



Armenia as a constituent part of ancient civilization is known to history from ancient times.

Since IV-II century B.C. the Armenian-populated all districts had been divided into three big administrative units: Pokr Hayk, Tsopk and Mets Hayk that in II century B.C. became independent states. Among them the most powerful was Mets Hayk state, where since II century B.C. till V century B.C. first Artashesyans ruled, then Arshakunies.

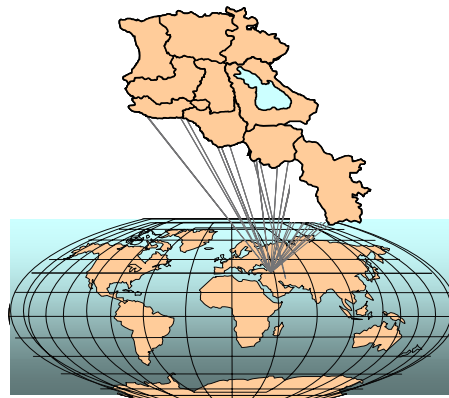
The Mets Hayk contained of 15 lands that all together had 191 provinces. Those “lands” were followings: Tayk, Bardzr Hayk, Chorrord Hayk, Aghdznik, Korchek, Mokka, Parskahayk, Paytakaran, Artsakh, Utik, Syunik, Gugark, Turuberan, Vaspurakan and Ayrarat, that was the most known “land” as political, economic and cultural life centre.

In new and newest times the territory of historical Armenia was divided into western and eastern parts that were included in Osman Turkey and Iran (since 1828 in Russia).

In soviet times the Armenia’s territory was divided into 37 districts.

The current administrative and territorial division of the Republic of Armenia - 10 marzes and Yerevan city with the marz status has been formed in 1995 according to the RA Law “On administrative and territorial division of RA”.

GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



TERRITORY

Republic of Armenia is situated in south-western part of Asia. The country occupies the north-eastern part of Armenian plateau – between Caucasus and Nearest Asia (the inter-river territory between the middle flows of Kur and Araks rivers). The total territory is located in the latitude of $38^{\circ} 50^1 - 41^{\circ} 18^1$ N and longitude of $43^{\circ} 27^1 - 46^{\circ} 37^1$ E.

In the north and east it borders with Georgia and Azerbaijan, and in the west and south - Turkey and Iran.

The country's area comprises 29743 km², of which 71.6% - agricultural land, 10.4% - forests, 7.4% - areas of special preservation. 34.9% area of RA are mountains, plateaus and other lands.

The highest elevation of the country is the Peak of Aragats Mountain (4090 m), the deepest landslide - the Debed river canyon (390 m). The longest extension from north-west to south-east is 360 km, and from west to east - 200 km.

MOUNTAIN TOPS

Name	Place	The height above sea level, m
Aragats	Aragats massif	4090
Kaputjugh	Zangezur mountain range	3906
Ajdahak	Geghama mountain range	3598
Spitakasar	Geghama mountain range	3555
Ishkhanasar	Gharabagh plateau	3552
Vardenis	Vardenis mountain range	3522
Aramasar	Bargushat mountain range	3392
Baghatssar	Meghri mountain range	3250
Khustup	Khustup-Katar mountain range	3214
Legli	Javakhk mountain range	3157
Gogi	Vayk mountain range	3113
Tej ler	Pambak mountain range	3101
Mets Eghnakhagh	Eghnakhagh mountain range	3042
Bovakar	Halab mountain range	3016
Miapor	Miapor mountain range	2993
Urasar	Bazum mountain range	2993
Qashatagh	Sevan mountain range	2901
Aray ler	Aray massif	2577

Armenia is a mountainous country. 76.5% of the republican territory is on the height of 1000-2500 m above sea level. Mountain ranges occupy about 14 ths. km² territory or 47% of the country's total surface. Plateaus comprise more than 1/3 (11 ths. km²) of country's surface. Armenia's territory is an original geological museum. Here it is possible to find out those rocks that comprise the earth-crust. More than 60% of the territory is covered by stratum of different type

volcanic rock and tufa. Armenia's lithosphere is rich with various useful minerals. As a result of volcanic eruptions, a big reserve of natural building materials - tufa, basalt, andezite, perlite and other materials has been formed that is used in construction.

