Physical Features of North America
Generalized natural environments
Glacier
High arctic
Tundra
Northern forest
Temperate and tropical forest
Wetland
Grassland (and cropland)
Desert
Salt flat
Data sources
Starting with the lowest area, Blue Earth Bathymetry depicts the ocean floor. Land colors are a mix of Natural Earth 2 and Copernicus Land Cover. I muted land cover contrast in humid regions to better depict subtle terrain features. Shaded relief derives from generalized SRTM elevation data. Coastlines, lakes, and rivers are from Natural Earth, with additions.
Atlases and a multitude of online sources, including Peakbagger, PeakVisor, and Wikipedia, are the source of feature names and elevations. I am very grateful to the dozens of people who reviewed the map and offered helpful suggestions.
Cartography by Tom Patterson, v. 1.01, March 9, 2021.
Map available at: www.shadedrelief.com/north-america
Elevations and ocean depths are in meters.
Lambert Azimuthal Equal-Area Projection
Central meridian 95° W Latitude of origin 45° N
0 200 400 800 Km
0 100 200 400 Mi
Abbreviations (for Danish, English, French, and Spanish)
Arch - Archipeliego, Archipiélago
B - Bugt, Bay, Baie, Bahía
C - Cape, Cap, Cabo
Cord - Cordillera
Chn - Channel
Cyn - Canyon
Fd - Fjord, Fiord
Gl - Gletscher, Glacier
I - Island, Île, Isla
Is - Islands, Iles, Islas
L - Lake, Lac, Lago, Laguna
Mt - Mount, Mont, Monte
Mtn - Mountain, Montaña
Mtns - Mountains, Montañas
Pk - Peak
Pt - Point, Pointe, Punta
Ra - Range
Res - Reservoir
Sd - Sound
Str - Strait
ARCTIC OCEAN
BERING SEA
CHUKCHI SEA
BEAUFORT SEA
GULF OF ALASKA
ALEUTIAN ABYSSAL PLAIN
NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN
HUDSON BAY
BAFFIN BAY
LABRADOR SEA
GREENLAND SEA
NORWEGIAN SEA
NORTH SEA
NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
GULF OF MEXICO
CARIBBEAN SEA
ASIA
ALASKA
GREENLAND
KALAALLIT NUNAAT (GREENLAND)
ICELAND
GREAT BRITAIN
QUEEN ELIZABETH ISLANDS
BANKS ISLAND
VICTORIA ISLAND
BAFFIN ISLAND
DEVON ISLAND
SOMERSET ISLAND
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND
ELLESMERE ISLAND
LINCOLN SEA
KNUD RASMUSSEN LAND
KONG FREDERIK VIII LAND
KONG CHRISTIAN IX LAND
KONG FREDERIK IX LAND
KONG FREDERIK VI LAND
DANMARK STRAIT
DAVIS STRAIT
HUDSON STRAIT
FOXE BASIN
BARREN GROUNDS
JAMES BAY
HUDSON BAY LOWLANDS
PENINSULE D'UNGAVA
UNGAVA BAY
ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND
GULF OF ST LAWRENCE
GULF OF MAINE
GRAND BANKS OF NEWFOUNDLAND
CANADIAN SHIELD
THE PRAIRIES
GREAT BASIN
COLORADO PLATEAU
CENTRAL LOWLAND
APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS
COASTAL PLAIN
ROCKY MOUNTAINS
COAST MOUNTAINS
SIERRA MADRE OCCIDENTAL
SIERRA MADRE ORIENTAL
ALTIPLANICIE MEXICANA
PENINSULA DE YUCATAN
BAHIA DE CAMPECHE
GULF OF HONDURAS
GREATER ANTILLES
LESSER ANTILLES
SOUTH AMERICA
VENEZUELA BASIN
COLOMBIA BASIN
CLARK BASIN
GUATEMALA BASIN
FLORIDA ABYSSAL PLAIN
BLAKE PLATEAU
BLAKE ABYSSAL PLAIN
NARES ABYSSAL PLAIN
SUHM ABYSSAL PLAIN
NEW ENGLAND SEAMOUNTS
BERMUDA RISE
HATTERAS ABYSSAL PLAIN
PUERTO RICO TRENCH
ALEUTIAN TRENCH
MENDOCINO FRACTURE ZONE
PIONEER FRACTURE ZONE
MURRAY FRACTURE ZONE
MOLOKAI FRACTURE ZONE
CLARION FRACTURE ZONE
CLIPPERTON FRACTURE ZONE
OROZCO FRACTURE ZONE
O'GORMAN FRACTURE ZONE
TEHUANTEPEC FRACTURE ZONE
SIQUEIROS FRACTURE ZONE
CHARLIE-GIBBS FRACTURE ZONE
BIGHT FRACTURE ZONE
WEST EUROPEAN BASIN
ICELAND BASIN
ROCKALL PLATEAU
IRMINGER BASIN
LABRADOR SEA
LABRADOR BASIN
NEWFOUNDLAND BASIN
AMERICAN BASIN