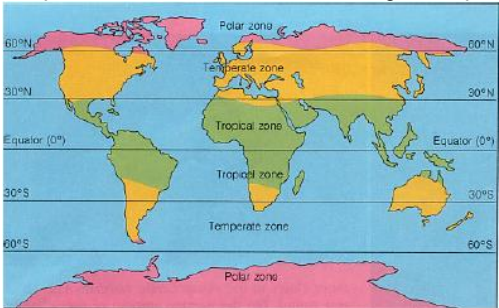




Geography - Glossary and Topic Vocabulary Document

Please find below a bank of general geographical terms with their associated definitions, use this to ensure you have accurate understanding of the terms that are commonly used when teaching the subject of geography – these terms have been selected, as they will be commonly used in all year groups across the school.

Key Term	Definition
Atlas	A book containing maps of the whole world.
Capital city	A capital is a city where a region's government is located. This is where government buildings are and where government leaders work.
Characteristics	A distinguishing feature or quality.
City	A large or important town.
Climate	The weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period.
Climate Zone	<p>Divisions of the Earth's climates into general climate zones according to average temperatures and average rainfall. The three major climate zones on Earth are polar, temperate and tropical.</p> <p>Polar- has the coldest temperatures, usually below freezing.</p> <p>Temperate- contains most of Earth's landmasses with more moderate temperature and rainfall year round.</p> <p>Tropical- has the warmest average temperature and gets the most rainfall.</p> 
Compare	Estimate, measure or note the similarity or dissimilarity between two places/locations.
Continent	The world's main continuous expanses of land. The world has 7 continents they are; Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europa, North America and South America.
Contrast	To look for differences between two or more places/locations.
Country	A nation with its own government occupying a particular territory
Differences	A point or way in which a place or location is dissimilar.
Environment	The natural world, as a whole or in a particular geographical area, especially as affected by human activity.
Equator	A line notionally drawn on the earth equidistant from the poles, diving the earth into northern and southern hemispheres and constituting the parallel of

	latitude 0°.
Europe	A continent located entirely in the Northern Hemisphere and mostly in the Eastern Hemisphere. It comprises the westernmost part of Eurasia and is bordered by the Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea and Asia.
Globe	A round object with a map of the Earth drawn on it.
Human feature	A man-made feature of an area or environment. Some key human features are as follows; city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, shop.
Land use	This is the function of the land, what is it used for e.g. farming, housing, industry.
Local	Relating to the particular area you live in, or the area you are talking about.
Locate	To identify or discover where something is placed or found. It is a key geographical skill for children to be able to identify and describe where a place is located both in their locality and beyond.
Map	A drawing of a particular area, for example a city or country, which shows its main features, such as its road, rivers, mountains etc.
Ocean	A very large expanse of sea/body of water. The world has 5 oceans and these are the main areas into which the sea is divided geographically. Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean and Arctic Ocean.
Physical feature	A naturally created feature of an area or environment. Some key physical features are; beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountains, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation.
Region	A region is an area of land that has common features. Natural or artificial features can define a region. Language, government or religion can define a region, as can forests, wildlife or climate. Regions, large or small, are the basic units of geography.
Seasons	Each of the four divisions of the year (spring, summer, autumn and winter) marked by particular weather patterns and daylight hours, resulting from the earth's changing position with regard to the sun.
Similarities	A similar feature or aspect of a place or location.
United Kingdom	The United Kingdom, made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, is an island nation in north-western Europe.
Weather	The state of the atmosphere at a particular place and time as regards heat, cloudiness, dryness, sunshine, wind, rain etc.

Relevant Topic Vocabulary

Please find below lists of geographical terms relevant to the topics being studied by Year Groups 1-6.

Year Group: 1

Topic: John Wilkinson Week	
Key term	Definition
Aerial photograph	Photograph taken of an area from above.
Key	A list of the signs, colours, symbols used on a map or technical drawing that explains what they mean.

Topic: British Isles	
Key term	Definition
Landmarks	An object or feature that is easily seen and recognised.
Passport	An official document issued by a government, certifying the holder's identity and citizenship and entitling them to travel under its protection to and from foreign countries.

Year Group: 2

Topic: Jon Wilkinson Week	
Key term	Definition
Grid reference	A map reference indicating a location in terms of a series of vertical and horizontal grid lines identified by numbers or letters.

