

Geography Vocabulary

Movement: How people, products, and ideas get from one place to another.

Region: Dividing areas around the world based on physical or human characteristics that are similar.

Human Environment Interaction: How humans interact with the environment.

Absolute Location: Is given in degrees of latitude and longitude (global location) or a street address (local location).

Relative Location: Relative location depends upon point of reference. Described by landmarks, time, direction or distance from one place to another.

Place: Dividing areas around the world based on physical or human characteristics that are unique to that area.

Peninsula: A piece of land almost surrounded on three sides by water or projecting out into a body of water.

Strait: A narrow passage of water connecting two seas or two large areas of water.

Gulf: A deep inlet of the sea almost surrounded by land, with a narrow mouth.

Isthmus: A narrow strip of land with sea on either side, forming a link between two larger areas of land.

Valley: A low area of land between hills or mountains, typically with a river or stream flowing through it.

Canyon: A deep gorge, typically one with a river flowing through it.

Plateau: A flat, elevated landform that rises sharply above the surrounding area on at least one side.

Mountain: A large natural elevation of the earth's surface rising abruptly from the surrounding level; a large steep hill.

Archipelago: A sea or stretch of water containing many islands.

Island: A piece of land surrounded by water.

Fjord: A long, narrow, deep inlet of the sea between high cliffs formed by glaciers.

Glacier: A slowly moving mass or river of ice formed by the accumulation of snow and ice.

Latitude (parallels): Lines used for location that measure North and South directions.

Longitude (meridians): Lines used for location that measure East and West directions.

Equator: An imaginary line drawn around the earth equally distant from both poles, dividing the earth into northern and southern hemispheres and is the parallel of latitude 0°.

Tropic of Cancer: 23 ½ degrees North Latitude. Represents the northernmost part of the Tropics

Tropic of Capricorn: 23 ½ degrees South Latitude. Represents the southernmost part of the Tropics.

Prime Meridian: An imaginary line drawn around the earth that runs pole to pole that divides that earth into the eastern and western hemispheres and is the meridian of longitude 0°.

Hemisphere: A half of the earth, usually as divided into northern and southern halves by the equator, or into western and eastern halves by an imaginary line passing through the poles.

Scale: The ratio of a distance on the map to the corresponding distance on the ground.

Legend (Key): A table on a map, chart, or the like, listing and explaining the symbols used.

Cardinal Directions: The four main points of a compass: north, south, east, and west which are also known by the first letters: N,S,E, and W.

Physical map: Map that shows physical features of an area.

Political map: Map that shows political boundaries at the local, state, or national level.

Resource/economic map: Map that show the resources of a region or the types of jobs in that region.

Topographical map: Map showing the relief features of the earth's surface, usu. by means of contour lines to show changes in elevation

Population density map: Map that shows how many live in a particular area. Uses the population density equation (Population divided by the area in question).

Climate map: Map that shows the various climates in a particular region.

Choropleth map: Map that uses differences in shading, coloring, or the placing of symbols to indicate averages.

Cartogram: Geometry or space of the map is distorted in order to convey the information of this alternate variable.

Atlas: A book of maps or charts.

Globe: A 3D version of the earth that is made to scale.

Aerial photography: Photographs taken from an aerial view that represents a particular area.

Satellite photography: Photographs taken from a satellite that are used by various people including weathermen, and NASA.

Acid rain: Rainfall made acidic by atmospheric pollution that it causes environmental harm, typically to forests and lakes.

Contaminate: A substance that is introduced into another substance that can cause harm to the environment.

Pollutant: A substance that pollutes something, especially water or the atmosphere.

Air pollution: The presence in or introduction into the air of a substance which has harmful or poisonous effects.

Fossil fuel: A natural fuel formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms.

Emission: The production and discharge of something, especially gas or radiation.

Renewable energy: Energy from a source that is not depleted when used.

Nuclear power: Electric or motive power generated by a nuclear reactor.

Deforestation: The action of clearing a wide area of trees.

Weather: The day-to-day, or short term, actions of the atmosphere.

Climate: The long term actions of the atmosphere.

