

National Curriculum Glossary

Keyword	Location in NC document	Definition 1 (Taken from Collins English Dictionary unless otherwise stated)	Definition 2 (Provided by PGCE Geography student)
Aerial photograph	Aims	A photograph taken from an aircraft or satellite in flight. (www.dictionary.com)	An image taken from an elevated position.
Arctic Circle	KS2	The imaginary circle around the earth, parallel to the equator, at latitude 66° 33' north.	The line of latitude approximately 66° 33' north of the Equator
Atlas	KS1 and KS2	A collection of maps, usually in book form .	Book/collection of maps.
Beach	KS1	An area of sand or shingle sloping down to a sea or lake.	A depositional feature along a shoreline of a river, lake or the sea.
Biome	KS2	A biome is a large area on the Earth's surface that is defined by the types of animals and plants living there (www.geographyforkids.com)	An area of the world whose flora and fauna is determined by climatic conditions.
Characteristics	KS2	A distinguishing quality, attribution or trait.	Features of a place or process
City	KS1 and KS2	Any populous place. In Britain a city is recognised as a town that has received the title from the crown.	A large settlement of people found within a country.
Climate	KS2	The long term prevalent weather conditions of an area, determined by latitude, altitude etc.	Average weather conditions of a place, including rainfall and temperature.
Coast	KS1	The line or zone where the land meets the sea.	The boundary between land and sea.
Compass	KS1	Magnetic instrument used for finding direction, having a magnetic needle which points to the magnetic north.	A tool for showing direction.
Compass Rose	-	A decorative device printed on a map showing points of the compass.	A diagram on a map which shows direction
Continent	KS1	One of the earths large land masses.	Large land masses which with the exception of Antarctica are made up of a group of countries. The seven continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceanica and South America.
Country	KS1 and KS2	Any political unit or state on a national scale, regardless of whether it is dependent or independent.	An area of land with boundaries which fits within a continent.
Desert	KS2	A region that is devoid or almost devoid of vegetation because of low rainfall.	A large area of land characterised by low levels of rainfall and aridity.
Distribution	KS2	Arrangement or location of something.	A description of how something is spread out.
Earthquake	KS2	A series of vibrations at the earth's	Tremors felt on the earth's

		surface caused by movement along a fault place, volcanic activity, etc.	surface caused by tectonic movement.
Environment	Purpose of Study	External conditions or surroundings.	The natural surroundings of a place.
Equator	KS1	The great circle of the earth, equidistant from the poles, dividing the Northern and Southern hemispheres.	An imaginary line around the centre of the earth at 0° latitude.
Factory	KS1	A building or group of buildings containing a plant assembly for the manufacture of goods.	A place of work that produces goods to be sold.
Farm	KS1	A tract of land, usually with house and buildings, cultivated as a unit or used to rear livestock.	A place where livestock is reared or crops grown.
Fieldwork	Aims KS1	An investigation or search for material or data, made in the field opposed to the classroom.	Looking at geography outdoors or in real life context.
Forest	KS1	A large wooded area having a thick growth of trees and plants.	A large group of trees e.g. coniferous, deciduous or tropical.
GIS Geographical Information Systems	Aims	A system for storing and manipulating geographical information on computer. (www.merriam-webster.com)	The acronym for Geographical Information Systems , a computer based system for mapping and analyzing data and features for a location in the world.
Global	Aims	Covering or relating to the whole world.	Relating to something which is happening on a world scale.
Hemisphere	KS2	Half of the terrestrial globe, dividing into northern and southern hemispheres by the equator and eastern and western hemispheres by some meridians, usually 0° and 180°	A half of the earth e.g. the Northern and Southern hemispheres
Hill	KS1	A natural elevation of the earth's surface, less high or craggy than a mountain.	A mound of earth with an increasing gradient.
House	KS1	A building used as a home or dwelling.	A place where someone lives.
Human processes	Purpose of study	A process in which human beings are involved (www.thefreedictionary.com)	Things created/affected by people. These processes would not occur without human involvement.
Interaction	Purpose of study	A mutual or reciprocal action.	The links and connections between people, places or processes.
Interdependent	Aims	When two or more things are dependent on each other.	Where people, places and processes rely on other people, places and processes in order to work.
Landmark	KS1	A prominent or well known object in or feature of a particular landscape.	A human or physical feature which is well known in an area and can represent that place.
Land use	KS2	Function of the land – what it is used	The purpose given or the

