

The World Today

This map shows the continents as they appear today. Most of the continental land masses lie above sea level, but the true edges of the continents are not at the shoreline. The gray areas on this map show the relatively shallow water that covers the fringes of the continents. These sea-covered borders are known as **CONTINENTAL SHELVES** (gray areas). The margins of the continental shelves mark the true edges of the continents.

