

Project glossary

Geography vocabulary

Antarctic Circle

A line of latitude that lies 66.5°S of the equator. Everything south of this line is known as the Antarctic.

.....

Antarctica

A continent in the Antarctic region with a polar climate.

.....

Arctic Circle

A line of latitude that lies 66.5°N of the equator. Everything north of this line is known as the Arctic.

.....

Arctic region

An area in the Northern Hemisphere that includes parts of Canada, Alaska, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland, Iceland and the Arctic Ocean.

.....

boreal forest

A large area of wetland covered in conifer trees found in countries that are in or near the Arctic Circle.

.....

carbon footprint

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

.....

climate

The usual weather conditions that occur in a place over a long period.

.....

climate change

The long-term change in expected weather patterns that contribute to the melting of polar ice caps, rising sea levels and extreme weather.

.....

crevasse

A deep crack in the thick ice of a glacier.

.....

equator

A line of latitude around the middle of the Earth at 0°.

.....

glacier

A river or mass of ice that is moving slowly and formed from compacted snow.



global warming

A gradual increase in world temperatures caused by gases such as carbon dioxide collecting in the air around the Earth and stopping heat from escaping into space.

.....

greenhouse effect

The trapping of heat from the Sun in the Earth’s atmosphere due to the presence of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide.

.....

horizon

The line where the sky appears to meet the Earth.

.....

ice field

A large area of connected glaciers.

.....

ice sheet

A mass of glacial ice that covers the ground, also known as a continental glacier.

.....

ice shelf

A floating sheet of ice attached to a land mass.

.....

iceberg

A large piece of frozen freshwater that has broken off a glacier, ice shelf or larger iceberg.

.....

indigenous

Occurring naturally or originating in a particular place.

.....

line of latitude

An imaginary line that runs horizontally around the Earth, measured in degrees north (°N) or south (°S) of the equator.

.....

line of longitude

An imaginary line that runs vertically from the North Pole to the South Pole, measured in degrees east (°E) or west (°W) of the Prime Meridian.

.....

native

Refers to the animals and plants that occur naturally in a place.

.....

North Pole

The most northern geographical point of the Earth.

.....

Northern Hemisphere

The part of the Earth that is to the north of the equator.



permafrost

A layer of soil that remains frozen all year round.

polar day

Near constant daylight in the Arctic or Antarctic during the summer months when the Sun does not set below the horizon, also known as Midnight Sun.

polar night

Near constant darkness in the Arctic or Antarctic during the winter months when the Sun does not rise above the horizon.

precipitation

Water that falls from clouds in the sky as rain, snow, hail or sleet.

Prime Meridian

The line of longitude that passes through Greenwich in England and marks 0° longitude, from which all other longitudes are measured.

South Pole

The most southern geographical point of the Earth.

Southern Hemisphere

The part of the Earth that is to the south of the equator.

topography

The physical appearance of the natural features of an area of land, especially the shape of its surface.

tourism

An industry that involves people travelling for recreation and leisure.

Tropic of Cancer

A line of latitude that runs around the Earth at 23.5°N of the equator.

Tropic of Capricorn

A line of latitude that runs around the Earth at 23.5°S of the equator.

tundra

An area of land where it is too cold for trees to grow and the ground below the surface is permanently frozen.



Science vocabulary

amphibian

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lives on land and in water.

.....

behavioural adaptation

Changes in the way a living thing behaves, such as hibernation, that confers an advantage in their habitat.

.....

bird

A warm-blooded vertebrate with feathers, wings and a beak.

.....

characteristic

A quality or physical feature of a living thing.

.....

classification

The arrangement of all living things into groups based on their shared characteristics.

.....

classification key

A set of questions that help to identify a living thing and decide to which group it belongs.

.....

evolution

The process by which complex living things developed from simple life forms during the history of Earth.

.....

fish

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lives in water and is covered in scales. Most fish have fins for movement and gills for breathing.

.....

invertebrate

An animal without a backbone.

.....

mammal

A vertebrate animal that is warm blooded, gives birth to live young, has fur or hair and breathes air with lungs. Females produce milk to feed their offspring.

.....

physical adaptation

Changes to a living thing's physical features, such as fur, that confer an advantage in their habitat.

.....

reptile

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lays soft-shelled eggs, has skin covered in scales and breathes with lungs.



thermal insulator

A material that does not allow heat to pass through.

.....

vertebrate

An animal that has a backbone.

