

## **Geography** - Glossary and Topic Vocabulary Document

# **General Glossary of Geographical Terms**

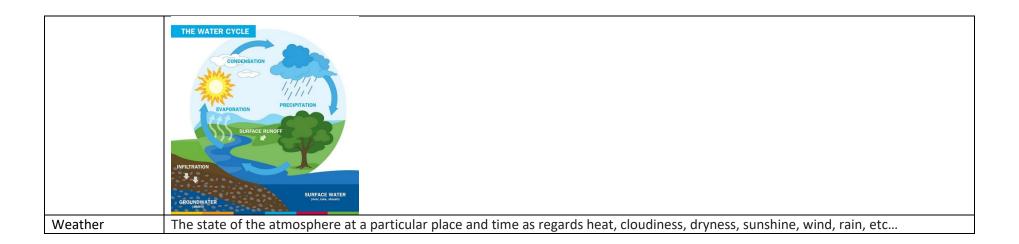
Please find below a bank of general geographical terms with their associated definitions, use this to ensure you have accurate understanding of the terms that are commonly used when teaching the subject of geography – these terms have been selected as they will be commonly used in all year groups across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

Key Term	Definition
Arctic and	The Arctic Circle is a line of latitude, which is an imaginary horizontal line around the Earth. The lands and ocean north of the Arctic
Antarctic Circles	Circle is called the Arctic. A very cold and icy place, it is home to people, animals, and some unusual occurrences such as the northern
	lights.
	The Antarctic Circle is a special line of latitude that circles the Earth near the South Pole. All the lands between the Antarctic
	Circle and the South Pole are called Antarctica. Antarctica is a very cold, icy, and dry land.  Arctic Circle 23.5 °N  Tropic of Capricom Antarctic Circle 66.5 °S  Antarctic Circle 66.5 °S
Biomes	A large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat e.g. forest or tundra.
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	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. Temperatures in these three zones are determined mainly by the location or latitude or the zone.  Polar – Has the coldest temperatures, almost always below freezing.  Temperate – Contains most of Earth's land masses with more moderate temperatures and rainfall year-round.  Tropical – Has the warmest average temperatures and gets the most rainfall.
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 as follows: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, 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.
Economic activity	The activity of making, providing, purchasing, or selling goods or services. Any action that involves producing, distributing, or consuming products or services is an economic activity. Additionally, any activities involving money or the exchange of products or services are economic activities.
Equator	A line notionally drawn on the earth equidistant from the poles, dividing the earth into northern and southern hemispheres and constituting the parallel of latitude 0°.
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, harbour, shop.
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, or of the equator of a celestial object, usually expressed in degrees and minutes.

Locate	To identify or discover where something is placed or found. In the subject of geography it is a key skill for children to be able to identify and describe where a place is located both in their locality and beyond.				
Longitude	The angular distance of a place east or west of the Greenwich meridian, or west of the standard meridian of a celestial object, usually expressed in degrees and minutes.				
Name	A word or a combination of words by which a person, place, or thing, a body or class, or any object of thought is designated, called, or known. In the subject of geography it is a key skill for a child to name different places both in their locality and beyond.				
Natural Hazards	Natural hazards are extreme natural events that can cause loss of life, extreme damage to property and disrupt human activities. Some natural hazards, such as flooding, can happen anywhere in the world whereas some hazards need climatic or tectonic conditions to occur, for example tropical storms, earthquakes or volcanic eruptions.				
Natural resources	Materials or substances occurring in nature which can be exploited for economic gain e.g. timber, gas, coal, oil etc				
North/South Poles	Either of the two locations (North Pole or South Pole) on the surface of the earth (or of a celestial object) which are the northern and southern ends of the axis of rotation.				
Northern and Southern Hemisphere	The Northern Hemisphere is the half of Earth that is north of the Equator. The Southern Hemisphere is the half of Earth that is south of the Equator.				
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, they are as follows: Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean aka Antarctic Ocean and Artic Ocean.				
Physical Feature	A naturally created feature of an area or environment. Some key physical features are as follows: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountains, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation.				
Prime/Greenwich Meridian	As the prime meridian, the north-south line at Greenwich is used as the reference for all other meridians of longitude, which are numbered east or west of it. The Greenwich meridian also serves as the basis for the world's standard time zone system.				
Region	A region is an area of land that has common features. A region can be defined by natural or artificial features. 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.				
Settlement	A place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community.				
Similarities	A similar feature or aspect of a place or location.				
Time zones	A range of longitudes where a common standard time is used.				

