

# Introduction to Geography Glossary

Geography	It literally means 'writing about the Earth'. 'Geography' originates from two Greek words. 'Geo' means 'the earth' and "graph" means 'to write'. It is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments.
Physical geography	The study of the natural environment: climate, atmosphere, landforms and oceans
Human geography	The study of human society, culture and human interaction with the environment
Landforms	Natural features on the Earth's surface
Processes	Natural changes or human actions that shape the Earth's surface
Economic	Factors that affect money, jobs, income, financial status
Social	Factors that affect people's quality of life. e.g education, health
Environmental	Factors that affect the natural world. e.g climate, soil, forests, air, rivers and seas
Sustainability	Meeting the needs of today while ensuring the needs of future generations can be met
Describe	Say what you see
Explain	Give your reasons for something
Evaluate	Make a judgement from the evidence, weigh up both sides (also Assess/To what extent)

## Map Skills Glossary

Cartographer	A person who creates maps
Cartography	The art and science of mapping features of the earth and their relation to one another
Contour	A line on a map that connects points of equal height
Equator	An imaginary line that goes around the Earth, marking the 0-degree latitude
Grid references	A system used to pinpoint locations on maps (e.g four-figure and six-figure)
Latitude	The angular distance in degrees north or south from the equator.
Legend	Written explanations of the symbols, showing the range of features included on the map
Longitude	The angular distance in degrees east or west from Greenwich prime meridian
Map	A visual representation of an area with physical features and locations
Meridian	A circle of the earth that passes north-south through the poles
Ordnance Survey Map	OS maps are the official maps of Great Britain, created and maintained by the Ordnance Survey, the national mapping agency
Projection	A method by which the curved surface of the earth is represented on a flat surface
Relief	The variation in height or elevation of the land surface.
Scale	The relationship between a distance on a map and the corresponding distance in real life
Symbol	A graphic used to represent a geographic feature or set of features
Terrain	The shape and physical features of the land surface
Topography	The study of land surfaces, including relative position and height

# Coasts Glossary

Abrasion	Waves hurl beach material against a cliff which wears away the land
Alternating	One thing happens, then another thing, and then the first thing again
Attrition	Pebbles and rocks bump into each other and become more rounded
Backwash	The movement of water back down the beach
Bay	Inlet of the sea where the land curves inwards
Deposition	When the sea loses energy and deposits the sediment it has been carrying
Erosion	The wearing away of rocks, stones and soil by waves
Fetch	The length of water over which the wind blows
Hard engineering	Using artificial (made by humans) structures to manage natural processes coastal erosion.
Headland	Land that sticks out into the sea surrounded by water on three sides
High tide	When the tide is in. Water is at its highest level usually covering most/all of the beach
Hydraulic Action	Waves force air/water into cracks in the cliffs and the pressure causes the rock to break
Longshore drift	is the movement of sediment along the beach in a zig-zag pattern
Low tide	When the tide is out. Water is at its lowest level showing much more of the beach
Prevailing Wind	The direction that the wind blows most often in a location
Resistant	Not harmed or affected by something
Sediment	Sand, rock particles and pebbles
Soft engineering	Working with natural processes and ecosystems to manage and protect coastlines
Solution	Salts and other acids in the sea water slowly dissolve a cliff
Swash	Turbulent layer of water that washes up on the beach after an incoming wave has broken
Tides	The variation in sea level that occurs due to the moon's and sun's gravity
Wave	Generated by wind blowing over the sea
Wind	Air in motion

# Settlement and Urbanisation Glossary

Low order	(Goods/services) Used frequently, such as food and routine household items
High order	(Goods/services) Usually expensive and people buy or use only occasionally
Hamlet	Very small settlement with just a group of houses.
Village	Small but may have houses, a primary school, a few shops, a Post Office and a village hall.
Town	Larger than a village, with lots of houses, primary and secondary schools, as well as sometimes having a railway station and shopping centre.
City	Large urban area containing lots of buildings and lots of people. They usually have hospitals, sports facilities, universities, shops, offices, many houses and often a cathedral.
Megacity	A very large city with a total population of more than ten million people.
Settlement	A place where people live
Site	The actual place where a village or town grew up.
Rural	a place in the countryside where people live in small villages and on farms.
Urban	a built-up area, such as a town or city.
Urbanisation	The increasing proportion of people living in towns and cities.
Informal Settlement	Places where people live illegally without proper infrastructure and services.
Infrastructure	Basic structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies)
Migration	Movement of people from one place to another
Push factor	Negative things pushing you away from a place
Pull factor	Positive things pulling you towards a place
Natural Increase	Difference between number of births and death in a population
Population	all the people living in a particular place
Sanitation	the systems for taking dirty water and other waste away from buildings
Hunter gatherer	any person who depends primarily on wild foods for subsistence
Nomad	people who move from one place to another rather than living in one place
Farming	the activity of growing crops and raising livestock
Sustainable	Ability to live now without depleting the natural resources necessary to live in the future.
Subsistence	the means of maintaining or supporting oneself:

# Rivers Glossary

Estuary	The tidal mouth of a river, with large, flat expanses of mud exposed at low tide.
Gorge	A steep-sided, narrow rocky valley marking the retreat of a waterfall.
Oxbow lake	A meander which has been cut off from the main river channel and abandoned
Water Cycle	The movement of water between the air, land and sea.
Evaporation	Water changes from a liquid to a gas (water vapor) due to heat, typically from the sun. Condensation
Condensation	Water vapour cools and changes back into liquid droplets, forming clouds in atmosphere.
Precipitation	Water released from clouds as rain, snow, sleet, or hail, falling to the Earth's surface.
Transpiration	Water released as water vapor from tiny pores in the leaves.
River	A large natural stream of water flowing in a channel
River channel	The physical path through which a river flows
River bed and banks	The bottom and sides of a river channel
Waterfall	A river's steep drop over a rocky ledge
Erosion	The wearing away of the riverbed and banks by natural forces
Transportation	The movement of eroded materials (load) by the river from one place to another.
Deposition	When the river loses energy and drops the sediment it has been transporting
Attrition	Rocks and pebbles knock against each other, becoming smaller and more rounded.
Abrasion	Rocks carried by the river scrape and wear down the riverbed and banks.
Solution	Slightly acidic river water dissolves soluble minerals, especially in limestone and chalk.
Hydraulic Action	The force of water hitting the riverbanks and bed, compressing air in cracks and breaking the rock apart.
Traction	Large boulders and rocks are rolled along the riverbed.
Saltation	Small pebbles and stones are bounced along the riverbed in a leap-frogging motion.
Suspension	Fine light materials like silt and clay are carried within the water.
Solution	Minerals are dissolved in the water and carried along in solution.
Source	The starting point of a river, often found in upland or mountainous areas.
Mouth	The end of a river where it flows into a sea, lake, or ocean.
Long profile	A cross-section of a river from its source to its mouth, showing the gradient (steepness) change along its course.
River beach	A gentle, sloping deposit of sand or gravel on the inside bend of a meander
River cliff	A steep bank formed on the outside bend of a meander