

Where on Earth are we?

KEY VOCABULARY

Antarctic Circle: imaginary line/circle about 66.5° south of the Equator

Arctic Circle: imaginary line/circle about 66.5° north of the Equator

Compass points: the four main directions on a magnetic compass and some of the divisions in between: N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW

Day: time from sunrise to sunset each day, in relation to the Earth's rotation on its axis

Equator: imaginary line/circle of latitude around the Earth, midway between North and South Poles, dividing the Earth into Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The Equator lies at 0° latitude: the midday Sun is always high in the sky. Because the sun is never far from being overhead, the sun's rays are very concentrated and so temperatures are high

Global Positioning Systems (GPS): internationally used way of pinpointing an exact location on the Earth's surface using space-based satellite technology

International Date Line (IDL): a line of longitude. It is an imaginary north-to-south line/circle running through the Pacific Ocean, approximately along the 180° meridian from avoiding land

Lines of latitude: imaginary parallel lines/circles, horizontal to the Equator, that never meet, and get smaller towards the Poles

Lines of longitude: imaginary north-to-south lines/ circles, meeting at the North and South Poles to make segments. They are all the same length and go from pole to pole

Night: time from sunset to sunrise each day, in relation to the Earth's rotation on its axis

Northern Hemisphere: half of the Earth north of the Equator

North Pole: point where the northern end of the Earth's axis of rotation meets the Earth's surface

Ordnance Survey (OS) grid references: the UK is covered by a grid of maps that are given letters. A grid system of numbers are used to locate places on each map

Prime Meridian (Greenwich Meridian, PM): imaginary line/circle passing through the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, London, marking 0° longitude

Southern Hemisphere: half of the Earth south of the Equator

South Pole: point where the southern end of the Earth's axis of rotation meets the Earth's surface

Time zone: area between lines of longitude following a standard time

Is climate cool?

KEY VOCABULARY

Biome: geographical area defined by its climate, plant and animal life and the activities of the people who live there

Climate: weather patterns in a place over a long period, such as seasonal rainfall, sunshine and temperatures

Desert: area with very little rain, extreme heat and/or cold, where few forms of life can survive

Drought: period with very little or no rain

Environment: conditions to which a plant, animal or person is adapted

Fauna: animals native to an area, such as birds, reptiles and insects

Flora: plants native to an area, such as trees, climbers, flowers and grasses

Grassland: large area covered with grasses

Rainfall: measured level of water that has fallen as rain, snow, sleet or hail in a given period

Temperature: measured level of heat or cold in the air

Tropical: to do with the region on either side of the Equator, between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn

Tundra: land where the soil beneath the surface is frozen all year and trees cannot survive the low temperatures and short growing season

Vegetation belt: area where similar types of plantlife grow, adapted to the conditions there

Weather: conditions in the atmosphere on a particular day, such as temperature, windiness, rainfall, hours of sunshine or cloud cover.

Do you like to be beside the seaside?

KEY VOCABULARY

Bay: an indentation of a shoreline. Usually of softer rock

Beach: a landform by the sea. usually sand and/or rock

Cliff: a vertical or near vertical rock feature, usually on the coast

Coast: the region where land meets sea

Coral: marine invertebrates that typically live in compact colonies in the sea

Dock: a structure for handling boats and ships and their cargo

Dune: a hill or ridge made from sand, formed by the wind

Erosion: a process where the surface of the earth is worn away by, e.g. water, wind, waves etc

Estuary: where the mouth of a river broadens as it meets the sea

Harbour: a sheltered port where boats can dock

Headland: promontory of land jutting into the sea. Usually of harder rock

Pier: a structure built on posts that extends out to sea

Port: a place where ships load or unload

Promenade: a public walk by the seaside

Quay: a solid structure built parallel to the shoreline where boats can dock

Rock pool: an area by the shoreline that is filled with seawater at high tide, and exists as a separate pool at low tide

Salt marsh: a coastal wetland that flooded by salt water at high tide and drained at low tide'

Sand: Fine particles of rocks and stones

Tide: the periodic rise and fall of the sea caused by the movement of the moon and the sun

Tourism: a worldwide industry based on travel for leisure, pleasure, business, and other reasons that provides information, amenities, attractions, accommodation etc

Can you come on a great American road trip?

KEY VOCABULARY

Amazon Basin: the area drained by the River Amazon and all of its tributaries

Amazon River: the longest river in South America. It flows through Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil

Compass points: points on a magnetic compass marking the four main directions: North, South, East, West, and intermediate directions

Continent: very large land mass with no standard definition: Europe, Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Oceania, North America or South America

Latitude: imaginary horizontal line used to show N-S position on the Earth's surface

Longitude: imaginary vertical line used to show E-W position on the Earth's surface

Mountain: large landform, often with a peak, rising and earth rising high above the surrounding area; higher and steeper than a hill

Mountain range: a chain of mountains

Physical feature: naturally occurring, e.g. rivers, mountains, lakes

River: natural watercourse, flowing downhill towards the sea, ocean or a lake

Rockies: another name for the Rocky Mountains These are a mountain range in North America that stretches N-S across across Canada and the USA

Slum: a densely-populated and run-down area of a city, associated with poverty

Source: the original point where a river begins

Tributary: a river or stream that flows into a larger river

Village: place where people live, smaller than a town

How does water go round and round?

KEY VOCABULARY

Altitude: the height of something above sea level

Channel: a landform, it is the outline of the path that a river takes

Condensation: the change of a state of matter - from gas to liquid

Confluence: the meeting of two or more streams of water

Erosion: the process of breaking things down and wearing things away, e.g. by water, wind or ice
Estuary: where the mouth of a river where fresh river water and salt sea water meet and mix

Evaporation: the change of a state of matter - from liquid to gas

Glacier: a mass of ice that moves very slowly down from mountains

Infiltration: the process where water seeps into the ground (soil or rock)

Peak: the top of a mountain

Percolation: the movement of rainwater through soil and rock

Precipitation: forms of water that fall through the sky, e.g. rain, snow, sleet etc

River: a large stream of flowing water that usually ends at the sea

Run-off: water that flows over the earth and does not evaporate away or filter into the ground

Scree: a pile of rock material that has eroded off a cliff and fallen to the base

Source: the beginning (original) part of a river

Can the Earth shake, rattle and roll?

KEY VOCABULARY

Active volcano: a volcano that has had an eruption in the last 10,000 years, and it is possible it may erupt in the future

Crater: a cup-shaped depression in the surface of the earth, caused by volcanic activity'

Dormant volcano: a volcano that has not erupted in the last 10,000 years, but it is possible that it will erupt in the future

Earthquake: movements, fractures and vibrations in the earth's crust as tectonic plates move

Eruption: the ejection of rock and gas from a volcano

Extinct volcano: a volcano that has not had an eruption in the last 10,000 years, and will not erupt in the future

Lava: molten, fluid rock that is ejected from a volcano and solidifies as it cools

Plate boundary: where two tectonic plates meet

Richter scale: a scale to measure the magnitude of an earthquake

Tectonic plate: a massive slab of rock that 'floats' on top of the mantle (and inner layer) of the Earth

Tsunami: a series of waves of water caused by the movement of tectonic plates below the surface

Volcano: a vent in the earth's crust where lava, steam and ash is ejected during an eruption