Topographical	Topography describes the physical features of an area of land. These features typically include natural formations such as mountains
features	rivers, lakes, and valleys. Manmade features such as roads, dams, and cities may also be included. Topography often records the
	various elevations of an area using a topographical map.
Trade	The action of buying and selling goods or services.
Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn	The Tropic of Cancer is an imaginary latitude line above the equator that runs across the globe at about 23 degrees north, while the Tropic of Capricorn is an imaginary latitude line below the equator whose latitude line circles the globe at about 23 degrees south.  Tropic of Cancer  Equator  Tropic of Capricorn  N  © 2012 Encyclopædia Brifemica, Inc.
United Kingdom	The children need to know the names of the countries in the United Kingdom and their capitals e.g. England – London, Scotland – Edinburgh, Northern Ireland – Belfast, Wales – Cardiff. The children will also need to know that the capital of Ireland is Dublin.
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.
Water Cycle	The water cycle is the journey water takes as it moves from the land to the sky and back again. It follows a cycle of evaporation, condensation and precipitation.



## **Relevant Topic Vocabulary**

Please find below lists of geographical terms relevant to the topics being studied by Year Groups 1-6, the definitions for each of the word

#### Year 1

Autumn Term – Treasure Island		Spring Term –	Spring Term – Time Travel		Summer Term – A Day in the Life of	
Мар	A drawing of a particular area, for example a city or country, which shows its main features, such as its roads, rivers, mountains etc	Globe	A round object with a map of the Earth drawn on it.	Geographical patterns	Areas of the Earth's surface which have features in common.	
Features	A part of something that you notice because it seems important, interesting, or typical.	Pollution	The process of making air, water, soil etc dangerously dirty and not suitable for people to use, or the state of being dangerously dirty.	Bogs	An area of wet, muddy ground that is too soft to support a heavy body.	
Similarities	A similar feature or aspect of a place or location.	Local Environment	The characteristics associated with a particular area.	Marsh	An area of low-lying land which is flooded in wet seasons or at high tide, and	

Differences	A point or way in which a place or location is dissimilar.	Landscape	typically remains waterlogged at all times.  All the visible features of an area of land, often considered in terms of the way they look.
		Wind	The natural movement of air flowing in a particular direction.
		Weather	The state of the atmosphere at a particular place and time as regards heat, cloudiness, dryness, sunshine, wind, rain, etc
		Busy	An area populated by many/lots of people.
		Quiet	An area populated by few people.

# Year 2

<sup>\*</sup>Please note that the words displayed below are additional to those displayed in the glossary, relevant key terms from the glossary will be used throughout these topics.

Autumn Term – The Earth Our Home		Spring Term - Buildings		Summer Term – The Magic Toymaker
Globe	A round object with a map of the Earth drawn on it.	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.	No Geography being taught this term.
Local	Relating to the particular area you live in, or the area you are talking about.	United Kingdom	The children need to know the names of the countries in the United Kingdom and their capitals	

Мар	A drawing of a particular area, for example a city or country, which	Surrounding Areas	e.g. England – London, Scotland – Edinburgh, Northern Ireland – Belfast, Wales – Cardiff. The children will also need to know that the capital of Ireland is Dublin. Places/areas located in close proximity to an identified location.
	shows its main features, such as its roads, rivers, mountains etc		
Symbol	A mark or character used as a conventional representation of an object, function, or process.  OS Map Symbols  OS Map Symbols		
Key	A list of the signs, colours etc used on a map or technical drawing		
Improving	that explains what they mean. The process or actions taken to		
improving	make something better.		
Aerial	Photograph taken of an area from		
Photograph	above.		

Change	To become different, or to make	
	something become different.	

# Year 3

Autumn Terr	n – Scavengers and Settlers	Spring Terr	n – Different Places, Similar Lives	Summer Term – A to B	
Мар	A drawing of a particular area, for example a city or country, which shows its main features, such as its roads, rivers, mountains etc	Local	Relating to the particular area you live in, or the area you are talking about.	Physical features	A naturally created feature of an area or environment. Some key physical features are as follows: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountains, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation.
Atlas	A book containing maps of the whole world.	Global	Affecting or including the whole world.	Human features	A man-made feature of an area or environment. Some key human features are as follows: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour, shop.
Aerial photograph	Photograph taken of an area from above.	Symbol	A mark or character used as a conventional representation of an object, function, or process.	Secondary sources	A secondary source of information is one that was created later by someone who did not experience first-hand or participate in the events or conditions you're researching.

	QS Map Symbols		
Key	A list of the signs, colours etc used on a map or technical drawing that explains what they mean.	Locate	To discover the exact place or position of something.
Compass	An instrument that shows directions and has a needle that always points north. Children need to know the 8 compass points.	Survey	An examination of an area to determine what it is like.
		Directions	The course along which someone or something moves.
		Compass	An instrument containing a magnetized pointer which shows the direction of magnetic north and bearings from it.
		Route	A way or course taken in getting from a starting point to a destination.
		Journey	Act of travelling from one place to another.
		Transport	Take or carry (people or goods) from one place to another by means of a vehicle, aircraft, or ship.