THE MAIN HIDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTIC OF THE LONGEST RIVERS¹

River name	Length, km	Average slope, ‰	Water collection surface, km ²	Average annual flow, m ³ /sec	Average multi-year annual flow, bln. m ³
Akhuryan	186	5.7	2784	7.35	0.23
Debed	154	11.0	3790	33.6	1.06
Hrazdan	141	7.6	2560	26.0	0.82
Vorotan	111	21.0	2030	19.0	0.6
Arpa	92	24.0	2080	14.0	0.44
Qasagh	89	29.0	1480	3.38	0.11
Pambak	84	13.0	1370	10.6	0.33
Aghstev	81	31.0	1730	10.2	0.32
Dzoraget	67	22.0	1460	15.6	0.49
Getik	58	29.0	586	3.53	0.11
Vedi	58	33.0	633	1.84	0.06
Argichi	51	12.0	384	5.49	0.17
Gavaraget	50	25.0	480	3.44	0.11
Masrik	45	22.0	685	3.24	0.1
Voghji	43	68.0	788	11.0	0.35
Azat	40	31.0	572	4.88	0.15
Meghri	36	63.0	336	2.89	0.09

LAKES

	Level mark, m	Volume	Mirror surface, km ²
Sevan	1898.25	35.4 km ³	1256.9
Sev	2708	9 mln. m ³	2.0
Akna	3038	3.91 mln. m ³	0.53
Qari	3190	357 ths. m ³	0.3
Ayghr	853	310 ths. m ³	0.03
Kaputan	3299	40.9 ths. m ³	0.1

WATER DISCHARGE FROM SEVAN LAKE BY YEARS AND VARIATIONS OF LAKE LEVEL BY MONTHS

Years	Water discharge, mln. cub. m	Level of Lake (m) and monthly variations (sm)														
		water level of at the beginning of year, m	monthly variations of level compared to the previous month, sm												water level of at the end of year, m	variations of water level during the year, sm ²
			January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December		
2001	158.2	1896.46	+1	+1	+7	+13	+10	-2	-6	-12	-9	-8	-4	-5	1896.32	-14
2002	99.4	1896.32	+1	+10	+6	+15	+23	+18	+7	-6	-7	-6	-5	-5	1896.76	+44
2003	106.6	1896.76	+1	+5	+7	+22	+23	+14	-5	-3	-9	-1	-2	-4	1897.24	+48
2004	149.9	1897.24	+1.5	+3.5	+9	+17	+24	+16	+2	-10	-9	-6	+1	-6	1897.65	+41
2005	149.6	1897.66	+3	+2	+10	+16	+22	+12	-5	-5	-6	-3	-2	-3	1898.07	+41
2006	152.4	1898.07	+3	+2	+6	+23	+20	-2	-3	-11	-11	0	-6	-4	1898.25	+18

In the territory of RA the largest lake is Lake Sevan (surface – 1256.9 km²), the longest river is Araqs (total length – 1072 km).

¹ Presented from Armenian state hydrometeorological and monitoring service.

² The discrepancy between the totals and sum by months is explained by using rounded data.

Republican water reserves are limited and annually comprise totally 8.5 bln. m³, of which 6.54 bln. m³ - surface water flow. The rivers of Armenia are mainly mountainous with strongly expressed flows with little water.

In the RA there are sweet test lakes and reservoirs which have about 35.8 bln. km³ total volumes, 96% of that volume comprises one of the world highest mountainous lakes – the Lake Sevan, which is situated at the height of 1916 m (till abatement) above sea level. In 2006 its water reserves comprise about 35.4 bln. m³.

Sevan is adornment of nature of the Republic of Armenia (the ancient name is Geghama Sea). The utmost depth of Mets Sevan is 42 m, for Pokr Sevan - 81 m. 28 rivers and small rivers flow in Lake Sevan, only Hrazdan river originates from the lake. Sevan has strongly suffered from thriftless and neglected use and its water reserves have been considerably decreased. Sewages flowing in lake are not enough cleaned, also as a result of lowering of the lake level the water quality sharply has become worse as well. With a purpose to partly soften the negative consequences, the Arpa-Sevan tunnel with the length of 48 km 420 m (the utmost depth above land level is 1230 m) has been turned over for operation in 1981 and an attempt was made to increase the Sevan lake water reserves with Arpa river waters, the tunnel is connected with the lake through the open channel with the length of 850m.

During last years after productive arrangements of lake conservancy, the water level grew up (in 29.09.2005 the water level is about 1898.14 m, it is 1.82 m higher compared with 2000).

VOLUMES OF ARTIFICIAL RESERVOIRES AND WATER MIRROR SURFACE

	Volume, mln. m ³	Mirror surface, ha
Akhuryan	525.0	4180
Spandaryan	257.0	1025
Tolors	96.8	480
Aparan	91.0	735
Azat	70.0	285
Joghaz	45.0	230
Her-Her	26.0	115
Kechut	25.0	135
Karnut	24.7	234
Geghi	15.0	35
Shamb	13.6	112
Hakhum	12.0	83
Mantash	8.2	76.4
Tavshut	6.0	60
Sevaderd	6.0	45
Akhpara	5.6	170
Halavar	5.5	38
Metsavan	5.4	330
Tavush	5.3	40
Arpi	5.0	450
Vardakar	5.0	86
Sarnaghbyur	4.9	56
Yerevanyan	4.8	95
Aknalich	3.9	53
David Bek	2.5	14
Artsvashen	2.0	26
Geghardalich	1.5	25
Qarahunj	1.3	18.3
Tsilkar	1.2	26
Hatsashen	1.1	37