Topic: India	
Key term	Definition
Precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls to or condenses on the ground.
Rural	Any population, housing, or territory not in an urban area.
Temperature	The degree or intensity of heat present in a substance or object.
Village	A group of houses and associated buildings, larger than a hamlet and smaller than a town, situated in a rural area.

Year Group: 3

Topic: John Wilkinson Week	
Key term	Definition
Compass	An instrument containing a magnetized pointer, which shows the direction of magnetic north and bearings from it.
Four figure grid references	Four-figure grid references can be used to pinpoint a location to within a square. To find the number of the square.

Topic: Brazil	
Key term	Definition
Biomes	A large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat e.g. forest or tundra.
Economic activity	The activity of making, providing, purchasing or selling goods or services. Any action that involves producing, distributing or consuming products or services.
Land use	This is the function of the land, what it is used for e.g. farming, housing, industry.

Latitude	The angular distance of a place north or south of the earth's equator, usually expressed in degrees or minutes.
Longitude	The angular distance of a place east or west of the Greenwich meridian, usually expressed in degrees or minutes.
Time zones	A range of longitudes where a common standard time is used.
Rainforest	A luxuriant, dense forest rich in biodiversity, found typically in tropical areas with consistently heavy rainfall.
Settlement	A place, typically one that has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community.
Trade links	The action of buying and selling goods or services.
Vegetation belt	An area with distinct plant types, determined by climate soil, drainage and elevation. There are five major vegetation regions; forest, grassland, tundra, desert and ice sheet.

Year Group: 4

Topic: Britain's Kitchen	
Key term	Definition
Coastlines	The coast, also known as the coastline or seashore, is defined as the area where land meets the sea or ocean.
Digital maps	Digital mapping is the process by which a collection of data is compiled and formatted into a virtual image. The primary function of this technology is to produce maps that give accurate representations of a particular area.
Global organisations	An international alliance involving many different countries.
Industries	Economic activity concerned with the processing of raw materials and manufacture of goods in factories.
Islands	A piece of land surrounded by water.

Year Group: 5

Topic: The Mayans	
Key term	Definition
Global organisations	An international alliance involving many different countries.
Latitude	The angular distance of a place north or south of the earth's equator, usually expressed in degrees or minutes.
Longitude	The angular distance of a place east or west of the Greenwich meridian, usually expressed in degrees or minutes.
Time zones	A range of longitudes where a common standard time is used.
Vegetation belts	An area with distinct plant types, determined by climate soil, drainage and elevation. There are five major vegetation regions; forest, grassland, tundra, desert and ice sheet.

Topic: Rivers	
Key term	Definition
Condensation	The conversion of a vapour or gas to a liquid.
Erosion	The gradual destruction or diminution of something.
Evaporation	The process of turning from liquid into vapour.
Meander	A winding curve or bend of a river or road.
Mouth	The place where a river enters a lake, larger river, or the ocean.
Ordinance survey map	An ordinance survey map is a detailed map produced by the British or Irish government map-making organisation.
Precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls to or condenses on the ground.
Rivers	A large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake or another river.
Six figure grid references	Six-figure grid reference, such as '192 454', indicates a 100 m by 100 m square on the map.
Source	The place where a river begins.
Topographical features	Topography describes the physical features of an area of land. These features typically include natural formations such as mountains, rivers, lakes and valleys. Manmade features such as roads, dams and cities.
Tributary	A river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.
Water cycle	The cycle of processes by which water circulates between the earth's oceans, atmosphere, and land, involving precipitation as rain and snow, drainage in streams and rivers, and return to the atmosphere by evaporation and transpiration.

Year Group: 6

Topic: Natural Disasters	
Key term	Definition
Disasters	A sudden accident or a natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss of life.
Hurricanes	A storm with a violent wind, in particular a tropical cyclone.
Natural	Existing in or derived from nature; not made or caused by humankind.
Tectonic plates	A tectonic plate (also called lithospheric plate) is a massive, irregularly shaped slab of solid rock, generally composed of both continental and oceanic lithosphere.
Tsunami	A long, high sea wave caused by an earthquake or other disturbance.
Volcanoes	A mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapour, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.

Topic: Ancient Greece	
Key term	Definition

Agriculture	The science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products.
Rural	Any population, housing, or territory not in an urban area.
Housing	Buildings for people to live in, used especially when talking about their price or condition.
Urban	In, relating to, or characteristic of a town or city.