

The Geographical Location of the Caribbean

The Caribbean's Geographical Location

The location of the Caribbean is sometimes hard to pinpoint because of the technicalities surrounding the definition of "The Caribbean". These notes seek to break down those technicalities of what territories are considered to be truly a part of the Caribbean and why.

Mainland territories whose shores are washed by the Caribbean Sea ARE a part of the Caribbean!!

Where is the Caribbean Located?

The Caribbean is located both in the northern and western hemisphere. The overall area includes the Caribbean Sea and all its islands located in the southeast of the Gulf of Mexico, east of Central America and Mexico. Some mainland areas are also a part of the Caribbean because their shores are washed by the Caribbean Sea such as Honduras and Belize. The islands are bordered by the Atlantic Ocean.

Map Showing the Border Between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean

NB: For more information on the Longitudinal and Latitudinal location of the Caribbean [Click Here](#).

List of All the Caribbean Territories

Cuba	Curacao	Anguilla
Dominican Republic	Aruba	St. Barthelemy
Haiti	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Monsterrat
Puerto Rico	US Virgin Islands	Venezuela
Jamaica	Granada	The Bahamas
Trinidad and Tobago	Antigua and Bermuda	Mexico
Guadeloupe	Dominica	Honduras
Martinique	Cayman Islands	Belize
Bahamas	St. Kitts and Nevis	Guyana
Barbados	St. Martin	Suriname
St. Lucia	British Virgin Islands	

Though the region is considered to be one large area it is further divided into sub-regions: Greater Antilles, Lesser Antilles, the Bahamas and Mainland areas. Below there are 2 maps: one showing the Caribbean as is and the other showing its sub-regions.



Map Showing Both Islands and Mainland Territories in the Caribbean

Map Showing the Sub-Regions of the Caribbean.

NB: The northern regions are also referred to as the **Greater Antilles** and the eastern region is also referred to as the **Lesser Antilles**. The western and southern regions are the Caribbean's **mainland areas**.

Questions to think about!!!

1. Why are areas like Mexico considered to be a part of the Caribbean?
2. What two geographical elements that are used to locate the Caribbean.

[Click here](#) for a quiz activity.

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