



# Geography Vocabulary

## Geography - Vocabulary Glossary

Some words in Geography can be tricky to remember! This glossary will help you to remember what the words mean - if you are unsure, check back to this document to help you!

### KS1 (Orange and Yellow Class)

Physical feature

Human feature

Word	Meaning
physical	In Geography, this means a feature that is NATURAL rather than man-made - e.g. The sea is a physical feature because it is part of NATURE.
human	In Geography, a human feature is something man-made like a bridge, town, city, farm, harbour etc.
feature	Something you can see around you in the world.
beach	The sand (or pebbles) by the sea.
cliff	A rocky land edge that faces the sea.
coast	The area of land by the sea.
forest	Lots of trees.
hill	A mound of earth.
mountain	A mound of earth bigger than a hill.
ocean	The enormous body of water between continents.
river	A moving body of water that snakes through a country.
sea	A body of water by a country.
season	Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter are seasons because the weather is similar e.g. it is cold in Winter.

soil	The mud and nutrients which helps trees and plants grow.
valley	The dip between two hills.
vegetation	Plant life.
weather	The temperature outside and whether it is sunny, rainy etc.
city	A very large area of houses and shops (usually with a cathedral).
town	A large area of houses and lots of shops with a large population.
village	A small area of houses and a few shops with a small population.
factory	A building which makes a product.
farm	An area of land which grows plants to eat e.g. corn or raises animals to eat e.g. pigs.
house	A building in which people live.
office	A place where some people work.
port	A place where a boat can dock and, usually, a place of trading.
harbour	Where boats stay safe when not out at sea.
shop	A place you can buy things.
map	A flat picture of the world.
atlas	A book of maps.
globe	A round version of the world.
North	This is a direction - it points up on a map.
South	This is a direction - it points down on a map.
West	This is a direction - it points left on a map.
East	This is a direction - it points right on a map.

location	A place.
continent	A large area of land made up of different countries.
country	An area of land with borders, a government and its own rules.
capital city	The town or city in which the government of a country sits.
United Kingdom	Four countries - England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all make up one, bigger country.
Europe	One of the continents of the world.
Equator	The man-made line across the centre of the world (running left to right on a map).
North Pole	The furthest point North on the Earth (it is covered in ice!)
South Pole	The furthest point South on the Earth (it is covered in ice!)
plan	In Geography, this means a map drawn as if you were looking down on the ground from above.
key	On a map, a key will tell you what all the symbols mean.
symbol	A picture used to show something important on a map like a school or a volcano.
fieldwork	This means walking around a place like a Geographer, observing and taking notes about the way a place looks.
environment	The area around us.
local	Close to where we live.
world	Our world is Earth - the planet we live on.
population	How many people live in a place.

## KS2 (Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet)

As well as continuing to use the vocabulary learned in KS1, KS2 will also learn specific vocabulary relating to Geography.

region	An area.
topography	Topography describes the physical features of an area of land. These features include natural formations such as mountains, rivers and lakes. Manmade features such as roads and cities may also be included. Topography often records different elevations of an area using a topographical map.
elevation	How high above/below sea level a place is.
land-use pattern	How land is used e.g. farming, mining.
latitude	An imaginary line drawn left-right around the world.
longitude	An imaginary line drawn from the poles (vertically around the world).
Equator	The line of latitude drawn around the centre of the Earth.
Northern hemisphere	Any territory above the line of the Equator.
Southern hemisphere	Any territory below the line of the Equator.
Tropic of Cancer	A line of latitude ABOVE the Equator (it's latitude is 23°27' N)
Tropic of Capricorn	A line of latitude BELOW the Equator (it's latitude is 23°27' S)
Artic Circle	One of two polar circles (North)
Antarctic Circle	One of two polar circles (South)
Prime/Greenwich Meridian	Line of latitude running through London which helps set the time for the world.

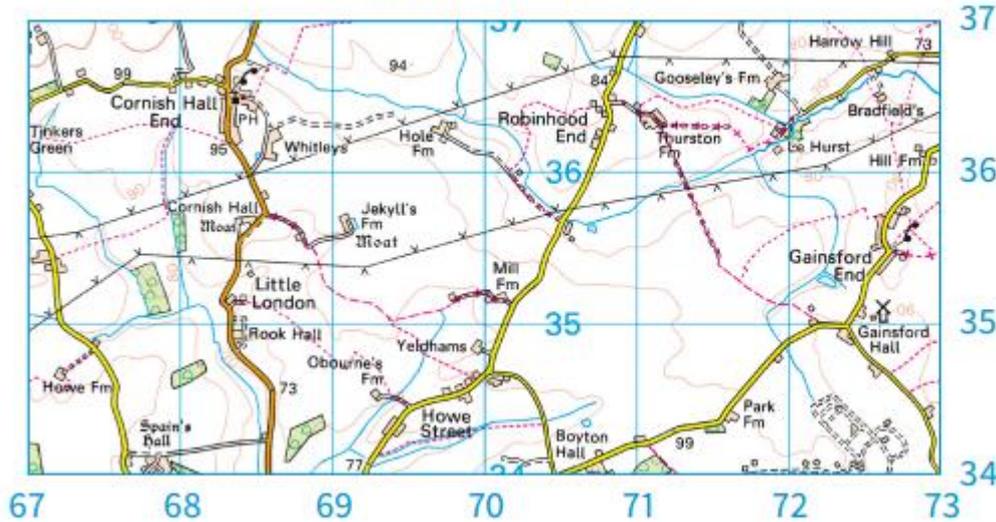
time zones	To make sure the sun is shining in the morning and sets at night, we have time zones. If everyone had the same time, it would be dark in Australia at 09:00 am but light in the UK.
climate zone	An area with a similar climate e.g. desert, artic
biome	Areas of our planet with similar climates, landscapes, animals and plants.
vegetation belt	An area of the planet characterised by certain plant life.
volcano	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.
earthquake	A sudden violent shaking of the ground due to movement within the earth's crust (tectonic plates) or volcanic action.
water cycle	The continual cycle of water through the process of evaporation, condensation, precipitation, run off and then the process starts again.
settlement	An area where several people/families live.
economy	Money made and spent by a government
trade links	Who trades with who - e.g. farmers to supermarkets
distribution of natural resources	the movement of goods/products that are natural such as energy (gas), food (plants and vegetables), minerals (china clay) and water
digital mapping	The use of digital technology to map the world e.g. Google Earth

grid reference

Imagine a grid placed over the Earth with numbers/letters on it. A grid reference tells you where on the grid to find it.

For example:

Map extract from OS Landranger map sheet 154



Here is an extract from a 1:50 000 scale map. Use the National Grid reference system to find:

The Church at TL683365  
The Windmill at TL726350  
Mill Farm at TL701352

Ordnance  
Survey maps

The company OS (Est. 1791) makes, maintains and distributes detailed location information for Great Britain to make up-to-date maps.