

Zealandia – The Eighth Continent

We are taught there are seven continents - Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. Geologists now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. This is a huge, largely underwater land mass in the southern Pacific Ocean. Six percent of this land mass is above water and is what we know as New Zealand and New Caledonia. Around 94 percent of it is under the ocean. In total, it measures five million square kilometers, which scientists say is big enough to be a continent.

Geologists explained why they think Zealandia is a continent. They wrote a research paper and published it in the Geological Society of America's Journal. They argue that the land does not have to be above water for it to be a continent. They said four different points make Zealandia a continent. It is a lot higher than the surrounding area, it has a unique geology, it is easy to find the shape of the continent, and it is a lot thicker than the ocean floor. However, it may take some time before scientists agree that there are eight continents.

Source: www.breakingnewsenglish.com

Vocabulary

continent - one of the large land masses of the earth

land mass - a large area of land

geologist - people who study the land and the earth

geology - the scientific study of the earth, including the origin and history of the rocks and soil of which the earth is made

Comprehension Questions

1. Where is Zealandia?
2. How big is Zealandia?
3. How much of Zealandia is above water?
4. How many different points make Zealandia a continent?

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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