Other Data Sources
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Natural Earth solves a problem: finding suitable data for making small-scale maps. In a time when the web is awash in geospatial data, cartographers are forced to waste time sifting through confusing tangles of poorly aligned data. An elegant, legible, aesthetically appealing map is valuable. Neatness counts.

Natural Earth was built from the ground up so you will find that all data layers align. The carefully generalized linework maintains consistent, recognizable geographic shapes at 1:10m, 1:50m, and 1:110m scales. Natural Earth was built from the ground up so you will find that all data layers align.
Downloads

Data themes are available in three levels of detail. For each scale, themes are listed on Cultural, Physical, and Raster category pages.

Stay up to date! Know when a new version of Natural Earth is released by subscribing to our announcement list.

Natural Earth is the creation of many volunteers and is supported by NACIS. It is free for use in any type of project. Full Terms of Use »

Large scale data, 1:10m

- New York
- Cultural, Physical, Raster

The most detailed. Suitable for making zoomed-in maps of countries and regions. Show the world on a large wall poster.

1:10,000,000
1° = 158 miles
1 cm = 100 km

Medium scale data, 1:50m

- New York
- Cultural, Physical, Raster

Suitable for making zoomed-out maps of countries and regions. Show the world on a tabloid size page.

1:50,000,000
1° = 790 miles
1 cm = 500 km

Small scale data, 1:110m

- New York
- Cultural, Physical

Suitable for schematic maps of the world on a postcard or as a small locator globe.

1:110,000,000
1° = 1,736 miles
1 cm = 1,100 km

Share and Enjoy:
The data sets available on this web site were created using the PRISM (Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model) climate mapping system, developed by Dr. Christopher Daly, PRISM Climate Group director. PRISM is a unique knowledge-based system that uses point measurements of precipitation, temperature, and other climatic factors to produce continuous, digital grid estimates of monthly, yearly, and event-based climatic parameters. Continuously updated, this unique analytical tool incorporates point data, a digital elevation model, and expert knowledge of complex climatic extremes, including rain shadows, coastal effects, and temperature inversions. PRISM data sets are recognized worldwide as the highest-quality spatial climate data sets currently available. PRISM is the USDA's official climatological data.

Important notice:

PRISM data sets were developed through projects funded partly by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service, NOAA Office of Global Programs, and others. However, there is little operational funding for maintaining and updating or expanding the data sets. Data are provided as a public service for a limited time. If you find them valuable, please consider doing your part to support the PRISM Climate Group. Contact us for details at 541-737-2531.

Use this site to access up-to-date and historical monthly climate data sets and graphics for the US, explore our data online with our Internet Map Server, view related papers and presentations, or contact us.
Welcome

The goal of this site is to assist practicing cartographers with the presentation of shaded relief and related raster art on maps. I developed the techniques to support my work as a cartographer for the US National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center.

For additional information about shaded relief I highly recommend: [www.reliefshading.com](http://www.reliefshading.com)

Tom Patterson  Bio  Updated: Dec. 3, 2009

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Maps and Data

New!  [NaturalEarthData.com](http://NaturalEarthData.com)
A new website offering matched raster and vector data for making small-scale maps at 1:10 million, 1:50 million, and 1:110 million scale. The vector data is fully attributed, including cultural and physical place names, river tapering, and much more.

[World Relief Map with Cross-blended Hypsometric Tints](http://World Relief Map with Cross-blended Hypsometric Tints)
Raster map art featuring shaded relief combined with elevation colors matched to the natural environment — desert lowlands are brown, humid lowlands are green, and ice caps blue-gray. Soft blues fill the oceans becoming lighter in the challenge.
CleanTOPO2
Edited SRTM30 Plus World Elevation Data

Tom Patterson, US National Park Service

CleanTOPO2 is a touched up and generalized version of SRTM30 Plus, a public domain dataset that combines sea floor and land elevation data of the entire world. The intent of these changes is to create an elevation dataset more applicable to the graphical needs of cartographers, such as for making shaded relief and 3D panoramas. SRTM30 Plus and an earlier related dataset, ETOPO2, feature bathymetry data released by Smith and Sandwell in 1997. As remarkable as this dataset is, it nevertheless contains numerous artifacts that mar map presentations. In CleanTOPO2, manual editing to the elevation data itself has removed many of the bathymetry artifacts (Figure 1). Until the day arrives that improved bathymetric data are released by the scientific community, CleanTOPO2 offers a stopgap solution for those creating maps and related graphics.

Figure 1. (left) Shaded relief rendered from ETOPO2 reveals linear artifacts on the Hatteras Abyssal Plain southwest of Bermuda—the triangular shape is only a coincidence. (right) Artifacts are less visible in the shaded relief rendered from CleanTOPO2.

Bathymetry edits
Terrestrial edits
Data
Comments and tips
ArcGIS Resources

You can use these downloads to create your own cartographic effects. Note that clicking on any heading will sort the table contents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hydrographic Flowlines</td>
<td>2.7MB</td>
<td>Geodatabase</td>
<td>Hydro flowlines for the continental U.S. These flowlines were derived from the NHDOplus dataset created by Horizon Systems for the USGS and EPA. One of the valuable aspects of this dataset is that the hydro flowlines have attributes, including two for mean annual flow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crater Lake Aspect-Slope Data</td>
<td>34.8MB</td>
<td>Raster, layer files and an .mxd</td>
<td>Crater Lake elevation data for creating an aspect-slope map.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crater Lake Elevation Data</td>
<td>36.7MB</td>
<td>Raster</td>
<td>Crater Lake elevation data for hillshading and layer tinting.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Crater Lake Bump Map Data</td>
<td>9.6MB</td>
<td>Raster</td>
<td>Crater Lake data for bump mapping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crater Lake Final Bump Map</td>
<td>13.7MB</td>
<td>Raster</td>
<td>Crater Lake final bump map data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Water Bodies</td>
<td>3.7MB</td>
<td>Geodatabase</td>
<td>Marine water body features for the world - does not include interior water body features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiographic Features</td>
<td>2.3MB</td>
<td>Geodatabase</td>
<td>Physiographic features that can be used for labeling the map.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Online Data Sources

- NGOs
- USGS
- National Park Service
- Census Bureau
- USDA NRCS - soils
- State GIS Service Centers
- City and County Governments
- So, so, so, so, so, so, so, so, so, so, so, so, so, so, many others...