2004 Human Development Report.
- Literacy is 'being able to read, write and understand a short simple statement.'
- See website for further information.

LOWEST LEVELS OF YOUTH LITERACY

Rank	Territory	Value	Rank	Territory	Value
181	Chad	69.9	191	Central African Republic	58.5
182	Morocco	69.5	192	Ethiopia	57.4
183	Yemen	67.9	193	Benin	55.5
184	Bhutan	67.3	194	Pakistan	53.9
185	Haiti	66.2	195	Senegal	52.9
186	Burundi	66.1	196	Bangladesh	49.7
187	Mozambique	62.8	197	Mauritania	49.6
188	Nepal	62.7	198	Niger	24.5
189	Cote d'Ivoire	59.9	199	Mali	24.2
190	Comoros	59.0	200	Burkina Faso	19.4

percentage of people aged 15-24 who were literate in 2002

YOUTH LITERACY



“The freedom promised by literacy is both freedom from - from ignorance, oppression, poverty - and freedom to - to do new things, to make choices, to learn.”

Koïchiro Matsuura, 2001