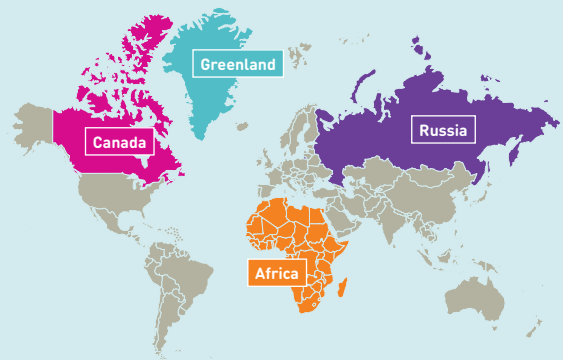


# TOP HEAVY

Mercator projection and actual areas



World maps that use the familiar Mercator projection of 1589 expand the area of locations further away from the equator. But its 30 million square kilometres make Africa larger than Russia, Canada and Greenland combined. However, it is impossible to construct a two-dimensional map that is free of any distortions.