		for. (www.internetgeography.net)	activities which take place in a given area of land.
Latitude	KS2	An angular distance measured in degrees north and south of the equator.	An imaginary circle drawn parallel to the equator.
Locality	KS1	A neighbourhood or area. The site or scene of an event. The fact or consideration of having a location or position in space.	An area and its surroundings.
Location	KS1 and KS2	A site or position; situation.	The description of where something is in relation to its surroundings.
Longitude	KS2	Distance in degrees east or west of the Prime Meridian at 0° measured by the angle between the plane of the prime meridian and that of the meridian through the point in question, or by time difference.	Distance measured in degrees east and west of the Prime Meridian.
Map	Aims	A diagrammatic representation of the earth's surface or part of it, showing the geographical distribution of features.	Diagram to show where places are located and features of places.
Minerals	KS2	Any of a class of naturally occurring solid inorganic substances with a characteristic crystalline form and a homogenous chemical composition.	A naturally occurring material found in the earth.
Mountains	KS2	A natural upward projection of the earth's surface, higher and steeper than a hill.	A natural elevation of the earth's surface – higher than a hill.
Observational skills	KS1	-	The ability of looking at something and describing its features.
Ocean	KS1	A very large stretch of sea, one of five oceans of the world – Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern.	An expanse of sea water.
Office	KS1	A room or rooms in which business, professional duties, clerical work, etc. are carried out.	A place of work.
Pattern	KS1	An arrangement of repeated or corresponding parts.	A sequence that can be identified, described and explained.
Physical processes	Purpose of study	-	An event or sequence of events that occur naturally due to the power of the planet.
Plan perspective	KS1	An outline or sketch	A simple diagram which can show a birds eye view or a cross section of an area/feature.
Region	KS2	An area considered as a unit for geographical reasons.	A named area within a country.
Resource	Purpose of study	A source of economic wealth, especially of a country or business enterprise. A supply or source of aid or support;	Something that people can make use of.

		something resorted to in time of need.	
River	KS1 KS2	A large natural stream of fresh water flowing a long a definite course, usually into the sea.	A natural channel of water flowing from source to mouth.
Scale	Purpose of study	The ratio between the size of something real and that of a representation of it.	A measurement of the size of something; can allow actual size to be represented on a smaller level e.g. maps. Can also be used to look at different contexts – local, national and global.
Seasonal	KS1	Of, relating to, or occurring at a certain season or seasons of the year.	A process or pattern which can be identified at a certain time of the year.
Shop	KS1	A place for the retail sale of goods and services.	A place where goods are bought and sold.
Significance	KS2	The consequence or importance of something	How important and relevant something is.
Spatial variation	Aims	A difference of or relating to a space	Differences which occur within or between areas.
Soil	KS1	The top layer of the land surface of the earth that is composed of disintegrated rock particles, humus, water and air.	The layer of the earth's land surface composed of a variety of natural materials such as organic materials, rocks and minerals.
Symbol	KS1	Something that represents or stands for something else.	An image used to represent a word, often seen on maps.
Time zone	KS2	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.	These are determined by lines of longitude and distance east or west of the prime meridian.
Topographical	KS2	Detailed description of the surface features of a region.	Pertaining to the height, relief or surface features of an area.
Trade	KS2	The act or instance of buying and selling goods and services.	The exchange of goods and services between two or more parties.
Tropic of Capricorn	KS2	Line of latitude at 23.5°S of the equator.	Line of latitude 23.5° S of the equator. Between the tropics tropical rainforests are common.
Tropic of Cancer	KS2	Line of latitude 23.5°N of the equator.	Line of latitude 23.5 ° N of the equator. Between the tropics tropical rainforests are common. Along the tropic of Cancer a number of the world's largest hot deserts are located due to high pressure.
Variation	Aims	The act, process, condition, or result of changing or varying . Something that differs from a standard or convention.	Differences which can exist between places (spatial variation) or over time (temporal variation).

Vegetation belt	KS2	Plant life as a whole within a certain area.	An area of the planet characterised by certain flora (plants) due to climatic conditions.
Valley	KS1	A long depression in the land surface , usually containing a river, formed by erosion or movements in the earth's crust.	A depression in the landscape, found in areas of hilly or mountainous relief. Usually formed by erosion;– rivers or glaciers , or tectonic processes.
Village	KS1	A small group of houses in a country area, larger than a hamlet.	A small settlement, including a number of houses and possibly some services such as a shop.
Volcano	KS2	An opening in the earth's crust from which molten lava, rock fragments, ashes, dust and gases are ejected from below the earth's surface.	A point of the earth's surface where magma escapes, becomes lava and solidifies due to tectonic movement in the earth's crust.
Water cycle	KS2	The circulation of the earth's water, in which water evaporates from the sea into the atmosphere where it condenses and falls as rain or snow.	The continual movement of water both on the earth and in the atmosphere due to the processes of evaporation, condensation, evection, precipitation, infiltration and surface run-off
Weather	KS1	The day to day meteorological conditions, especially temperature, cloudiness and rainfall, affecting a specific place.	Conditions created by day to day changes in the earth's atmosphere.