Locality	An area of neighbourhood.
Environment	The natural world, as a whole or in a particular geographical area, especially as affected by human activity.
Continents	The world's main continuous expanses of land. The world has 7 continents, they are as follows: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America.
Countries	A nation with its own government occupying a particular territory.
Gondola	A long, narrow, flat- bottomed boat having a tall, ornamental stem and stern and sometimes a small cabin for passengers, rowed or poled by a single person who stands at the stern, facing forward: used especially on the canals of Venice, Italy.
Rickshaw	A light two-wheeled passenger vehicle drawn by one or more people, chiefly used in Asian countries.
Barges	A long flat-bottomed boat for carrying freight on canals and rivers, either under its own power or towed by another.



A boat that is propelled by a steam engine, especially (in the US) a paddle-wheel craft of a type used on rivers in the 19th century.

# Year 4

Autumn Te	erm – Made a Difference	Spring Term	– Island Life	Summer Term
Locate	To identify or discover where something is placed or found. In the subject of geography it is a key skill for children to be able to identify and describe where a place is located both in their locality and beyond.	Ordinance survey map	An Ordnance Survey map is a detailed map produced by the British or Irish government map-making organisation.	No Geography being taught this term.
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 to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, and Asia to the east.	Impact	The effect or influence of one thing on another.	
North America	The planet's 3rd largest continent, includes (23) countries and dozens of possessions and territories. It contains all Caribbean and Central America countries,	Rivers	A large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake or another river.	

South	Bermuda, Canada, Mexico, the United States of America, as well as Greenland - the world's largest island. A continent in the Western	Symbol	A mark or character used as a
America	Hemisphere, mostly in the Southern Hemisphere, with a relatively small portion in the Northern Hemisphere It is bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean and on the north and east by the Atlantic Ocean; North America and the Caribbean Sea lie to the northwest.		conventional representation of an object, function, or process.  OS Map Symbols  OS Map Symbol
		Key	A list of the signs, colours etc used on
			a map or technical drawing that explains what they mean.
		Tectonic	Very large sheets of rock that form
		plates	the surface of the Earth.
		Flooding	To cover a place with water, or to
		5	become covered with water.
		Earthquake	A sudden shaking of the earth that often causes a lot of damage to property and can also cause loss of life. The size of earthquake can vary from very minor to severe.
		Tsunami	A very large wave, caused by extreme conditions such as an earthquake, which can cause a lot of damage when it reaches land

Autumn Teri	m – Moving People	Spring Term -	- Earth as an Island	Summer Term
Food production	Production is the process of manufacturing or growing something in large quantities, in this case the processes involved in the manufacturing and growing of food for people to eat.	Landscape	All the visible features of an area of land.	No Geography being taught this term.
Migration	The movement of animals or people from one region to another.	Observation	The action or process of closely observing or monitoring something or someone.	
Human activity	The interactions that humans have with their environment.	Commercial	Industry involved with making (or intending making) of a profit.	
Landscape	All the visible features of an area of land.	Industrial	An industry is a group of manufacturers or businesses that produce a particular kind of goods or services. For example workers in the textile industry design, fabricate, and sell cloth.	
		Impact	The effect or influence of one thing on another.	
		Grid references	A map reference indicating a location in terms of a series of vertical and horizontal grid lines identified by numbers or letters.	
		Ordinance survey map	An Ordnance Survey map is a detailed map produced by the British or Irish government map-making organisation.	

## Year 6

Autumn Term – Ancient Civilisations	Spring Term –	Going Global	Summer Term
The subject of geography is not taught as part of	Population	All of the inhabitants of a	No Geography being taught this term.
this topic.		particular place.	
	Transport	The term "transportation system"	
	systems	is used to refer to the equipment	
		and logistics of transporting	
		passengers and goods. It covers	
		movement by all forms of	
		transport, from cars and buses to	
		boats, aircraft and even space	
		travel.	
	Geographical	The physical and human forces	
	processes	that work in combination to form	
P.		and transform the world, for	
		example, erosion, the water cycle,	
		migration or	
		urbanisation. Geographical	
		processes can operate within and	
		between places.	
	Ecology	The branch of biology that deals	
		with the relations of organisms to	
		one another and to their physical	
		surroundings.	
	Thawing	The process of ice, snow, or	
		another frozen substance	
		becoming liquid or soft as a result	
		of warming up.	
	Freezing	The process of liquid becoming a	
	Temperature	solid, for water this occurs at 0°C.	
		The degree or intensity of heat	
		present in a substance or object,	
		especially as expressed according	
		to a comparative scale and shown	
		by a thermometer.	

T	T
Precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls
	to or condenses on the ground.
Sustainable	An action that can be kept going
	for ever, something that can
	continue to be done without it
	having damaging consequences
	that might limit that activity in the
	future.
Bio-diversity	The variety of plant and animal
	life in the world or in a particular
	habitat, a high level of which is
	usually considered to be
	important and desirable.