

Table 1.1. Ocean basin boundaries

The **Atlantic ocean basin** extends from Antarctica to the Arctic ocean basin. The Atlantic ocean basin lies between South America and Africa in the south and North America and Europe in the north.

The **Arctic ocean basin** is the smallest ocean basin. It includes the waters north of the North American and Eurasian continents. The Arctic ocean basin is bounded from the North Pacific ocean basin by the Bering Strait, and from the North Atlantic ocean basin at about 65 degrees (°) north (N) latitude (just north of Iceland).

The **Indian ocean basin** has Eurasia as its northern boundary and Africa as its western boundary, and Indonesia and Australia as its eastern boundary. The Indian ocean basin is divided from the Atlantic ocean basin by a line drawn from Cape Agulhas, the southernmost tip of Africa, to the Antarctic continent and from the Pacific ocean basin by a line running from the Australian island of Tasmania to the Antarctic continent.

The **Pacific ocean basin** is the largest ocean basin. It spans the waters between South America and Australia in the south and between North America and Eurasia in the north. The Pacific ocean basin is separated from the Atlantic ocean basin by a line drawn between the eastern tip of Cape Horn in South America and the northern end of the Palmer Peninsula in Antarctica.

Table 1.2. Continent boundaries

Africa is the continent bordered to the north by the Mediterranean Sea, to the west by the Atlantic ocean basin, and to the east by the Red Sea and the Indian ocean basin.

Antarctica is the continent at the South Pole.

Australia is the smallest of the continents. It is located between the Indian and Pacific ocean basins. Australia is part of a region of the world called Oceania. Oceania includes islands in the southern Pacific ocean basin that are concentrated north and east of Papua New Guinea.

Eurasia is the largest continent. It extends from Iceland in the Atlantic ocean basin to Japan in the Pacific ocean basin and from the Arctic ocean basin to the Indian ocean basin. The Eurasian continent includes the Middle East as well as the islands of Indonesia and the Philippines. Eurasia is separated from Africa by the Suez Canal. Europe and Asia are parts of the Eurasian continent, but they are usually referred to separately for political reasons.

North America is the continent that includes Canada, Greenland, the United States, Mexico, and Central America. It is located between the Atlantic, Arctic, and Pacific ocean basins.

South America is the continent between the Atlantic and Pacific ocean basins that includes all the countries south of Panama.