

Glossary of Geography Terms

Keyword	Location in NC document	Definition 1 (Taken from Collins English Dictionary unless otherwise stated)	Definition 2
Aerial photograph	Aims	A photograph taken from an aircraft or satellite in flight. (www.dictionary.com)	An image taken from an elevated position.
Atlas	KS1 and KS2	A collection of maps, usually in book form .	Book/collection of maps.
Beach	KS1	An area of sand or shingle sloping down to a sea or lake.	A depositional feature along a shoreline of a river, lake or the sea.
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City	KS1 and KS2	Any populous place. In Britain a city is recognised as a town that has received the title from the crown.	A large settlement of people found within a country.
Coast	KS1	The line or zone where the land meets the sea.	The boundary between land and sea.
Compass	KS1	Magnetic instrument used for finding direction, having a magnetic needle which points to the magnetic north.	A tool for showing direction.
Compass Rose	-	A decorative device printed on a map showing points of the compass.	A diagram on a map which shows direction
Continent	KS1	One of the earths large land masses.	Large land masses which with the exception of Antarctica are made up of a group of countries. The

			seven continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceanica and South America.
Country	KS1 and KS2	Any political unit or state on a national scale, regardless of whether it is dependent or independent.	An area of land with boundaries which fits within a continent.
Environment	Purpose of Study	External conditions or surroundings.	The natural surroundings of a place.
Equator	KS1	The great circle of the earth, equidistant from the poles, dividing the Northern and Southern hemispheres.	An imaginary line around the centre of the earth at 0° latitude.
Factory	KS1	A building or group of buildings containing a plant assembly for the manufacture of goods.	A place of work that produces goods to be sold.
Farm	KS1	A tract of land, usually with house and buildings, cultivated as a unit or used to rear livestock.	A place where livestock is reared or crops grown.
Fieldwork Aims	KS1	An investigation or search for material or data, made in the field opposed to the classroom.	Looking at geography outdoors or in real life context.
Forest	KS1	A large wooded area having a thick growth of trees and plants.	A large group of trees e.g. coniferous, deciduous or tropical.
GIS Geographical Information Systems	Aims	A system for storing and manipulating geographical information on computer.(www.merriam-webster.com)	The acronym for Geographical Information Systems , a computer based system for mapping and analyzing data and features for a location in the world.

Global	Aims	Covering or relating to the whole world.	Relating to something which is happening on a world scale.
Hill	KS1	A natural elevation of the earth's surface, less high or craggy than a mountain.	A mound of earth with an increasing gradient.
House	KS1	A building used as a home or dwelling.	A place where someone lives.
Human processes	Purpose of study	A process in which human beings are involved (www.thefreedictionary.com)	Things created/affected by people. These processes would not occur without human involvement.
Interaction	Purpose of study	A mutual or reciprocal action.	The links and connections between people, places or processes.
Interdependent	Aims	When two or more things are dependent on each other.	Where people, places and processes rely on other people, places and processes in order to work.
Landmark.	KS1	A prominent or well known object in or feature of a particular landscape	A human or physical feature which is well known in an area and can represent that place.
Locality	KS1	A neighbourhood or area. The site or scene of an event. The fact or consideration of having a location or position in space.	An area and its surroundings.
Location	KS1 and KS2	A site or position/situation.	The description of where something is in relation to its surroundings.

Map	Aims	A diagrammatic representation of the earth's surface or part of it, showing the geographical distribution of features.	Diagram to show where places are located and features of places.
Observational skills	KS1		The ability of looking at something and describing its features.
Ocean	KS1	A very large stretch of sea, one of five oceans of the world – Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern.	An expanse of sea water.
Office	KS1	A room or rooms in which business, professional duties, clerical work, etc. are carried out.	A place of work.
Pattern	KS1	An arrangement of repeated or corresponding parts.	A sequence that can be identified, described and explained.
Physical processes	Purpose of study		An event or sequence of events that occur naturally due to the power of the planet.
Plan perspective	KS1	An outline or sketch	A simple diagram which can shows a birds eye view or a cross section of an area/feature.
Resource	Purpose of study	A source of economic wealth, especially of a country or business enterprise. A supply or source of aid or support; something resorted to in time of need.	Something that people can make use of.
River	KS1 KS2	A large natural stream of fresh water flowing a long a definite course, usually into the sea.	A natural channel of water flowing from source to mouth.
Scale	Purpose of study	The ratio between the size of something real and that of a representation of it.	A measurement of the size of something; can allow actual size to be represented on a smaller level e.g.

			maps. Can also be used to look at different contexts – local, national and global.
Seasonal	KS1	Of, relating to, or occurring at a certain season or seasons of the year.	A process or pattern which can be identified at a certain time of the year.
Shop	KS1	A place for the retail sale of goods and services.	A place where goods are bought and sold.
Spatial variation	Aims	A difference of or relating to a space	Differences which occur within or between areas.
Soil	KS1	The top layer of the land surface of the earth that is composed of disintegrated rock particles, humus, water and air.	The layer of the earth's land surface composed of a variety of natural materials such as organic materials, rocks and minerals.
Symbol	KS1	Something that represents or stands for something else.	An image used to represent a word, often seen on maps.
Variation	Aims	The act, process, condition, or result of changing or varying .	Something that differs from a standard or convention. Differences which can exist between places (spatial variation) or over time (temporal variation).
Valley	KS1	A long depression in the land surface , usually containing a river, formed by erosion or movements in the earth's crust.	A depression in the landscape, found in areas of hilly or mountainous relief. Usually formed by erosion;– rivers or glaciers , or tectonic processes.
Village	KS1	A small group of houses in a country area, larger than a hamlet.	A small settlement, including a number of houses and possibly some services such as a shop.

Weather	KS1	The day to day meteorological conditions, especially temperature, cloudiness and rainfall, affecting a specific place.	Conditions created by day to day changes in the earth's atmosphere
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