

KS2 Human geography glossary

Place knowledge	
Antarctic circle	Imaginary circle around the earth, parallel to the equator, at latitude 66° 33' south
Arctic circle	Imaginary circle around the earth, parallel to the equator, at latitude 66° 33' north
Continent	One of the earth's large land masses
County	A political division of the UK
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
Greenwich Meridian	Imaginary line used to indicate 0° longitude. It passes through Greenwich, London and ends at the North and South Pole.
Latitude	Distance in degrees north or south of the equator
Longitude	Distance in degrees east or west of the Prime Meridian
North America	Continent containing 23 countries including those in Central America and Caribbean
Northern hemisphere	The northern half of the earth's surface; north of the equator
Ocean	A very large stretch of sea, one of five oceans of the world – Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern.
South America	Continent containing 12 countries south of North America
Southern hemisphere	The southern half of the earth's surface; south of the equator
Time zones	A region throughout which the same standard time is used. There are 24 time zones in the world, demarcated approximately by meridians at 15° intervals, an hour apart.
Topography	Detailed description of the surface features of a region.
Tropic of Cancer	Line of latitude 23.5° north of the equator and the most northerly position on the earth at which the sun may appear directly overhead
Tropic of Capricorn	Line of latitude 23.5° south of the equator and the most southerly position on the earth at which the sun may appear directly overhead

Types of settlement and land use	
Agricultural	A (usually) rural settlement where crops are grown or animals kept which produce food or fuel.
Borders	A line separating two areas
Bungalow	A low house with just one storey
City	A place in Britain that has received the title from the crown
Deforestation	Clearing of trees from an area
Factory	A building or group of buildings containing a plant assembly for the manufacture of goods.
Farming	Activity or business of growing crops and raising livestock
Flats	A large building divided into separate living areas
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal or plant normally lives and grows
Hamlet	A small settlement smaller than a village and strictly (in Britain) without a church

High street	Main street of a town containing shops, banks and other important businesses
House	A building used as a home or dwelling
Industrial	An area with lots of factories
Land use	What the land is being used for
Local	The area close by/around
Logging	Activity or business of felling trees and transporting the logs to a sawmill
Mega-city	A city with over five million people
National	Relating to the whole country
Nomadic	Someone who lives by travelling from place to place
Out of town shopping centre	Shops or facilities away from the centre of a town or city
Population	The total number of persons inhabiting an area
Residential area	An area which is mainly homes
Rural	A countryside area such as a small villages, hamlets or farms
Settlement	A place where people live
Shanty town	A deprived area in or on the edge of a city consisting of poorly build dwellings
Shop	A place where goods and services are sold
Suburb	A residential area outside the inner city
Town	A built up area that is larger than a village and smaller than a city
Urban	A built up area such as a town or city
Village	A small group of houses in a country area, usually larger than a hamlet

Economic activity including trade links	
Crops	A plant that is grown on a large scale, e.g. fruit, vegetable or cereal
Customers	People who buy goods and services.
Economic activity	Jobs or industry that earn someone or a company money
Employment	A job which earns someone a wage
Export	Sending goods or services to another country for sale
Factory	A building or group of buildings containing a plant assembly for the manufacture of goods.
Fair trade	A trade agreement where fair prices are paid to the producers
Farm	A tract of land, usually with house and buildings, cultivated as a unit or used to rear livestock.
Fishing	Catching fish for food
Globalisation	The spreading of goods, people and ideas around the world. The speed of globalisation is linked to technology and transport.
Growth	Increasing in size or amount
Import	Bring goods or services into a country from abroad for sale
Jobs	A paid position of regular employment
Office	A room or rooms in which business, professional duties, clerical work, etc. are carried out.
Organic	Food produced without the use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides or other artificial chemicals
Shop	A place for the buying and selling of goods
Tourism	Travelling to visit somewhere for pleasure
Trade	The act or instance of buying and selling goods and services.
Wages	An amount of money that is paid

Distribution of natural resources including energy, food, water and minerals	
Drought	A prolonged period of time with below average rainfall
Electricity	A form of energy that provides power to devices
Energy	The power to do work such as electrical, mechanical, chemical, thermal or nuclear
Famine	When there is not enough food for a great number of people
Fossil fuels	Carbon fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas that cannot be remade because it will take tens of millions of years for them to form again
Fracking	Process of drilling down into the earth and injecting fluid into cracks at high pressure in order to release oil and gas
Hydropower	Electricity produced by running water
Minerals	A naturally occurring material found in the earth
Mining	Getting coal and other minerals from the earth
Non-renewable	Sources of energy that can run out
Nuclear power	A form of energy produced by an atomic reaction
Oil	A liquid formed by the natural resources burned to create energy and make plastics
Oil rigs	A large structure with equipment for removing oil from under the land or sea
Pollution	The contamination of air, water or soil by substances that are harmful to living organisms
Renewable	Sources of energy that cannot run out
Resource	Something that people can make use of
Solar	Relating to the sun
Turbines	A device used to generate energy as water or wind causes the a bladed rotor to move around
Wind	The movement of air

Key vocabulary	
Distribution	Arrangement or location of something
Global	Relating to the whole world
Interaction	A mutual or reciprocal action
Interdependent	When two or more things are dependent on each other
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.