



This map shows one way to divide the world into regions.

Definition: a region is a group of places that have something in common and are located close to each other.

Other books or websites may choose to divide the earth into different groups of countries.

For example, some books make a separate group of countries that they call Southern Europe or Mediterranean Europe.

Some people put West, Central, South, and East Africa into a single region, which they call Subsaharan Africa (Africa south of the Sahara). It is not always easy to put individual countries into regions. For example, look at Angola, a large country in southwest Africa. It is possible to think of good reasons to put Angola in either Central Africa or South Africa, depending on what things you consider in making your comparison.

Likewise, Afghanistan could be put in Southwest Asia or Central Asia. Be aware of these possibilities when you read a book that simply gives a name to an area like Southwest Asia without explaining what countries it is putting in that area.