

Project glossary

capital city

The most important city in a country, where the government is based.

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carbon footprint

The amount of carbon dioxide gas released into the atmosphere by one individual, one process or one company.

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cardinal point

One of the four main points of the compass: north, east, south and west.

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city

A large human settlement where many people live and work.

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climate

The general weather conditions found in a place over a period of time.

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climate zone

An area with a distinct climate.

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compass

A hand-held device with a metal arrow that always points north, used for finding direction.

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continent

One of seven large land masses on the Earth's surface, mainly surrounded by sea.

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continental drift

The gradual movement of the continents over the Earth's surface.

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country

An area of land with its own government.

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county

An area of the United Kingdom that a local government manages.



crust

The outer layer of the Earth, made up of solid rock divided into tectonic plates.

earthquake

A sudden, violent shaking of the ground.

easting

The first two numbers in a four-figure grid reference found along the top and bottom of a map.

equator

An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth.

four-figure grid reference

A method of locating a grid square on a map. The first two numbers show the horizontal position, and the second two numbers show the vertical position.

human feature

A geographical feature created by humans, such as a road or bridge.

inner core

The very hot, solid centre of the Earth.

intercardinal point

One of the four compass points midway between the cardinal points: north-east, south-east, south-west and north-west.

latitude

A measure of distance north or south of the equator.

longitude

A measure of distance east or west of the Prime Meridian.

magma

Hot molten rock found in the Earth’s mantle.



mantle

The part of the Earth between the crust and the outer core that is made up of magma.

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molten

Something that has melted and is in a liquid state.

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northing

The second two numbers in a four-figure grid reference found up both sides of a map.

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outer core

The part of the Earth that lies between the solid inner core and the mantle.

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physical feature

A geographical feature created by nature, such as a lake or mountain.

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plate boundary

The place where tectonic plates meet.

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Prime Meridian

The line of longitude that passes through Greenwich in England from which all other lines of longitude are measured.

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rural

Relating to the countryside, not towns.

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tectonic plate

A large, slow-moving piece of rock that makes up the Earth’s crust.

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town

A place where people live and work, usually larger than a village but smaller than a city.

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urban

Relating to a town or city, not the countryside.



village

A place where people live in the countryside that is smaller than a town.

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volcano

A physical feature, usually a conical mountain or a hill, that has a crater through which lava, rock fragments and hot gas erupt.

