

# KS1 Physical geography glossary

Place knowledge	
Continent	One of the earth's large land masses
Country	A political unit or state on a national scale
Equator	The imaginary line around the earth's surface equidistant from the north and south pole
Europe	Continent containing 47 countries north of Africa and west of Asia
Non-European	A place not in the continent of Europe (Africa, Antarctica, Asia, North America, Oceania or South America)
Ocean	A very large stretch of sea, one of five oceans of the world – Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern.
UK	Country comprised of four nations: England; Northern Ireland; Scotland; and Wales.

Beach	An area of sand or shingle sloping down to a sea or lake
Cliff	A steep rock face along the coast
Coast	Where lands meets the sea
Island	A piece of land completely surrounded by water
Ocean	A very large stretch of sea, one of five oceans of the world – Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern.
Sea	Usually smaller than an ocean and typically they are partially enclosed by land
Hill	A natural elevation of the earth's surface, less high or craggy than a mountain.
Mountain	A natural upward projection of the earth's surface, higher and steeper than a hill
River	Water flowing in a channel to the sea, lake or another river
Valley	A long depression in the land surface usually containing a river
Deciduous	Forest characterised by trees with leaves that fall off or are shed seasonally, usually at the end of the growing season. Located above tropical rainforests and below coniferous forests
Evergreen	A plant that keeps green leaves throughout the year
Food chains	A series of organisms dependent on the next as a source of food
Forest	A large wooded area having thick growth of trees and plants
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or other organism
Nocturnal	Active at night
Soil	The top layer of the land surface of the earth that is composed of disintegrated rock particles, humus, water and air.
Vegetation	Plants considered collectively.
Climate	The average weather conditions over a long period of time
Cloud	A white or gray mass in the sky that is made of many very small drops of water
Ice	Frozen water
Rain	Water droplets that fall from the clouds
Precipitation	Moisture that falls from the air to the ground, e.g. rain, snow, sleet, hail
Puddle	A pool of water
Season	Patterns that can be identified at a certain time of year
Snow	Small, frozen water droplets that fall from the clouds
Sunshine	Warmth and light given by the sun's rays
Temperature	The degree of hotness or coldness in a substance, in this case the air
Weather	The short term (minutes to 15 days) variations of the atmospheric state including temperature, wind, precipitation and cloudiness.

Wind	The movement of air
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<b>Key vocabulary</b>	
Distribution	Arrangement or location of something
Global	Relating to the whole world
Interaction	A mutual or reciprocal action
Landmark	A prominent or well-known object or a feature of a human or physical landscape
Location	A site or position
Pattern	An arrangement of repeated or corresponding parts.
Region	An area considered as a unit for geographical reasons.