When we study **GEOGRAPHY** (which really just means the study of the Earth’s surface), we learn about the different lands and waters of the Earth.

Geographers have split the Earth’s waters into five major **OCEANS**. The Earth also has several **SEAS**, which are large bodies of water connected to an ocean. When there is a large body of water surrounded by land, it is called a **LAKE**. Most large lakes have **RIVERS** that connect them to an ocean or sea.

Geographers have split the earth’s lands into seven **CONTINENTS**: Asia, Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Australia, and Antarctica. A section of land that is controlled by a single government is called a **COUNTRY**, and most continents have many different countries. A lot of countries are split into smaller sections called **PROVINCES** or **STATES**, which have their own governments that work with the country’s government. **REGIONs** are unofficial sections of land, meaning that a lot of times do not have their own governments or very set **BORDERS**.

Geographers have also given names to different shapes of land. For example, a piece of land surrounded by water is called an **ISLAND**. A piece of land with three of its sides surrounded by water (Florida, for example) is called a **PENINSULA**.